

SCUSD CAC
June 7, 2022 General Meeting

Meeting Notes

Meeting recording:

- https://scusd.zoom.us/rec/share/uEEc6s3sQjAFBT51vHmlQyJ7gOzJowjqnFNEMF9Gikmh5-vekyPChzQrEZdYQ_VD.m42WO1CxqxRtFQY4
- Passcode: Vdu=1cb0

Item 1. Welcome

- Outgoing officers gave departing statements.
- Geo Linares is not feeling well. Kit Darezzo is here in his place. Dr. Hedegard is also here.
 - Kit introduced herself: I am a special education administrator. Primary task is supporting the work of the SELPA, which is why I am her for Geo.
 - Dr. Hedegard introduced herself. Noted that Janice Lovato is also here to support the CAC from the District. Other staff members are also here in other capacities (for example, as parents in the District).

Item 2. Public Comment

- Comments from Colleen Toler and Rita Hay thanking outgoing officers.
- Rita Hay: Extended School Year registration process is very confusing. My son was automatically enrolled – I didn't even submit an application. Providers are being notified of enrollment preemptively. Other parents are probably also confused about this.
- Danny Rolleri: I wasn't aware of CAC until 3-4 years ago when I had challenges with my own children in the District with IEPs. This became one of my favorite parts of the month due to the intersection of the educational system not designed to meet student needs and the disproportionalities that exist, notably for black students with IEPs. I love hearing the powerful commentary and direction giving from families about how to serve our students the right way.
- Valene Byrd: I really need help with my son. I would love some advice on how to pursue placement and finding the right program. Unfortunate that there is a group change of CAC officers. I will be contacting you all to get help. Now that I know about the CAC I am gung ho for any type of help I can offer.

Item 3. SELPA Report

- Local Plan Update
 - Available on a Padlet.
 - For the 2022-23 school year, updates to three areas: Contacts & Certifications; Annual Budget Plan; Annual Service Plan
- Summer Programs & Extended School Year
 - ESY services vary student to student. Designed to prevent severe losses during interruptions in instruction. ESY is not mandatory.
 - Dates: June 30 – July 27. Available at Caroline Wenzel, James Marshall, Will C. Wood, and Burbank High.

- Application process. Families were contacted – download information to identify students determined to be eligible, then SpEd department directly contacts families. Email as well as mail correspondence asking for confirmation of availability. It is optional, so we use the application as a commitment. Students are identified as eligible through the IEP rather than the application process. Any eligibility questions – contact the case manager.
- Lianne Moseley: My understanding is that application was mailed and emailed to information on Infinite Campus. Glitch for some people that this information may be out of date.
 - Rita and Valene: Neither of us have received applications. Infinite Campus issue does not seem to be the problem. Our information is up to date.
 - Rita: I spoke with someone last week who said that applications have not gone out yet. Service providers have been notified of acceptance, but applications are pending still.
 - Dr. Hedegard: I will follow up on this. We are getting responses to applications, so at least some are going out.
 - Kenya Martinez: Multiple parents have not received applications and did not get to confirm location their children would attend. This is a glitch in the system and may also be a safety issue. The parents who attend CAC are on top of things, so they would have noticed the applications.
 - Rose: My son is in a general ed course with a 1-1 aide. RSP said she is having trouble with central SpEd at District Office saying my son needs to be in an SDC over the summer. For the past two years, he has been in general ed over the summers with the aide. He is looking forward to seeing his summer peers again.
 - Dr. Hedegard: If a student is at a summer matters site and IEP requires pull out for 1-1 service delivery, that will still happen. But we wouldn't remove that student from the school site to receive a service.
- Benita: We are over time on this agenda topic, so further individual discussions should take place via email. Dr. Hedegard provided her email: Sadie-Hedegard@scusd.edu.

Item 4. Union Updates

- Nikki Milevsky planned to give an update for SCTA but had to leave the meeting early.

Item 5. Officer Elections, Continued

- Incoming officers elected at the previous meeting introduced themselves.
- Point of order: Lianne Moseley does not have a child receiving special education services, so is not qualified for the position of Vice Chair. So, removing her from her position and re-opening that position for election.
- Open now: Vice Chair, Treasurer, 2nd Member at Large.
- Discussion about Geo's role. Taken out of order just in case it required an election today.
 - Taylor: Last time, we found Geo eligible for Secretary. So he is not ineligible like we found for Lianne this evening. He would have to resign or we would have to vote to remove him if we do not want him to be Secretary.
 - Dennis: Would be fine if Geo did the Secretary specific work. But would still need to remain advisory as specified in CAC bylaws. No advisement role.

- Renee: Agree with Taylor that Geo has the ability to serve. However, he may need to recuse himself from voting on certain items depending on the nature of the issue. Given his dual role on the CAC and as SELPA director. If every time we have to have a vote he has to recuse, then his position may be futile. However, we'll see what happens. In his role as Secretary, his loyalty has to be to the CAC. For times when he has conflicts, he will have to recuse.
- Benita: If Geo is often recusing, the officer votes may end up tied with only 6 other officer positions.
- Renee: As Chair, I am comfortable waiting to see how the Secretary issue plays out over the next several meetings. Proviso that at first Executive Meeting, if it is the will of the officers to ask Geo to step aside then we can have a re-election for the position.
- Rita Hay: Need to resolve this now. Don't want this hanging over us. My recommendation is to ask if anyone else would want that position. Geo ran unopposed last month.
- Colleen: Nice to resolve it now.
- Kenya: We can have just five CAC executive members. Seven was because we had that before. What we minimally need are Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair.
- Dr. Hedegard: Geo would be willing to resign if we have others interested in serving as Secretary. Geo offered to do this to support the CAC, not to create a conflict.
- Taylor: I support Geo in this position. Trust but verify that he can balance his dual roles. I am comfortable waiting and seeing, as Renee said, if it becomes a problem. For now, we need someone in this critical role and I don't want to get a parent in juts to do it because it is a lot of work.
- Colleen: I also support Geo in this role.
- Dennis: Geo could do this, but not in the official role. Support the CAC administratively but not on a policy side.
- Tifanie: My first meeting. I keep hearing the officers need to be parents. Question about makeup of executive committee, etc. [Benita answered.]
- Renee: Bylaws state there "shall" be the seven officers. In some years we have ran with five, but the bylaws do call for seven. Ideally we would fill them tonight. If we don't, I would move that we be prepared to fill the rest at the beginning of the next school year. CAC is important, represents a diverse demographic. Need full staffing in leadership that reflects that. Also note that someone can't fill a position without voting – bylaws say all officers are voting members. Again, I am comfortable having Geo as Secretary. We will monitor it and if he's recusing too often at that time we can ask for his resignation.
- Benita: Is there a parent willing to do this? If so, then maybe we 'accept' Geo's resignation and try to get a parent in there.
- Lianne self-nominated for Treasurer.
- Valene has an existing nomination for Treasurer. [Benita: If Valene wants to be Vice Chair or Member at Large, she can change her nomination to that.]
- Valene: I will change my nomination to Vice Chair.
- Colleen nominated Danny Rolleri for 2nd Member at Large.

- Danny: I am a site administrator in the District. Also a parent – daughter with IEP who is no longer in the District (does IS outside the District).
- Kenya and Rita: Second and Third Danny’s nomination.
- Lianne: Goal always is parent participation. Understand Danny’s hesitation.
- Sarah Williams Kingsley: I would be happy to be Member at Large or Treasurer. Don’t have the bandwidth to do the Secretary position again. (I have served on the CAC before, and I have a child with disabilities going into high school now.)
- Danny: I do not want to take space from a parent who can fill an officer role, to keep the CAC in its place as a safe forum for families to advocate for their interests. So, I decline. I will continue to attend as I have been.
- Summary:
 - Vice Chair: Valene Byrd
 - Treasurer: Lianne Moseley
 - Member at Large: Sarah Williams Kingsley
 - No changes to Secretary role.
- Taylor and Benita confirmed eligibility for nominated positions.
- Vote occurred via Google Form hosted by Dr. Hedegard.
- Vote results:
 - All nominees tonight were elected.

Item 6. Planning for 2022/23

- Renee: Acknowledge and applaud the officers steering the ship through truly uncommon times. Given the challenges facing our students (lockdowns, national racism, labor strife), keeping on top of the issues to serve our students has been monumental. This group has weathered the storm very well. There are ongoing conversations to keep having to keep the North star on our students. Good to hear from outgoing officers: one thing most proud of that should be replicated. For incoming officers: top issue that brought you to this space.
 - Benita: Short answer – we stuck this out. Made it through a pandemic, Zoom, etc. Moving forward, keep fighting for our students – especially black and brown students, and foster and homeless youth.
 - Rose: Advocacy of this group on becoming vocal around 4th R. Also proud of communication this executive committee and entire CAC did around closing SDCs. We asked for more transparency and notice around decisions like this. Measurable fiscal plan. And working with the Board to set up a dashboard on assessments backlogs.
 - Taylor: Forming strong partnerships with incoming SpEd and SELPA leadership.
 - Dennis: Increasing communication, for example with labor partners. Also, work on the Budget Subcommittee. Going forward, important to look at how money is spent. Not just SpEd money but general fund money and COVID outstanding funds.
 - Valene: What brings me to the CAC – bridging the gap of communication between parents and School Administration.
 - Colleen: Special Ed is broken in Sac City. I want to make changes. Parents don’t know what to do.

- Lianne: Acknowledge that this current executive committee will be a hard act to follow. I understand the passion behind advocating for all kids not just those in your household. Hope to continue that work.
- Sarah: What brought me here tonight is filling a need, which there appears to be. Something I can bring to our committee and community is that I understand the language the District speaks. I can be a translator for parents. I've been around this particular block a few times. I have served on multiple District committees.
- Rita: In the past, I was so dissatisfied with this District that I moved. This time around, I adopted a foster child on the spectrum and I'm back in the District. This year made me really realize how important the CAC is. So many roadblocks. Teachers and aides not understanding our children or not willing to put in the effort. I am ready to learn and pass the knowledge on to other parents. I want to see this committee grow. Let parents and students know their rights and the power they have.
- Kenya: Biggest thing I remember (my take away) is when Renee, Sarah, and I were at a Board meeting that went on until 2AM. Don't know how we stayed awake, but we did. Also, when Colleen, Benita, and I were giving out PPE at Luther Burbank – that was phenomenal. I really hope that things change for this school district and that Sac City commits to taking on racism and equity issues, especially for students with disabilities. Not just talk but action, and proactive action at that. I work for a nonprofit on SpEd. This is not just about the CAC but my life. I will stay involved and keep you all on task.
- Renee: I am here because every single time I have an interaction (mostly at IEP meetings), something happens where I just shake my head and think about the other around 7,000 families who don't know the language and don't know how to tap into their personal power. I continue to be truly disappointed and aghast at some of the things that are said to parents. The substandard work that professionals hired to serve our students are delivering. Other parents need to know their powers and their rights and know how to communicate loudly and insistently with leadership about what's happening at the school sites. People are drowning and need to be empowered, and this group has the ability to make systemic change if we can prioritize well and be insistent enough on that creative process. I've been involved in the CAC since 2015. When my son first entered the SpEd process I didn't know about the CAC and I was alone. I felt hopeless for my son. This CAC was truly a lifeline.
- Benita: My last few minutes as Chair. It has been an honor serving in this role. I know that Geo and Dr. Hedegard will continue to work with this CAC as it has been. Probably be in person next year. There will be childcare as there was in the past. I am truly out since my child is aging out. I am passing the torch, and truly dropping the mic. I was not just doing this for my son. There are parents who cannot fight for their babies. All that I ask is that you all continue to do that – work on the areas that we didn't get to touch too like foster, homeless, and in the juvenile system.
- Dr. Hedegard: On behalf of Geo and myself, thank you to the current executive committee and to Benita as chair. Wish you the best and thank you for your service and collaboration.