

Message sent on behalf of Scarlett Von Thenen:

Thank you to those who attended last night's parent education following the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. I appreciated each and every one of you and the journey we have all taken to get to where we are. I especially appreciate the "call to action" in terms of how we, as parents, can make more broad, bigger systems impact changes so that it benefits our schools, educators, and ultimately our children.

Please consider joining (as a committee member) or providing public comment at any of these forums to make your voice heard. If you provide public comment, remember to keep it short (3 minutes), simple, and with a proposed resolution!

- I won't tell you all to join the [CAC](#), but this is a great starting point! Review the [2022 CAC Guide](#) for information about the importance of the CAC and its role as an advisory body.
- [Advisory Committee on Special Education](#)
- [SVUSD Board of Education Meetings](#)

The [California Teachers Association](#) is also a great resource and they share ways for parents to work alongside educators to improve outcomes.

If you have a legislative bill idea to either change existing legislation or create a new bill, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities collects bill ideas, which are then considered by our Legislative and Public Policy Committee. If you have a bill idea, [click here](#). Staff reviews every bill idea submission and groups them by category. A copy of that report was provided in the packet and can be found at https://scdd.ca.gov/legislative_and_public_policy/ (Bill ideas submitted don't have to be just related to education, but anything that impacts persons with disabilities)

Also, as appropriate based on your child's age, I highly recommend that your students be more involved in self-advocacy and learning/developing skills so that they can build confidence, advocacy, and be at the decision-making table. Parents are great, but equally important are our students who one day (if they are not already there) will be adults, and they need the skills to ask for help, seek answers, and be leaders (similar to having students with exceptional needs serving on the CAC). All our students can participate meaningfully in their own way and we should encourage these opportunities. Here are some resources to consider:

- [Boardsmanship](#) (pdf document)
- [California Foundation for Independent Living Centers](#)
- [Statewide Self-Advocacy Network \(SSAN\)](#)
- [Board Resource Center](#)

Take care all! Be well!