



Community Advisory Committee
Chairperson's Report
Chairperson's Name: Mayra Zamora

Meeting/Training Attended:

9/1/21 Officer Agenda Planning Meeting

Dear CAC Membership:

I would like to extend a welcome to the returning members, new members, and student members to the community advisory committee. I am grateful and humbled to have been elected as your chairperson. These past two years have been difficult, particularly for our families of students in special education, and it is my goal to address the needs of these families and students.

I will be frank. As a chairperson, I have two priorities that I hope to realize. First, I would like to highlight the impact the pandemic has made on the needs of the students in special education, specifically the students who will be graduating high school or exiting the district once they have turned 22. We must advocate and do all that we can to ensure that these students have the support that they need before they are thrust out into the world, and I feel that it is our obligation to do what we must for these families. Second, I want to emphasize the responsibility, as mandated by the California education code, to train families and provide much-needed information. Families of students in special education need up-to-date information. It is up to us as a committee to ensure that the families we represent have the information that they need to make the critical decisions that will support their students in special education.

I would also like to inform the committee that Board Member Schemerelson will chair the special education committee and has kindly extended the courtesy of giving me time during the meetings to present to the committee the concerns and input from the membership. I will be speaking at the scheduled November meeting and will be requesting from a membership a list of priorities and concerns to present at that time. I would also like to highlight that CAC member Shalita Williams has been selected to represent the CAC on that committee and I would like to thank her for her commitment in representing us on this committee.

In addition, I would also like to inform the committee regarding upcoming decisions that will impact special education in our district. First, I would like to inform the membership that the IEP template is being redesigned at the state level to be implemented across all districts once that template has been finalized. I urge the membership to review that template and provide input when it is solicited. Lastly, Federal Emergency funds known as ESSER III will play a pivotal role in addressing the needs of special education students caused by the pandemic. A plan must be submitted to the federal government by October 31st and this plan is currently in development. One of the main parts of this plan involves special education and I will be requesting that a presentation about this plan be given to the membership at the next meeting for our committee to provide input before this plan is submitted.

Our meeting today will include a presentation from the Division of Special Education on the organizational structure of special education throughout the district. As we review how special education is structured within the SELPA, I encourage the membership to think about what issues around special education are

most urgent. I also encourage the membership, as we prepare for the work of this committee, to review the revised local plan, our committee's bylaws, and to familiarize ourselves with the Brown act and Robert's Rules of Order. To fulfill the mandate of our committee and so that our meetings run as smoothly as possible, please wait until I have recognized you to speak. I, along with our parliamentarian and PCS staff, will do my best to ensure that everyone is heard.

I want to thank the Division of Special Education for the presentations that we will be receiving this year as well as the office of Parent and Community Services for assisting our committee in facilitating our meetings. I believe in the spirit of collaboration and now more than ever, we need to work together to find solutions that will support the families of students that we represent in this committee.

I am looking forward to working with all of you in continuing to move the work of this committee forward. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mayra Zamora