

**Los Angeles Unified School District  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

***Wednesday, March 20, 2024  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.***

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order:**

Ariel Harman-Holmes, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Norms:**

Chairperson Harman-Holmes recited the Norms slides.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Dr. Jose Soto, Executive Director, Division of Special Education (DSE) led the Pledge.

**Public Comment:**

Paul Robak, Parliamentarian, announced that those who are not CAC members may speak for two (2) minutes each. He asked the SFACE team whether anyone had either signed up ahead of time to speak or wished to do so now. There was no public comment.

**Chairperson's Report:**

Chairperson Harman-Holmes spoke of the CAC's priority to create a Special Education Advisory Committee at each school site, to support families and school staff. Doing this will create better communication and provide accurate information to our parents and families.

Ingrid Levy, Public Relations, spoke about the Parent Ambassador Subcommittee and how important two-way communication between families and District staff can be for students with disabilities. She emphasized the need to create a pathway so that CAC Ambassadors can be present at school sites and also how the CAC will advocate for this role to be implemented.

Ms. Harman-Holmes spoke of aligning our Bylaws with the SELPA Local Plan and also about the process by which CAC members are chosen. Meetings with Dr. Jose Soto are planned in the near future to discuss these concerns.

Ms. Harman-Holmes spoke about a letter sent to Superintendent Alberto Carvalho regarding CAC concerns about the large number of APEIS (Assistant Principal Elementary Instructional Specialist) positions that are scheduled to be eliminated throughout the District next year.

**Division of Special Education (DSE) Updates:**

Dr. Soto sincerely apologized for the technical difficulties that arose during the viewing of the presentation and assured the problem was being handled. He spoke of World Down Syndrome Day being recognized on March 21, 2024: [WorldDownSyndrome.org](http://WorldDownSyndrome.org). He also spoke of 63,423 IEP meetings successfully conducted throughout the District to date.

CCEIS (Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services) and CFL (CCEIS Family Leaders) groups meet every third Thursday of the month to discuss and explore potential solutions to the disproportionate representation of Black and African American students in Special Education.

DSE parent workshops: Final sessions will be held on May 12th and May 16th, with the topic of Online Safety.

ESY (Extended School Year) will be held June 20 through July 19th: [ParentPortal.lausd.org](http://ParentPortal.lausd.org).

### **Roll Call, Establish Quorum:**

Ingrid Levy, Public Relations, conducted Roll Call in place of Erika Howell, Secretary.

With 23 members present, including seated alternates, a quorum was established. Jahuanna Roberson moved to approve the Minutes of the January 17th business meeting with any needed additions, deletions and/or corrections; Vice Chairperson Bryan Davis seconded. With 20 in favor, 3 opposed, and no abstentions, the motion was adopted.

### **Presentation:**

By Cesar Rodriguez, Early Childhood Special Education Support Services (ECSE)

Mr. Rodriguez conducted a presentation focusing on:

- ▶ Early Childhood Special Education Support Services
- ▶ Programs and contact Information
- ▶ The benefits of inclusion

Some of the questions asked by members were:

- ▶ From Jahuanna Roberson: When did the programs start? Are these new programs? She was concerned that her 4-year-old child was not offered these preschool programs.

Answer from DSE: Mr. Rodriguez told her that the programs were in effect for a while and suggested that maybe her child was not qualified for program services.

Ms. Harman-Holmes asked DSE to follow up with Ms. Roberson on her concerns.

- ▶ From Kelley Coleman: What efforts are required from the IEP team to make sure parents have equal knowledge of programs offered?

Answer from DSE: Training is offered and parents are part of the IEP team. Mr. Rodriguez provided a phone number for parents to contact Early Childhood Special Education Support Services: 213-241-4713. He stated that a video will be available for parents to learn about program opportunities.

- ▶ From Caroline Pakes: She is concerned about the fact that the Lokrantz School is not offered for educational needs.

Answer from DSE: Lokrantz does not have a preschool program.

- ▶ From Veronica Sanchez: Is the creative curriculum in other languages? Is a permit required to be an Early Education teacher? Where is the handoff from preschool to the Kinder program?

Answer from DSE: A General Education teacher is required to hold a permit while a Special Education teacher is required to hold a credential.

- ▶ From Carl Peterson: How much inclusion takes place inside a special day class (SDC)?

Answer from DSE: It's a collaborative effort for the duration of the instructional period.

► From Jahuanna Roberson: How often are we checking on the schools and making sure they're doing what they're supposed to be doing?

Answer from DSE: Policies and practices are set in place, and if these are not being followed, action is taken. Due to the size of our District, they want to ensure parents and administrators have all needed resources at hand.

### **Subcommittee Updates:**

#### **IEP Training and Education**

Lisa Porter of SFACE presented an update on behalf of Subcommittee Chair Kelly Bedford. Alberta Moore, Special Education and community advocate, was thanked for giving an informative presentation and providing various resources. Kristie Lacy and Theresa Quary presented details on the Family Focus Center in Region North.

#### **Bylaws**

Paul Robak, Parliamentarian and Subcommittee Chair, gave an update and shared some issues to be addressed in amending our Bylaws.

- Conflicting language around the "succession" option from Vice Chairperson to Chairperson in the case of a Vice Chair who is an LAUSD employee.
- An increase in the number of CAC members from the current 32 up to 42, because due to stronger outreach to the LAUSD community about CAC this past year, so many applications were received that this resulted in numerous qualified applicants being turned away.
- Ensuring that the Bylaws are in accordance with the SELPA Local Plan, and that we need to know what the timeline is for approving amendments to both documents. Ideally the Local Plan would be approved first, followed by the Bylaws.

#### **Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation**

Chairperson Harman-Holmes, Subcommittee Chair, believes that prioritizing efforts towards other subcommittees such as Parent Ambassadors would be beneficial at this time. She wants to draft a report on possible issues to be covered within this Subcommittee for next year.

#### **Parent Ambassadors**

Ingrid Levy, Subcommittee Chair, talked about establishing a Special Education Advisory Committee at each school site, connecting it to the PTA and Parent and Family Center while including District and community members. Ms. Levy would like the follow through on this concept, and she believes that more CAC members should express an interest in being involved for a subcommittee like this to be sustainable.

#### **Legislation**

Carl Peterson was asked to make some points regarding "working groups" at Special Education Centers and what would be discussed.

- Making sure the CAC is ensuring that the needs of our most vulnerable students are met
- Recommendations to the District on how best to implement inclusion
- Review the SELPA Local Plan on the point of view of these communities

Mr. Peterson invited those who are interested in joining this working group to contact him: ChangeTheLAUSD@gmail.com.

Though Mr. Peterson provided his contact information, Ariel added that he may also be reached through SFACE.

**SFACE UPDATE:**

Antonio Placencia, Chief Engagement Officer, was not able to give an update due to technical difficulties with Zoom, so members were asked to read his updates on their own time.

**NEW BUSINESS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION AT FUTURE MEETING:**

Chairperson Harman-Holmes asked if anyone had a suggestion for New Business. None was offered.

Paul Robak asked if the CAC would be given an update on the elimination of APEIS positions.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Ingrid Levy, Public Relations, announced the following important dates.

► Next CAC subcommittee meetings:

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

► Next CAC meeting:

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**CLOSING:**

Ariel loved hearing from everyone, especially stakeholders, and she thanked DSE for being real and engaging.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Harman-Holmes adjourned the meeting at 12:23 p.m.