



CAC
Chairperson's Report

Meeting Date: June 24, 2020

Chairperson's Name: Lisa Mosko

Meetings/Trainings attended:

6/5/2020

Officers Planning Meeting

6/10/2020

Logistics Planning for CAC Regular Meeting with PCS & Division of Special Education

Dear Membership:

Welcome to our final meeting of the year! I'm sure none of us expected to have a meeting so late in the year, but then again, none of us imagined in a million years that there would be a worldwide pandemic that resulted in school closures and endless Zoom meetings in our efforts to stay connected during social distancing.

It was in the wake of George Floyd's murder and the surge of worldwide support and protest in the name of #blacklivesmatter, that the CAC officers held their planning meeting. During that meeting, we unanimously voted to pivot and focus on an issue that ties in directly with this same social justice issue as it pertains to special education: Disproportionality. For those of you who are less familiar with the term, Disproportionality refers to the disproportionate representation of our school district's African American students in special education programs. I want to thank Officer Davis for putting the issue of Disproportionality squarely on the table at our last meeting, and it goes without saying that this is a key issue that many of our members have brought up over the past year. I also want to thank the Division of Special Education, and in particular to Dr. Aaron Jeffery, who quickly responded to our request and created a presentation for us in lieu of the one that had already been planned.

In this meeting we are also welcoming a presentation by Dr. Magan Mitchell, the Director of Humanizing Education for Equitable Transformation (H.E.E.T.), a program launched in Local District West that through the Community of Schools in that area, addresses the disparity in African American students' academic achievement. After the presentation, I invite the membership to discuss with Dr. Mitchell the ways that H.E.E.T. may also embrace special education as part of their work, given that Disproportionality may very well be a factor that impacts a significant subset of the population this program serves.

Our focus on Disproportionality is long overdue, and I can offer no adequate excuse for this. I will say, however, that this has inspired me to look at our work at the CAC through a different lens. Historically, we have organized our work and monthly trainings according to each section of the Local Plan. However, I wonder if this approach is too prescriptive and bars us from delving into pressing issues that might not necessarily have a section (yet) dedicated to them in the Local Plan. Today, we are focusing on Disproportionality. How can we embed our findings on this issue into the Local Plan as we create recommendations for its revision next year? For the upcoming year, I encourage each one of you to consider other issues in special education that are close to your heart: Dyslexia? Over representation of English Learners in special education? Twice Exceptional (2E)? General educators lacking the support and preparation they need to support our kids in their inclusive classrooms? These are just a few that come to my mind. As we start thinking about the Local Plan revision, let's remember to put pressing



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issues such as these front and center and make sure that they're properly addressed within the sections in the final document.

I also want to take a moment to congratulate ourselves as a committee and thank the team at PCS for their support. During a time when, due to the quarantine, many CACs across the state stopped holding meetings, we forged ahead on Zoom. We have achieved quorum at every meeting this year, where in the past (so I've heard), this was not regularly achieved. We've seen a huge uptick in applications for open spots for the coming year, which is no doubt, thanks to members of this committee spreading the word about our important work.

Thanks everyone, and congratulations.

Best,

Lisa