

**Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2023
Laguna Hills High School MPR and Viewing/Listening Option via Zoom**

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Kris Spowart, Chair *
Rebecca Woode *
Carol Harlan, Secretary *
Stephanie Soofi, Communic Chair *
Karen Arellano *
Tala Brinderson *
Megan Cauley *
Karen Jones *
Mary Margheim *
Karina Purcell *
Jacqueline Saba *
Scarlett vonThenen *

Emily Arias **
Lisa Carillo **
Samantha Gambrell **
Lila Samia **
Michelle Ruffolo **
Barbara Schulman
Karen Cervenke
April Kim
Amy Jasperson
Brigette Sunseri
Kathy Robinson
Tre' ***

Nicole Sparks ***
Brandy Moncur ***
Suzan K-M ***
Kyler ***
Sam Soofi ***

* Voting Member (12)
** Administration (5)
*** Joined on Zoom (6)
Total Participants (29)

1. RECORD MEETING

Recording was turned on.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Kris Spowart called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ROLL CALL

Roll call held with the following Voting Members present – Carol Harlan, Jacqueline Saba, Karen Arellano, Karen Jones, Karina Purcell, Kris Spowart, Luisa Mossa, Mary Margheim, Megan Cauley, Rebecca Woode, Scarlett vonThenen, Tala Brinderson, Stephanie Soofi. Quorum met.

5. INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.

6. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Karen Jones made motion and Mary Margheim seconded. Vote held and motion passed.

7. REPORTS

SVPTA SPECIAL EDUCATION LIASON – Kris Spowart

School Liaisons

- In the process of getting a liaison at every school site
- Currently have La Tierra, 17 elementary, 2 middle, 3 high schools, ATP
- Emailed PTA/PTO Presidents of 9 remaining schools, requesting assistance

Parent Meet Up Friday

- Parents & a grandparent; many new faces
- Alternating between in-person and online
- Parents come together to support each other and share information
- Questions:
 - What resources are available to parents go to learn more about the IEP process & what to expect?
 - What is the communication flow / who to contact with questions & escalation process?

Meeting with Michelle Ruffolo, Kara Johnson & Michele Sparks

- Goals, Best Buddies, Unified, & Collaboration
- Kara invited the SVPTA liaisons for the 12 Unified schools to join them at their PD days in Oct & January & participate with 15-45 mins

- Inclusion Week / Ability Awareness – targeting Nov 13-17
 - Ask Lila about LBUSD
 - Reaching out to Kara Johnson

Liaison Accomplishments

- **Updated / Created Special Ed Websites within the PTA sites, w/Resources & links to:**

- SPED Calendar
- CAC Meeting Schedule
- SVUSD SPED website
- CAC website
- SVPTA Parent group, website & mtg/meetup graphics

- **Continuing to Work with PTA & School Teams when Planning Events**

- Del Lago – trunk-or-treat sensory-friendly access – will open early for students with sensory issues and their families; keep music lower during that time
- Del Cerro – had a sensory table during their back-to-school luau
- TMesa – Ability Awareness assembly in Nov – Adin Boyer, adult with disabilities – supportive, affirming, accepting environment

- **Upcoming Dates**

- Oct 11 College & Career Fair 6:00-8:00 PM
 - Michael Hoggatt, Saddleback DSPPS
 - Reached out to CSUF & CSUSM DSS and asked if they can attend
- Oct 11 ATP Resource Fair 5:30-7:00 PM
- Flyers on the table

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AT LBUSD – Lila Samia on behalf of Irene White

Work was done planning for teachers to get certificated through multisensory – week long training before school

Partnership with university of La Verne – identify a person to be dyslexia expert for district

Summer projects contracted with BCBA to come do additional training for gen ed teachers – increase in challenging behaviors (support staff with that)

Parent mentor program building (5 new getting trained in October) – boo blast and bonanza set up sensory room staff by district instructional aids

Collaborating with PTA leadership along with the parent mentors to connect families

Parent ed focusing on reading disorders – two sessions being planned 1) informational session 2) different types of reading disorders and how to identify

Parent mentor brochure made and is being distributed in IEPs along with parent rights and CAC handout Priorities as a sped department: 1) current work regarding executive functioning for teachers to provide them with skills 2) addressing needs of providing kids with emotional disabilities interventions and skills 3) instructional aids PLCs for consistency and PD opportunities relevant to them 4) providing supports for students who are diagnosed with dyslexia – creating materials that students will need of targeted skills where staff are trained and have resources they can take to their kids on a daily basis

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AT SVUSD – Michelle on behalf of Diane Clark, ADR/Compliance

New, so trying to get to all of the different school sites and see what's needed.

Working on alternative pathways – guidance is not as clear as they hoped, so looking into how SVUSD will be addressing it

TK class at La Tierra is going really well – working to increase inclusion across the school site

Attending workshops with group of gen ed and sped teachers to increase rigor for students with special needs

Making sure to tighten programs as much as possible and working collaboratively as a team

Order of concerns (not a written hierarchy, still looking into):

Elementary concern start with classroom teacher (gen ed teacher or case carrier), then school psychologist at site, then site principal, then sped coordinator, then sped director (if gen ed go to Yvonne Estling director of elementary education)

Secondary: Case carrier, psychologist, ap for guidance, principal, sped coordinator, then sped director

Changes to credentials for Sped teachers. Offer bridge program in order to take old credential and bridge it to be the new credential through the training.

ATP has various workshops open

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AT SVUSD – Michelle Ruffolo, Programs and Instruction

DIRECTOR OF SOC SELPA – Sam on behalf of Rae Lynn Nelson

Focusing on supporting students who attend private school who receive services and letting them know what's available if they want to return to district

Collaboration between families out of district and within district

Focus on compliance. Work on trying tier 1 and tier 2 supports before just qualifying them for sped. October – December reviewing the local plan with team that's been put together

CAC CHAIR – Kris Spowart

Goals

- Parent Education at every meeting
- November Parent Ed– will have a meeting – ask Parent Ed:
 - accommodations & modifications, diploma & certificate of completion
 - smart goals, team communication
- Resources for Parents
 - Parent Handbook
 - Link to Training video/pre-recorded presentation (help guide & answer common questions)
 - Transition Meetings for parents
- IEP Team Communication
 - Team Communication/Escalation Flowchart
- Communication of Resources
 - Continue Conversations with CAC voting members & admin
 - Communicate Resources to parents

- Reached out to Capo CAC and will do the same with Irvine

LBUSD STUDENT WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS – Jacqueline Saba

She is dyslexic and has auditory processing disorder. Went to youth leadership forum in Sacramento through school and was an aid in a special needs summer kindergarten class. Club rush at school – started buddy club during lunch to make a buddy if they need one. Expectations and needs – from view of her siblings with special needs – more inclusion at a young age so that when they get older they know how to interact and act with people with special needs.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item NOT on the agenda)

There were no comments submitted.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item ON the Agenda)

There were no comments submitted.

10. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

11. CONSENT ITEMS – Approval of Minutes of the May 24, 2023 Regular Meeting Luisa Mossa made motion and Karen Arellano seconded. Vote held and motion carried.

12. UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

CAC MEETING – November 15, 2023, 5:00 pm with Parent Education at 6:30 pm @ LHHS MPR

SVUSD BOE MEETING – October 12, 2023, 6:00 pm

LBUSD BOE MEETING – October 12, 2023, 6:00 pm

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING – November 8, 2023, 9:00 am

13. ADJOURNMENT – Mary Margheim made motion and Luisa Mossa seconded. Kris adjourned the meeting at 5:55 PM.

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

Q: What is SVUSD doing for staff with dyslexia identification and continuing education for general education teachers?

A: Many teachers have been trained and are continuing to be trained with OG curriculum. Looking into dyslexia legislation that is coming up on screening for all students district wide by 2025. Looking to determine who is and is not trained. Then will work on putting a system into place to figure out which teachers need training.

Q: Parent/ mentor program at La Tierra when is that launching?

A: Right now just at La Tierra. This is the role out year. Seeing how this first year goes at La Tierra and then will possibly role it out to the elementary schools, but will need a very large underlying support to make that happen at multiple elementary schools.

Q: What do you mean by the influx of compliance?

A: It's a complicated math formula that looks at number of students vs number of students with eligibility. The state, CTC, tells districts that they need to look into students if the number is high on OHI. State gives three years to address the disproportionality to the district. Must do a root cause analysis to see why it's happening. Not saying that there are too many students with IEPs. It's focusing on disproportionate areas of labels on IEPs.

Q: Who did the OG training in SVUSD?

A: The company came out to do training a while back for a 3 day training. Some people were trained this summer as well.

Q: How was the COVID money allocated? 53% has been spent so far.

A: (maybe agenda item for next meeting) Coordinator of assessment may have the information.

Q: What tools or workshops are available to parents whose child just received an IEP or 504 and that the teacher and/or aid understand the IEP? What can be done to make sure the one-on-one aid is there every day instead of hearing that the school is short staffed?

A: Parent training are held monthly at the preschool for parents that are preschool focused. Parent mentor program that just started this year for the parents of preschool kids.

15. PARENT EDUCATION – Get to know the new SVUSD Special Education Director, Michelle Ruffolo

Has an adult brother who has autism. Wants to do what's best for the kids.

[SOC SELPA Website](#)

[SOC CAC Website](#)

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