

Los Angeles Unified School District
Parent and Community Services
Community Advisory Committee
Minutes

September 15, 2021

I. Call to Order

Myra Zamora, the Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Norms and agenda were reviewed by Myra Zamora at 10:01 am.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

CAC student representative Jon Fratz leads the Pledge of Allegiance at 10:04 am.

III. Public Comment:

Miho Murai, Parliamentarian oversaw public comment.

No public comment at 10:05 am.

IV. CAC Chairpersons report:

*Mayra Zimora, Chairperson began her report with a warm welcome to all current and new membership. She shared these past two years have been extremely difficult, hence, her goal is to address the needs of these families and students by providing a two-prong approach by highlighting the needs and impact of the pandemic on the students in special education, specifically the student who will be graduating and the students who will be exiting the district once they have turned 22 years of age. Secondly, she emphasizes as per the education code to train, educate, and to provide as much up-to-date information as possible to our families so that they can make critical decisions to support their students.

*She has been asked by Board Member Schmerelson to present at the LASUD Special Education Committee, the input and concerns from the CAC membership. She will be speaking at the November meeting presenting the needs and concerns of the membership at that time.

*A big thank you to Shalita Williams for representing us (CAC) on this committee.

*The new IEP templet is being finalized and urged the membership to review and provide input.

* The Federal Emergency Funds known as ESSER will be addressing the needs of special education from the pandemic. The plan is currently under development, and she has asked for a presentation of this plan at our next meeting.

*She encouraged the membership to review the revised local plan to prepare for the work of our committee.

*She thanked the Division of Special Education for the presentations and the Office of Parent Engagement for their help and support to facilitate our meetings.

V. Roll call/Establish Quorum:

Patrick Bromark, Secretary, conducted a roll call for the establishment of a quorum at 10:10 am. A quorum was established with 22 members present. Members included: Ariel Harman-Holmes, Amy Sobczac Yee, Arlaina Jackson, Cindy Galvan, Ed Andrews, Gabriel Rangel Torres, Isabel Martinez, Ingrid Levy, Silviana Barrera, Johnathan Fratz, Joanne Sathokvrasat, Jeanette Godina, John Perron, Miho Marai, Mirna Sweeney, Mayra Zamora, Mia Marano, Patrick Bromark, Pam Geller, Rocio Elorza, Sherry Johnson and Yoo Eun Kim.

Alternate David Parker was sat at 10:41 for absent CAC member Anna Galaviz.

VI. Action Item: Approval of Meeting Minutes August 25, 2021.

CAC officer, Miho Marai, move we approve the minutes of our August 25th, 2021, meeting minutes with any needed additions, deletions, and /or corrections. CAC member, Isabel Martinez seconded the motion. Motion passes with 21 "yes" votes and no "No or Abstain."

VII. Action Item: Motion to draft a letter to the LAUSD, California Department of Education, and other interested parties addressing the issues still faced by special education students as a result of the COVID pandemic.

I, Patrick Bromark, hereby move that the CAC draft a letter to the LAUSD, California Department of Education, and other interested parties addressing the issues still faced by the students with disabilities because of the COVID pandemic. These issues include but are not limited to the lack of transportation, City of Angeles IEP issues, LAUSD offering "recoupment" in lieu of compensatory services, and difficulties with access to school for the medically fragile.

CAC officer, John Perron, seconded the motion. The motion passes with 23 "yes", no "No or Abstain."

VIII. Presentation:

*Marco Tolj, Director, Office of Special Education, and Claudia Valladarez, Specialist, Parent and Community Division of Special Education provided a presentation on the Local Plan overview of the organizational structure. He started the presentation by explaining the organizational system along with their role, who they are, and the duties or oversight they have. The Chief Equity Officer, Anthony Aguilar then Senior Director Dr. Maribel Luna followed by the two different areas of Planning. There are seven different areas of reporting. Additionally, under data and operations, they have seven different areas reporting areas as well. He explained the different roles and provided a review of the different teams, service centers, and support teams. The change was necessary and critical so that the department areas of related services work with the department of instruction. So, that everyone is on the same page. A review of all department heads and a review of responsibilities were covered.

*Each local district operational structure was reviewed including LRE- LD Superintendent under the organizational support Special Educational Administrators reviewed for all 6 administrators who have a support team to help the oversight for all support for special education and services including the principals. The current person and position reviewed along with what services and supports were reviewed included in the following areas: Special Education Administrator, LRE Specialist, Program Specialist, Behavioral Specialist, Psychological Service Specialist, and Psychological Services Coordinator. A question-and-answer session followed.

*The local plan will have to be amended because our organizational structure has changed.

*A review of what the current sections of the Local Plan" is reviewed. Beginning July 1, 2021, all SELPAs are required to submit local plan using CDE- adopted templet. We have an extension due to the organizational change, but all the other areas will remain the same. The Local Plan templet is under review. The new Local Plan areas are based upon new criteria that were reviewed. Along with an overview of sections A-E.

*The process of when and how the Local Plan and SELPA were reviewed and discussed.

*A new templet of the California Local Plan Section B was reviewed along with the Local Plan requirements and policies.

*The process of how feedback was offered from the CAC on the Local Plan was reviewed. The changes and results were offered along with all the feedback and where it is embedded into the Local Plan. Q & A followed.

*He concluded with where the public can view the Local Plan on the website <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/16734> .

IX. Committee Updates:

*Mayra Zamora, Chairperson, over saw committee updates. She introduced *Ms. Yoo Kim, Education, and Training Officer, shared information about the "Get to Know You Survey" and the reasoning behind the creation of the survey and the purpose of the survey along with the main question to ask the membership to become a Mentor/Mentee. She urged the membership to please fill out ASAP to carry our work forward. Q & A followed.

*Ariel Harman-Holms, Vice-Chairperson, elaborated on the official Mentor/Mentee program and experience. She reached out to long-standing members to help and teach her when she was coming up. We as a group have a responsibility to pass on our knowledge, support, and guidance to new members and others in the committee to be as strong as we can be. She urged the membership to sign up to become a Mentor / Mentee to learn and grow. Q & A followed.

X. Division of Special Education Update:

*Marco Tolj, Director, Office of Special Education, provided an update from the division of Special Education. He reported on "back to school." Online programs / services served nearly 15,000 students so far in the City of Angels Online Program, with roughly 10% of them being special education. He discussed the process from IEP to enrollment and placement.

*So far, 2028 annual IEP's have been completed, including amendment IEPs of 2,500 for a total of 4,500 IEP's. 1,500 IEPs were completed for the City of Angels and existing 204 pending IEP'S.

*The mission is to support families. He shared resources for assistance to call the helpline and online resources if your needs are not being met.

*New partnership with UCLA focusing on Social and Emotional support.

*New web page for special education with the CDE has been created to provide access and information on Assembly Bills, Supports, Services, and Learning Loss. Also reviewed what LEA's are required to do, Matching funds, and what they can be used for and not used for. Questions and answers followed.

*Myra Zamora, Chairperson, 12:49 extended time to finish the meeting.

XI. Parent and Community Services Update: Services (PCS):

*Antonio Plascencia, Jr., Director, Office of Parent and Community Services, began his report by welcoming everyone to the New Year. He questioned how we could improve and organize for you and deepen the comprehension of our learning. Today's presentation lays the foundation we are organizing the information of Twice-Exceptional students who are receiving supports and accommodations. This allows us to process and think about the topic.

*In the survey today please guide, what are the big items, topics, or programs you would like to go deeper.

* He reviewed with two main objectives for topic selection: 1) how do we deepen the comprehension and learning of our membership and 2) What innovative approaches to meetings and training can we adopt to engage in dialogue with each other about the topics presented.

*He discussed the process by which how topics were gathered. Plus, he discussed the role of PCS with the reopening of schools and how they utilize committees to support our students and families.

*The school volunteer programs were highlighted along with In-person and online opportunities are available to families to volunteer.

*He reviewed upcoming PCS host training on September 8, 2021, on Parliamentary Procedure how our bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order guide the structure for our business.

*Resources were provided if members missed the training at <https://ss//achieve.lausd.net/page/10285>.

*PCS updates The School Volunteer Program- a guide was created for the new year,

*School Site Council- Currently hosting elections and orientations.

*English Learner Advisory Committee- orientations will be online,

*New Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Funds for Family Engagement- One-time funding for family engagement 18 million dollars. These funds can be used to update technology in the parent centers, to purchase parent training, organize parent personnel to assist families with school reopening and other ways to serve families.,

*City of Angels Independent Study- Option for family's online program with the reopening of school 2021-22 school year.

*Next, Board of Education meetings dates were provided along with Responsibilities assigned to the CAC covering seven different tasks.

XII. Possible Action Item:

Mayra Zamora, Chairperson, opened the floor for members to provide items for action.

*Subcommittees to start in October please expedite.

The following items are to be added to the agenda:

*Subcommittees to have working groups to go deeper and carry on our committee business as long as we put the item on the agenda and we all vote on the item, then report back to the membership on we are covered by The Brown Act.

*John Perron, CAC officer, please add for Ad-hoc committees any topics the members would like to add, and a discussion added on the agenda with the survey.

*Create social media presence for the CAC. The suggestion is that the CAC work in concert with the PAC of improving our CAC website to strengthen our CAC presence.

*Create a student survey to be created for students of exceptional needs. To include but not limited to: Reasoning and process- LAUSD to survey students with an IEP and ask what they know about their IEP, the right to participate, to provide input at their IEP, and how they feel about the support they received in school. The survey will include 5 questions that will be answered with a simple yes or no or with a thumbs up or down. 1. Do you know if you have an IEP? 2. Do you know what an IEP is? 3. Have you attended an IEP meeting? 4. DO you feel like you are a member of the IEP team? 5. Do you feel like you are receiving the support you need at school? This is also important for transition planning as well. Mr.

Plascencia, suggested "How do we agenzize this topic?" for review and under consideration to be put on the agenda.

*More in-depth look at Dyslexia topic to be a priority along with ESSSR funding due to the pandemic. Request to have these presented at the next CAC meeting.

XIII. Announcement from members and PCS staff:

John Perron, CAC officer, lead the announcements to members.

*Subcommittees- These meetings will be planned with care and thoughtfulness of our members, and they will also take into account other meetings within the district. The first one is Oct. 6th, 2021 at 10:00 am.

*Myra Zimora, Chairperson, clarified a change to our prior meeting schedules. To ensure membership input, provide more in-depth educational opportunities for our membership- the members were surveyed and decided there will be more training. This training will be held just like our normal monthly meetings. They are counted and treated just like always a part of our commitment to the CAC. Roll call will be conducted. But No CAC business will be conducted at these meeting dates. These meeting dates will provide an evaluable wealth of learning opportunities and knowledge to help and support our families district-wide. The times will be as usual from 10:00 pm to 1:00 pm.

The next CAC member meeting will be Oct. 20, 2021

She also announced and declared activation of these subcommittees now: To include:

1. The Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Subcommittee
2. Training and Education Subcommittee
3. Parent Ambassadors Subcommittee
4. IEP Subcommittee
5. Utilization Subcommittee

Other subcommittees will be addressed in the second half of the school year.

Q & A followed

*October is Dyslexia Awareness month.

XIV. Action Item:

Mayra Zamora, the Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 1:23 pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by PCS staff and Patrick Bromark, CAC Secretary.