



Community Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 21, 2024
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Professional Development Building
1680 David E. Cook Way

Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introductions-

Melissa Bailey, *CAC Chairperson*

- Invited anyone interested to join a focus group working to develop an “Inclusion Tool Kit”.
 - Sign-in sheet was provided. Individuals interested can also email: familyresourcecenter@cusd.com
- Executive Board members were introduced
- CAC Treasurer provided a budget update.
 - Started the 2024-25 SY year with \$10.34
 - Donations = \$1050.00
 - Current balance is \$1060.34

District Updates-

Theresa Pafford, *SELPA Administrator & Legal Compliance*

- **Acknowledgments:** Thanked the Technology Department for supporting the new virtual component to the CAC meeting.
- **Board Information:** Measure A passed. Mrs. Pafford shared that the bond includes finishing Clovis South, safety and facility improvement projects.
- **CAC Website:** Discussion regarding updating the CAC website. Focus is to make more it user-friendly.
- **Hiring:** Mrs. Pafford shared information regarding hiring of teachers and paraprofessionals in the district.
 - December 14, 2024: CUSD will be hosting a recruitment table at the Hmong Heritage Education Day at Fresno State.
 - January 22, 2025: CUSD Job Fair
- **Job Training:**
 - Behavior training was provided to over 100 paraprofessionals by a trained Behavior Specialist
 - Training for principals and case managers
 - Fall Training: IEP development
 - Spring Training: How to communicate effectively during an IEP.
 - Currently gathering information regarding trainings to be considered in the Spring.
- **Recognition:** Buchanan Area
 - Rich Contreras finalist in the Region 7 “Educator of the Year” Award.
 - Fresno County Educator Awards will be held this evening. Ben Canzano, APE teacher is a finalist for “Teacher of the Year”.

Athletic Opportunities-

Ben Canzano, CUSD Adapted Physical Education (APE) Teacher

- Spoke about the Sports Clinics held every year. Five clinics are held each year, including; soccer, basketball, baseball and track.
 - Started 30 years ago with a small group of students. Now over 600 students from 73 classes participate.
 - Partnership with CUSD high schools.
- Special Olympics activities - at the Secondary Level.
- Unified Sports at the Secondary level
 - Soccer and Basketball
 - CIF stationed.

UDL “Universal Design for Learning” Presentation –

Meaghan Young, *CUSD Program Specialist*

Judy Bowers, *Curriculum & Instruction Teacher*

- Shared a power point presentation regarding Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- PowerPoint will be posted on CAC webpage at:
<https://www.cusd.com/Community-CommunityAdvisoryCommitteeCAC.aspx>
- Floor was opened up for questions.

Community Partner Awareness-

Veronica Magallanes, *State Council Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)*

- Independent State Council to support students with developmental disabilities.
- Provide regional trainings and systemic advocacy support
- Reviewed their goals
 - Advocacy working on issues that are statewide. (Not individual advocacy agency).
 - Focus – Law Enforcement Training related to interacting with people with mental health needs and/or disabilities.
- PowerPoint will be posted on CAC webpage at:
<https://www.cusd.com/Community-CommunityAdvisoryCommitteeCAC.aspx>

Family Resource Center Updates-

Leann Gajarian Keeler, *CUSD FRC*

- **Acknowledgement:** Mrs. Gajarian Keeler thanked the parents of the Executive Committee and the Subcommittee for all their work. Subcommittee Chair, Chelsea McCue was praised for her work on the CAC social media. She also thanked Veronica Magallanes and mentioned that the FRC is partnering with SCDD for this year’s “Safety” event.
- **Spring Trainings:** Flyers will be sent out soon.
- **CAC Input Survey Summary Results:**
 - Executive Committee has reviewed thoroughly and appreciates the valuable input
 - 56 respondents – majority were parents
 - Anonymous – but asked role (parent, teacher, community member, etc.)
 - Most individuals heard about CAC from Peach Jar flyers, social media posts and email notices.
 - The QR code to sign up was available at the resource table and is on the CAC website.
 - New seating arrangements at meeting by “area” (based on a parent suggestion).
 - 21 % shared that they preferred the new seating.
 - Majority did not have a preference.
 - Benefits of attending CAC meetings- top 4 answers were:
 - Enjoy connecting with others
 - Learning about resources and trainings
 - Staying up to date with what is going on in Special Education
 - Sharing input
 - Suggestions for FRC trainings. Common themes were:
 - Self-advocacy
 - Planning for the future – Noted that the FRC “Transition to Adulthood” webinar will be coming up on January 9, 2025 based on input.
 - Suggestions to improve CAC meetings:
 - Longer meeting to allow time for parent connection
 - Allow time for parent input so that parents feel heard
 - Noted that this input is being used to plan for next year
 - Overall theme
 - Some positive feedback on meetings being well-organized
 - Some were grateful for the virtual option

- Parents want more social connection outside of the CAC

- **Public Awareness Subcommittee updates:**
 - Public Awareness subcommittee is busy planning upcoming social events for families.
 - Individuals were encouraged to sign up for the subcommittee, if they are interested, using the sign-up sheet provided or by emailing the Family Resource Center at: familyresourcecenter@cusd.com

Roundtable discussions

1. How can District IEP team members help support parents better?
2. How can parents support their IEP team members better?
 - Attendees were encouraged to share input via index cards on each table

2024-25 Meeting Dates:

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Thursday, May 22, 2025

2024 Executive Committee:

Chairperson: Melissa Bailey, Parent

Vice Chair: Julie Peeler, Parent

Treasurer: Kelsie Igasan, Parent

Secretary: Ronda Schmidt, CUSD Program Specialist

FRC Rep.: Leann Gajarian Keeler, Family Resource Center

SELPA Rep.: Theresa Pafford, Administrator SELPA & Legal Compliance

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) serves in an advisory capacity to the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Our goal is to raise community awareness about the needs of students and their families regarding Special Education Programs; to actively review the Local Plan for Special Education; and to provide a forum that facilitates parent communication with other parents and with the school district. The CAC shall provide information, training, and resources to help ensure that quality programs educate the student with special needs in mind, body, and spirit.

Questions or comments?

Email: specialed@cusd.com

Phone: 559-327-8455

<https://www.cusd.com/Community-CommunityAdvisoryCommitteeCAC.aspx>

Community-based presentations may or may not represent programs that are affiliated or sponsored by CUSD.