



**Community Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
March 13, 2024  
Laguna Hills High School MPR**

**MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

Kris Spowart, Chair \*  
 Rebecca Woode, Vice Chair \*  
 Carol Harlan, Secretary \*  
 Stephanie Soofi, Communication Chair \*  
 Karen Arrellano \*  
 Tala Brinderson \*  
 Megan Cauley \*  
 Mary Margheim \*  
 Aimee Mella \*  
 Karina Purcell \*  
 Jacqueline Saba \*  
 Nicole Sparks \*  
 Emily Arias \*\*  
 Lisa Carillo \*\*  
 Rae Lynn Nelson \*\*  
 Samantha Gambrell \*\*

Lila Samia \*\*  
 Cari Salkin \*\*  
 Barbara Schulman  
 April Kim  
 Jen Newsome  
 Elizabeth Kornegay  
 Monica Mays  
 Opelia Ramirez  
 Rouo  
 Donna Umali  
 Maria Giles  
 Tamara Darweem  
 Pelin Celik  
 Trisha Prothero  
 Sarah Franklin  
 Charlene Kramer

Sean Billy  
 Rhea Tecson \*\*\*  
 Lisa Miyazaki \*\*\*  
 Suzan Koo-Mahathirath \*\*\*  
 Cris \*\*\*  
 Araba Mensah \*\*\*  
 Olivia \*\*\*  
 Heather Davies \*\*\*  
 Nicole Kasparian \*\*\*  
 C Ruiz \*\*\*

\* Voting Member (12)  
 \*\* Administration (6)  
 \*\*\* Joined on Zoom (9)  
 Total Participants (42)

1. **RECORD MEETING**  
Recording was turned on.
2. **CALL TO ORDER**  
Kris Spowart called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **ROLL CALL**  
Roll call held with the following Voting Members present – Carol Harlan, Jacqueline Saba, Karina Purcell, Kris Spowart, Megan Cauley, Rebecca Woode, Scarlett vonThenen, Tala Brinderson, and Mary Margheim. Quorum met.
5. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**  
Rebecca Woode made motion and Karen Arellano seconded. Vote held and motion passed.
6. **INTRODUCTIONS**  
Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.

## 7. REPORTS

- a. **SVPTA SPECIAL EDUCATION LIAISON – Kris Spowart**
  - i. Last Parent Meetup was Wed 3/06. Last of the school year will be a Parents' Night Out on April 24 (unless parents request an addl one in May)
    - 1. Graphics on websites and liaisons will pass on information
  - ii. Highlight School Accomplishments
    - 1. Del Cerro – Karina and PTA team has \$1000 in budget for school events
    - 2. Del Lago – Hosting first STEAM night (many sensory activities integrated at the event). SPED liaison will be getting a budget for the first time next year.
    - 3. Melinda Heights – book fair held with a special section highlighting books of diversity and abilities. Attended ELAC meeting and gave info on CAC.
    - 4. Trabucco Mesa – Celebrating character trait “be inclusive”. Celebrating students who have the character trait of being included.
  - iii. SVUSD Transitions Training on April 9 or 10
    - 1. On Zoom 5:15-6:30pm
    - 2. Will be shared through liaisons, Parent Square, Social Media
  - iv. Liaison Leadership Goals – Planning for remainder of this year & next year
  - v. Will continue to meet with teachers & principals throughout the district throughout the remainder of the year. Conversations on how we can support them & their students.
  - vi. Look forward to working with the new team at the district. Would like to see a workgroup/round table created for gened, sped, parents, etc.
  - vii. Sacramento Safari update
    - 1. Kris attended. Advocacy trip with 4<sup>th</sup> district. 78 attended including Board members, principals, and students. Presentations on budget and bills. Main discussion were on the upcoming budget shortfall. Tony Thurmond came and gave a presentation. Kris asked him questions related to training and support for Gen Ed teachers who are begging for training/support due to behaviors in their class, as well as how we better provide true meaningful inclusion, accessibility, equity and remove the stigma of special education so everyone feels they belong. As a result, he asked if she would join the special education task force.
- b. **CAC STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (LBUSD) – Jacqueline Saba**
  - i. Student Update
    - 1. Unity week held a couple weeks ago. Brought awareness.
      - a. Dyslexia
      - b. Auditory issues
    - 2. Career fair held yesterday.
    - 3. College tours around Orange County coming up
- c. **DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AT LBUSD - Lila Samia on behalf of Irene White**
  - i. LBUSD Update
    - 1. Reading for Success – launch of after school literacy program at the elementary sites
      - a. For students with reading issues using the Souday System
      - b. One hour daily after school Monday - Thursday
      - c. Data is showing students are having great gains.
  - ii. Parent Mentor Update
    - 1. Held a new parent mentor training on January 19 for 4 new parent mentors
    - 2. Focusing on Parent Ed
      - a. Understanding Reading Disorders, a two-part series (April 4 & April 17)
      - b. What parents can do in the Home setting to support Fine Motor Development (date TBD)
    - 3. Transition IEPs are happening as well as Round Robins with staff to know the

- needs of their incoming students
- iii. Teacher & Staff Training(s) – Offered since our last CAC meeting or upcoming for all employees who support students receiving Special Education services/504 Plan. In person at the district, in person at individual schools, or online?
    1. Executive function training done for Special Education Staff with Jenny Pozuric
    2. Create a Behavior training model for the district using the Crisis Prevention Institute materials
    3. CPI (8 hours plus reg. team check-ins) for site admin, school psych, special ed providers, and special ed instructional assistants
    4. De-escalation training (6 hours) for student support providers, campus supervisors, IAs, clerical staff as appropriate, general ed teachers and PE coaches
    5. Planning for ISME Certificate training and the University of Laverne Dyslexia training
    6. Summer Math Support for HS Students
    7. OT Cost Analysis as we are considering hiring our own OT again
    8. Hiring a BCBA to support TK, K and Grade 1 Teachers
    9. Manualize a WRAP Referral Process
    10. SCIA/ Shared Aide Process
  - d. **DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AT SVUSD** – Emily Arias on behalf of Rae Lynn Nelson (Interim Director)
    - i. SVUSD Update
      1. Ms Berekian’s science class increasing inclusivity. Aim to have it once per week.
      2. Unified Sports Days are at Trabuco Hills High School on 4/18/24
      3. Dr Dizon and Rae Lynn Nelson participate in ACE Day. Appreciating Classified Employees – Directors job shadowed classified employees
      4. CECSE symposium in SD – Emily Arias and Gillian ostrowsky presented on Evidence Based Practices for students with Autism.
      5. Transition Meetings are getting scheduled
      6. Preparing for ESY
      7. At La Tierra had very first lunch with a loved one
      8. La Tierra had a transition overview night and how they can prepare for the transition meeting. Gave questions they may ask at the transition meeting.
      9. Esperanza’s ATP have been busy with work experience. Hope Blooms and Café arranged the flowers for the Principal for a Day luncheon and the café served the drinks.
      10. Esperanza’s ATP received a grant to upgrade their garden.
      11. Esperanza holding pancake breakfast and online auction on May 5 from 8:30 – 11:00.
      12. Pancake breakfast and online auction May 5 from 8:30-11:00
      13. Esperanza spring dance May 17
    - ii. Teacher & Staff Training(s) – Offered since our last CAC meeting or upcoming for all employees who support students receiving Special Education services/504 Plan. In person at the district, in person at individual schools, or online?
      1. Monthly CPI Trainings throughout the school year to train new staff and staff that need to renew their training (Teachers, IA’s, psychologists, Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and administrators).
      2. Emily is attending a Book Study, “The Way to Inclusion” on how to build an inclusive school district through OCDE

- e. **DIRECTOR OF SOC SELPA – Rae Lynn Nelson**
  - i. SELPA Update
    - 1. Has not been to a SELPA meeting since November. Will be reaching out to find any new legislation to share at the next meeting.
    - 2. SVUSD is being considered for the SWIFT Grant
  - ii. Postcard Delivery Status
    - 1. Delivered 1,000 postcards to sites to be distributed. Need more printed.
  - iii. Parent Square Status
    - 1. Lisa Carrillo got training and now has access to message any parents of a student with a 504 or IEP
  - iv. SELPA LEG Day - May 1<sup>st</sup> in Sacramento – Each SELPA gets to invite 5 people to join the opening sessions at the Arden West Hilton
  - v. SoCal SELPA LEG Day – With Capo (& other districts?) in April or May?
    - 1. Able to present important items or issues to staff of legislators
    - 2. May have funding for one person to go to Sacramento with Rae Lynn
  - vi. Local Plan Presentation
    - 1. Overview
      - a. Draft will be on the CAC website
      - b. Section A is the certification section
      - c. Section B is the meat and potatoes
      - d. Section C has not been developed by CDE yet. Intent is to tie the local plan into the LCAP.
      - e. Section D is the budget section - the SELPA regionalized service department budget
      - f. Section E is the services offered in the districts
    - 2. What changes have been made
    - 3. CAC's Role/Involvement
      - a. Print Bylaws for all voting members
      - b. Discuss CAC's involvement with LP
      - c. Recommendations discussion (form will be on CAC website for us to suggest priorities)
      - i. Period to review and comment on the LP is from April 9 – May 9, 2024
      - ii. Chair signs off
- f. **CAC CHAIR – Kris Spowart**
  - i. Due to conflicts with 5 elementary Showcases in SVUSD, we won't be hosting our optional April CAC meeting
  - ii. Our next meeting will be the last one for the year – May 15.
    - 1. Elections
      - a. If interested in becoming a voting member there is a link to fill out at the bottom of this document
    - 2. Triumph Award presentations will be held in place of a Parent Ed session so participants can arrive by 6:30 PM and not have to sit through entire meeting
  - iii. Triumph Awards – How does everyone feel about presenting a few awards each meeting instead of hosting at the end of the year?
  - iv. Action Items – More Active Involvement of Voting Members

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item NOT on the agenda)**

There were no comments submitted.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item ON the Agenda)**

There were not comments submitted.

## 9. ACTION ITEMS

### a. CREATION OF WORKGROUP(S)

- i. Dyslexia
- ii. Building Community (Inclusion/ LRE)
- iii. Parent Mentor Expansion
- iv. Training and Support/ Neurodivergent affirming practices

Mary Margheim made motion and Rebecca Woode seconded. Vote held and motion carried.

## 10. CONSENT ITEMS

### a. Approval of Minutes of the January 17, 2024 Regular Meeting

Rebecca Woode made motion and Aimee Mella seconded. Vote held and motion carried.

## 11. UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

- a. NEXT CAC MEETING DATE (including Elections) – May 15, 2024
- b. NEXT SVUSD BOE MEETING DATE – April 18, 2024
- c. NEXT LBUSD BOE MEETING DATE – March 14, 2024
- d. NEXT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING DATE – May 22, 2024

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

Megan Cauley made motion and Karen Arellano seconded. Kris adjourned the meeting at 6:37 PM.

## 13. Q&A SESSION – Ask questions of the LBUSD and SVUSD Administration

Q - How is it determined on which students will go to county verses private? How many?

A - Depends on the student. Around 32 and 32 for SVUSD. LG 11 private and a couple county.

## 14. PARENT EDUCATION – Reading Disabilities - Presented by Cari Salkin, SVUSD Reading Specialist

[SOC SELPA Website](#)

[SOC CAC Website](#)

[CAC Parent Participation Application Form](#)

[CAC Q&A – Questions at CAC Meetings](#) (Submit online no later than 24 hours prior to each meeting)

[Request to Address the Community Advisory Committee](#) (To submit comments on or off of the agenda during the meeting)

### **Translator Conversation**

\*Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with a disability who require a disability-related accommodation or modification, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the Meeting should contact [RaeLynn.Nelson@svusd.org](mailto:RaeLynn.Nelson@svusd.org). Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.