



**Community Advisory Committee
AGENDA
Regular Meeting
November 15, 2023
Laguna Hills High School Library**

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

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

Lisa Carillo **
 Rae Lynn Nelson **
 Samantha Gambrell **
 Lila Samia **
 Irene White **
 Jon Ferguson
 Kathy Robinson
 April Kim
 Heather Waldvogel
 Brittany Carden
 Pelin Cedile
 Lisa Miyazaka
 Victoria Tecson

Maria Giles
 Dedra Dean
 Hauli Li
 Monica Mays
 Brandy Moncur ***
 Amy Jasperson ***
 Janet Guillen ***

* Voting Member (12)
 ** Administration (6)
 *** Joined on Zoom (3)
 Total Participants (33)

1. RECORD MEETING

Recording was turned on.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Kris Spowart called the meeting to order at 5:07 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, 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

Rebecca Woode made motion and Karen Arellano seconded. Vote held and motion passed.

7. REPORTS

a. SVPTA SPECIAL EDUCATION LIASON - Kris Spowart

i. Unified Professional Development Day update

1. Everyone answered the question: When you see me what do you want to see?
2. Participate in activities and students put on a skit.
3. It was a great day and we were so grateful for the inclusion

ii. Parent Meetup update

1. 2 meet ups since last CAC meeting. Alternating between in person and virtual

South Orange County Special Education Local Plan Area

to include more parents.

iii. Inclusion Week 11/13-11/17

1. Have more meaningful activities to align with the dress up days.
2. Librarians read books about different disabilities
3. Heart inclusion wall – strips of paper written on by students and made as a huge heart in the MPR
4. Goal to expand inclusion week to all school sites
5. Ultimate goal is to have inclusion part of everyone's daily life

b. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AT LBUSD – Irene White

i. District Updates

1. Bringing in Coach Rob Mendez (has no arms and no legs) as an inspirational speaker
2. Increase in initial assessments at the elementary level
3. Creating a new program for kids with Dyslexia (phonemic awareness service that moves from kid to kid). Being layered on top of SAI. Extra 10-15 minutes per day.
4. Rolling out additional literacy after school programs starting with students that are identified (looking at Sunday system as the program). Plans on January roll out.
5. Staff training: Had first SAI day pull-out. Four total for the year.
 - a. First was on assessment
 - b. Second will be on executive functioning
6. Working on how to place shared aids with students
7. Formalizing counseling referral process
8. Investigating new curriculum for the K-2 classroom
9. Paperwork and compliance reviews is always an ongoing process

ii. Parent Mentor Update

1. Scheduled a training twice and have had to reschedule for January
2. Want to do parent education on reading disorders
3. Trying to figure out how to get more interest from the PTA

iii. Parent Resource Room Update

1. It is a family resource building. Intent is for it to be a place for parents to go to seek support for themselves or their child.
2. Place for parents to come and congregate.
3. Social worker or counselor present

iv. Does LBUSD provide a Parent Engagement Handbook (or similar title) to teachers & staff, to help IEP teams support parents/students?

1. No handbook, but they have expectations for their staff.
2. All case carriers are supposed to reach out to the parents before the start of the school year
3. Parent input form is now mandatory as part of the IEP process so they know if a parent has concerns about something

v. Teacher & Staff Training(s)

1. What trainings have been offered since our last CAC meeting to all employees who support students receiving Special Education services/504 Plan
 - a. In person at the district, in person at individual schools, or online
 - b. Have had a lawyer come and mention that things in 504/IEPs are not optional – they are mandatory
 - c. Training on behavior for all aides
 - d. Use PLC time to provide training to IAs in CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention)
2. Teacher & Staff Training - Is Inclusion Training offered to all employees who support students receiving Special Education services/504 Plan? What does

that look like?

- a. No specific inclusion training, but it's embedded in what we do.
- vi. Teacher Support
 - 1. Process for Approval of Necessary Classroom Supplies
 - a. PTA gives budget or if it's on the IEP through the SPED office
- vii. Parent Training & Support
 - 1. What training, information, and programs to consider are provided to parents in parallel with their child's IEP journey?
 - a. Initial Assessments
 - b. Annual, Triennial
 - c. Each Transition level
 - d. Post-Secondary
- viii. Goals and Planning
 - 1. Does LBUSD Special Ed create goals for each year? Yes
 - 2. How are they determined? On what is being asked by parents and staff
 - 3. Who are they shared with? Cabinet, the Superintendent, Parent Mentors, Special Ed department, and the Top Priorities are included in the Welcome Back Package sent to families
 - 4. Are they achieved/need to be rewritten? At a 90+%
 - 5. How does Special Ed plan for upcoming years? On reflection of how things are going

c. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AT SVUSD – Emily Arias on behalf of Michelle Drewniak

- i. District Updates
 - 1. Esperanza participated in the resource fair
 - 2. Esperanza had their first school dance of the year
 - 3. La Tierra had its second parent training this week – Speaker from Cal-Optima
 - 4. School choice window opens in December
- ii. Parent Mentor update
- iii. SVUSD COVID Aid Funding from Federal Government Status (RLN reached out to Scarlett - SPED Staff doesn't know how it's spent & it's more like a BOE update)
Edsource article: https://edsources.org/2023/amounts-california-districts-were-allotted-and-spent-in-federal-covid-aid/692198?utm_campaign=CHL%3A%20Daily%20Edition&utm_medium=email&_hsmt=262624319&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8fqag29wsW7zEp_OjY-w0dzTpnBmEOI9iglH1f3XVfGJA9E3M4cwiNhlAVz7eVFKrypVatefzsPsHD1Anl9vZed23G3guq0q7ZiU3Hs-ucCHvuXs&utm_content=262624319&utm_source=hs_email
 - 1. Added two TOSAs (Teacher on Special Assignment)
 - 2. Added school psychologist
 - 3. Added OT support
 - 4. Added a Counselor
 - 5. Extra training hours for IAs
 - 6. Set up the assessment room
 - 7. Added a behavioral specialist
 - 8. Added mild/moderate and moderate/sever floater teachers
- iv. Parent Resource Room - Have there been conversations about creating this for SVUSD?
 - 1. No specific site. Plans to see CUSDs new resource center and has asked if this is something we can do it at SVUSD.
- v. Does SVUSD provide a Parent Engagement Handbook to teachers & staff, to help IEP

teams support parents/students?

1. No handbook. Part of the credentialing program for teachers is how to interact with parents and students.
2. Expectation is that teachers should make a phone call or send an email to every student with an IEP before the start of the school year.

vi. Teacher & Staff Training(s)

1. What trainings have been offered since our last CAC meeting to all employees who support students receiving Special Education services/504 Plan
 - a. In person at the district, in person at individual schools, or online
 - b. Nov 1 all staff received training for students with autism.
 - c. Basic behavioral strategies and de-escalation techniques
 - d. Adult transition program trained on the alternate pathway
 - e. January PD for preschool will be on inclusive practices
 - f. Gen ed teachers and SPED teachers were all together
 - g. Secondary Language arts teachers will have ELD (English Language Development) training
 - h. IAs will get training on data collection
2. Teacher & Staff Training - Is Inclusion Training offered to all employees who support students receiving Special Education services/504 Plan? What does that look like?

vii. Teacher Support

1. Process for Approval of Necessary Classroom Supplies
 - a. Request is made at the school site

viii. Parent Training & Support

1. What training, information, and programs to consider are provided to parents in parallel with their child's IEP journey?
 - a. Initial Assessments – No, there is not.
 - b. Annual, Triennial – No, there is not.
 - c. Each Transition level – Videos online
 - d. Post-Secondary

ix. Goals and Planning

1. Does SVUSD Special Ed create goals for each year?
 - a. Have individual goals, SPED goals, district goals
2. How are they determined?
 - a. Based on needs
3. Who are they shared with?
 - a. District goals are located in the LCAP document – found online
4. Are they achieved/need to be rewritten?
5. How does Special Ed plan for upcoming years?

d. DIRECTOR OF SOC SELPA – Rae Lynn Nelson

i. Postcard Delivery Status

1. It's been slow. Distributed to 20% of sites.

ii. Parent Handbook Status

1. The revision is complete. Will be posted online tomorrow.

iii. Compliance Update - Provide handouts for LBUSD & SVUSD

1. Working on least restrictive environment for LBUSD
2. Working on disproportionality in SVUSD

iv. Alternate Pathway to Diploma Implementation Status

1. CDE is still developing policy around this. Work group in the state is weighing in trying to create consistent policy for the entire state. 2026 graduating class is the first class this would effect.
2. New director of Special Ed for the State of California.
3. Students must be CAA (California Alternative Assessment) eligible.

- v. Legislation Updates (include a handout that list each Bill #, short summary & status)
- vi. Local Plan Update
 - 1. Reviewed Section B at the last meeting
 - 2. Next meeting will be on Appendix A and Appendix B

e. CAC CHAIR – Kris Spowart

- i. Parent Education Planning
 - 1. Dyslexia - January?
 - 2. Triumph Awards - in April/May?
 - 3. Transitions - April/May?
 - 4. Next Year's Topics
 - a. September - Reps from each district
- ii. CAC Awareness
 - 1. CAC Instagram - increase in activity
 - 2. CAC Postcards – at every IEP meeting
- iii. Capo CAC – meets once per month with their special ed admin team – would be wonderful to collaborate more often within SVUSD
- iv. Superintendent Advisory
 - 1. Enrollment numbers are still declining and are expected to level in 3-4 years
 - 2. Meanwhile, the number of students needing special ed services continues to increase while enrollment is decreasing

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

- a. April Kim – from LCAP:
 - i. Smaller class sizes for all kids
 - ii. Pay our special education teachers and aids more
 - iii. Special education teachers have insane workloads – hire more to lessen the work load
 - iv. Prevent and intervene with bullying
 - v. All teachers should have training to work with foster kids, special ed kids, etc
 - vi. Support special ed kids and provide them services rather than paying lawyers
 - vii. Use language that parents can understand
 - viii. Stop wasting money on lawyers
- b. Kathy Robinson:
 - i. TK and Kindergarten special education services at Del Lago has gone away. Concerned for those kids. Where they are and the class sizes they are in.

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

There were no comments submitted.

10. ACTION ITEMS

a. Ad Hoc Committee - Parent Education Planning

Karina Purcell made motion and Stephanie seconded. Vote held and motion carried.

11. CONSENT ITEMS

a. Approval of Minutes of the September 20, 2023 Regular Meeting

Luisa Mossa made motion and Karen Arellano seconded. Vote held and motion carried.

12. UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

- a. **NEXT CAC MEETING DATE – January 17, 2024, 5:00 pm – Laguna Hills High School Library**
- b. **NEXT SVUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATE – ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – December 14, 2023, 6:00 pm**
- c. **NEXT LBUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATE – December 14, 2023, 6:00 pm**
- d. **NEXT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING DATE – February 7, 2024, 9:00 am, SVUSD**

13. ADJOURNMENT

Karen Jones made motion and Karen Arellano seconded. Kris adjourned the meeting at 6:38 PM.

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

- a. Is there teacher training for inclusion?
 - i. Offered to all teacher 4 times per year
 - ii. On PD days teachers are given choices and inclusion is one of the choices
- b. Can we change the time of the CAC meeting to be 6:00pm instead of 5:00pm?
 - i. Up to us, can possibly change it for next year
- c. Where do you recommend parents go to get resources to help their kids?
 - i. TASK (Team of Advocates for Special Kids) located in Brea
- d. What happened to the TK and K special needs program at Del Lago?
 - i. 1 out of 2 of the teacher positions was filled. Both classes were moved to different sites with similar classes because they needed more support.
- e. Would SVUSD do SAI teacher training?
 - i. It's been a substitute issue – but will be brought up with super intendent

15. PARENT EDUCATION – Accommodations and Modifications – Andee Kridel and Rae Lynn Nelson

[For the presentation click here](#)

[SOC SELPA Website](#)

[SOC CAC Website](#)

*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. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.