

SCUSD CAC
7/7/2021
Planning Meeting

Zoom Recording

- https://scusd.zoom.us/rec/share/iEUyU7IWCQ_TVpFShVO1mKtQqHFRU6b7GdmXZxkQVaNMNUrlm5Aol7GujpgC2SHx.6hG6j1zNmSR0fag9
- Passcode: k0cfvE^

Notes

Introduction

- Everyone in attendance introduced themselves
- Benita Shaw opened up the meeting to see what topics members and District representatives would like to see next year

Discussion related to a CAC facilitator

- Dr. Hedegard asked if we are setting the goals of the organization vs. what do we want for adult professional learning. She asked Kenya, Benita, and Taylor to summarize the conversation they had with the district last Wednesday.
- Benita said that the idea is to talk about topics first. Set the agenda for the brochure. We are up against a tentative deadline on that for July 15th.
- Taylor Kayatta, Benita, and Kenya Martinez summarized the meeting the three attended with the Superintendent and Member Murawski last Wednesday and Taylor added a letter from the Superintendent proposing a CAC facilitator to the Zoom chat.
- Benita shared that she takes offense to the idea that the CAC officers need assistance running the meeting. She said that other issues are the cause of problems this year, not the officers' inability to run the meeting. She said she is against having a facilitator.
- Kenya Martinez said that the focus should be on services students need, especially with the pandemic, and that we have been distracted by adults fighting adult issues.
- Taylor spoke in favor of a facilitator, saying that just as long as they do not usurp the role of the officers it is a good idea to have help.
- Crystal Strait found herself agreeing with Benita and Kenya, but noted that she agrees with Taylor that the District should provide more administrative support. She noted that she was a newer member when we had the planning meeting last year and said it was very exciting – in contrast to now when we are talking about maybe a facilitator taking some control of the CAC. She said that the last few meetings have felt very District run, and she is concerned a facilitator would take us further down that road.
- Member Murawski discussed a facilitator within the context of her experience on the School Board; she said they need a facilitator and it would help the CAC too. She said the facilitator would help channel the desires of the community. She noted that other advisory committees have had facilitators. She recommended hearing from District staff about how the facilitator role would work.
- Geo Linares said that a facilitator is flexible and the initial idea is to support the CAC to set goals and priorities.
- Dr. Hedegard noted that the District could help by setting up the Zoom meetings, helping with agendas, orchestrating translation, and that type of support. She noted that the Secretary has a

lot of responsibilities including notes, Facebook page, etc. She noted that there has been a lack of trust in collaborating with the District on some of these issues, and so the facilitator could help build that trust between the CAC and the District.

- Member Murawski offered to introduce the facilitator's background.
- Rose said we should not vote on the facilitator tonight since it was not agendized, so we should share the letter and agendize the decision at another meeting. She noted that some members have been obstructing the business of the CAC, which is now resulting in the District having to pay for a babysitter. She said we should pivot to planning for next year (it is now 6:38pm).
- Lisa Arnold-Fernandez said it would be a benefit to have a facilitator for the reasons stated – to bring together the constituencies within the CAC. She said she does not see a facilitator as an attack on the CAC, and said it would help to have a neutral party. She referenced "nit picking" issues like Brown Act issues that distract from advocating for kids in the District.
- Sarah Williams Kingsley took issue with calling it "nit picking" when some members insist that laws be followed.
- Kenya said that she has volunteered sweat and tears for this District and noted that her children are none the better due to that work. She said that distractions have been drowning out voices of other parents and members. She said that these personal issues are about adults not children.
- Benita agreed with Rose that this topic should be brought up at a subsequent meeting. She noted that she has been on this committee for a long time and her time has been transparent. She said that it seems that some issues are being brought up to others instead of her, which is why the superintendent has taken interest in the CAC's functioning. She said that in the past the CAC has had smaller meetings without attacks about bylaws (violations for the past 8 years), so we should not focus on that now. She said we have been transparent and not tried to break bylaws, and conversations about it have taken away from the CAC's work.
- Member Murawski said that she did not doubt that all CAC members and those here today share the goals of improving things for students – including District staff. She noted we have a collective challenge of how to coalesce that into positive change. She recommended inviting the proposed facilitator to the meeting so we could get to know her.
- Renee Webster-Hawkins agreed with Member Murawski that we are all here to make things better for the kids. She noted that things have been tense this year, but we keep showing up in the hopes to work on behalf of our kids. She promised to take into consideration the fact that some members may be drowning out others. She noted that she is, quote, nitpicking because she is not sure how otherwise to engage with the CAC. She said in the past the bylaws and Brown Act were not used to exclude members, and the goal with complaints now is to ensure there is a big tent and that all members can be part of the solution.
- Benita asked Renee to share with her, her specific issues so that they can be addressed.

Discussion related to meeting planning

- Dennis Mah said that the goal of the CAC next year should be to focus on how we can make an impact on the local plan, for example amendments around inclusive practices and transitions. He noted that we need more information from the District, and said a facilitator could maybe help with that. He also said site visits and other information gathering is possible for the CAC. He suggested soliciting feedback from various stakeholders including unions, Coalition for Students with Disabilities, etc. – and to have the Board liaison take that back to the Board. He noted that last year we did not necessarily meet the spirit of the law by actively discussing what can be changed in the SELPA.

- Taylor suggested that our meetings should be focused on making an impact on special education in this District, even if that means having “in the weeds” discussions that not all parents want to attend. He suggested having separate meetings to have educational type seminars that we have had this year, but that we should not have those seminars in place of discussions calling for concrete and actionable changes to the District’s operations.
- Crystal said that there is benefit for random parents to show up and get help and to learn about special education, so she does not agree that the sole focus of the CAC should be as Taylor described.
- Colleen Toler agreed with both Crystal and Taylor. She said we need to make an impact, but noted she first started attending the CAC because she needed support getting services for her son.
- Sarah noted that we should focus on making connections with introductions, talking after meetings, etc. She asked an open question about whether we plan to return to in-person meetings, which allow side conversations. She noted some benefits of Zoom being much larger attendance, but noted that this impacts the ability to form connections. She noted she agrees with Taylor that we need to set a schedule that meets our statutory obligations as a group and noted her own experience trying to do that as Secretary. She said also that we need to step back from individual issues and look at larger issues of where students are not being serviced.
- Benita asked Sarah for specific thoughts about how to address her concerns.
- Sarah said that we should absolutely go back to two meetings and suggested workshops focused on individual issues. She said we never followed up on issues like SDCs – and noted we should address these issues with specific goals, and said we need data to focus on these issues.
- Geo highlighted what Dennis brought up, the goals of the CAC for this year. He noted that the SELPA has a number of different functions including training. He said the CAC and SELPA can collaborate on what functions can be done by what group. He said we could revisit a previous suggestion of SELPA office hours before CAC meetings, additional staff support for individual questions, etc. He said that his personal opinion on the structure of the meetings is that constantly going over our set time may make some parents less likely to attend.
- Kenya suggested that even if/when we return to in-person meetings, the District should support the CAC by still allowing simultaneous Zoom or at least meeting recordings. She noted some of our Zoom meetings had over 100 participants, a good thing. She noted that we could have our seminars recorded and available online and then have the presenter appear at the general meetings for a Q&A.
- Renee volunteered to lead an ad hoc committee to set CAC policies, an implementation of MTSS, inclusivity, assessments, child find, identifying what services are working or not, etc. She said that ad hoc committees are a positive aspect of our bylaws and have been used successfully in the past. Renee noted that our agendas this year have been too packed.
- Rose agreed with Sarah about getting data.
- Dennis suggested ad hoc or subcommittees to focus on advocacy.
- Member Murawski noted that the CAC is identifying and closing gaps that they see, that the District is not addressing. She noted we could focus on what more the District can do. For example, parent education, support, etc.
- Taylor suggested a meeting for parents to share their stories.
- Kenya said we should be cognizant that some parents may come to our meetings for the first time and not know what a CAC is about. She suggested we make sure that whatever we plan we revisit, every three months, general topics like SpEd 101 or Advocacy 101. She said we could also put a video or something to that effect on our website.

- Dr. Hedegard returned to Dennis' comments to say that ad hoc committees are focused on targeted monitoring and other issues, including plans submitted to CDE. She said we should collaborate to highlight these issues rather than creating separate bodies to do that work. She said the goal should be active engagement. She asked for an officer to work with the District and SELPA to map out agendas. She said that when we focus on too many goals, running out of time is an unintended consequence.
- Benita asked the District where we are at in terms of opening – in person meetings, starting on Zoom, etc.
- Geo noted that after September 30, Brown Act meetings have to return to being in person. He said he would advocate to continue having a Zoom option for parents that works best for.
- Benita summarized that we would start on Zoom but move to a hybrid model in October.
- Crystal said that communication about CAC meetings has been off this year and needs to be addressed. She said it has been hard to find out about these meetings even though she is actively involved.
- Benita asked the District to resume robo calls and emails. Geo said robo calls could be easily resumed but some logistics are still outstanding for emails.
- Sarah said we should be deliberate about what parents perceive as support in person vs. on Zoom. She said parents feel more of a connection to other parents and staff in person.
- Kenya noted that the delta variant may impact next year. She suggested maybe small breakout rooms in Zoom if we continue Zoom. She said that could create some intimacy for parents.
- Benita asked if we had time to do another meeting. Geo said we have more time to create the brochures.
- Taylor suggested a virtual screen share to pick our meetings.
- Renee suggested a priority topic of leveraging COVID funds to address learning loss and responding nimbly with the CBO and her staff, as well as the SELPA, to identify the District's thoughts on how to use the money and how CAC and our community can develop those thoughts. She said that this could be an ad hoc budget subcommittee issue, but if so members should be allowed to participate.
- Rose noted that the district has a time limit on when it can spend some funds, and noted that the chances of being audited for the federal money is almost 100%. She said we should focus on getting the money out of the door.
- Benita summarized that all present agreed on a follow-up meeting on the 26th. She confirmed we agreed to have workshop meetings and subcommittee meetings (budget, MTSS). She asked everyone to come on the 26th with meeting ideas ready to go.