



CAC
Chairperson's Report

Meeting Date: Oct 16, 2019

Chairperson's Name: Lisa Mosko

Meetings/Trainings attended or upcoming meetings:

September 18, 2019

Officers Planning Meeting

Evaluated Annual Priorities, Planned Agenda for subsequent meetings , Letter to Scott Schmerelson

October 8, 2019

Officer Training

Dear CAC Members,

Welcome everyone! I hope you're excited as I am to start this new year at the CAC. We had a very strong year last year where engaged in very thoughtful and constructive dialogue with the Division of Special Education. We also urged the Board and PCS to make information more accessible to parents of special needs kids in the District, and for trainings such as the IEP Workshop to be made available online. I am pleased to report that early this school year, the Office of PCS made that a reality. Dr. Mahmud placed the IEP Binder Workshop online as a slideshow with a voiceover (<https://achieve.lausd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=16037> or you can access it through <https://parentworkshops.lausd.net>) and click on the red text on the right side that directs you to the Parent Video Library We are waiting for the Division of SpEd to put the finishing touches on the IEP Workshop, to get that up online, as well. My hope is that by the end of this year, we can also have the Dyslexia, MTSS, and Education Code, 2E, and other workshops available online, as well.

We have so many changes afoot in the District this year. The Modified Consent Decree is being sunsetted in December. The Division of Special Education is being incorporated into the Office of Special Education, Equity & Access. I have heard rumblings of more conversations to promote improved inclusion practices happening between the Division of Instruction and Special Education. Special Education has new leadership, as does the Office of Parent & Community Services. Board Member Scott Schmerelson has created a Special Education Committee, one which we have been advocating for some time. To me, this feels like the Year of Special Education in LAUSD!

We have before us an incredible opportunity to engage in our work in a more meaningful way with new partners and with a fresh approach. If there is one thing I would like have accomplished by the end of this year, it's that we will have strengthened the special education community in LAUSD at every level by improving communication with our various partners: Division of Special Ed, the LAUSD School Board, the Mr. Schmerelson's Special Education committee. I hope that we can promote awareness, advocating for improved access to information, and engaging in thoughtful dialogue and constructive conversations all focused on the bottom line: IMPROVING ACHIEVEMENT FOR SPECIAL NEEDS KIDS.



CAC
Chairperson's Report

In Superintendent Beutner's latest address, according to state testing, only 10% of special needs kids in LAUSD are at grade level. Extensive research shows that over 80% of kids with disabilities can achieve at grade level. We have so much work to do! To be effective in our work, we must really pull together. We must work together well. We must assume good intent. I urge everyone to review our norms and stick to them so that we can work together as effectively and smoothly as possible.

Lastly, we must remain grounded in what the purpose of our work is. I personally think about when I was told that both of my kids couldn't thrive in a general education setting, and fast forward a couple of years, they were doing just that. My kids have come far, and they've made me so proud. When I hear of other people's challenges in the system, I always remember my kids. I invite the membership to perhaps bring a photo of their kids to have with them at our meetings, or to perhaps write down a sentence or two about why they're here. You may share them with your fellow members, or you may choose to keep it private. Either way, I urge you to revisit these photos or statements of intent every time you feel overwhelmed, or off track. We here for LAUSD's SPECIAL NEEDS KIDS, and we always have to keep that front and center.

Thank you, and let's get started with our year!