

**Office of Parent and Community Services
Community Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday January 17, 2018
Minutes**

Call to Order

Sharnell Blevins, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

Pledge of Allegiance

Jacquelyn Smith-Conkleton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Ana Carrion, Secretary, conducted roll call. 19 members were present, and a quorum established.

Public Comment

There were no public comment.

Parent and Community Services Update

Dr. Rosalinda Lugo, Administrator welcomed the members and referred to a letter by Vivian Ekchian, Interim Superintendent, with best wishes for members and praising her predecessor. The best way to honor Dr. King is by focusing on our goal of 100% graduation. We have a new campaign to promote attendance: "I rise, I attend, I matter." Dr. Lugo introduced the new security officer, Pedro Cid who has replaced John Navarro.

She explained the difference between the SELPA Local Plan, Community Advisory Committee and the Special Education Local Plan Advisory Committee. Zella Knight and Jacquelyn Smith Conkleton asked for clarifications. The CAC is advisory by nature. Members want to know if the SELPA Review Committee was for parents only. Dr. Lugo and the Special Education Division provided clarification.

Motion

Zella Knight made a motion seconded by Jacquelyn Smith Conkleton to move item 8 on the agenda (approval of minutes) to before item 6 which was the first presentation. 19 were in favor, 0 against and 1 abstention. Motion carried.

Minutes

The minutes were read silently. Zella Knight pointed out that the verbiage on a motion was wrong. Sharnell Blevins, Chairperson, announced a 5 minutes recess to review the motion(s) and make the corrections.

Motion

Zella Knight moved to accept the minutes with the necessary additions, deletions and corrections. Motion seconded by Jacquelyn Smith Conkleton. There was discussion on the motion. Motion passed with 14 yes, 0 no and 5 abstentions.

Division of Special Education Updates

Beth Kauffman, Associate Superintendent, gave a warm greeting to the members and apologized for being absent in December. She introduced Veronica Smith, MCD Director MCD monitoring/Special Education Policies and Procedures and La Tanya Tolan, Specialist, Parent and Community Liaison MCD Monitoring/Special Ed Policies and Procedures. The following was discussed:

- The Dyslexia Learning Group need two to three parent volunteers to participate in a review of the draft Parent Training Module and provide recommendations. The review will take place during the week of January 22, 2018.
- There will be workshop and training opportunities in the spring of 2018 and the district is developing a workshop for schools to reduce the disproportionality of African-American students with disabilities in special education.
- Six years of EL utilizing a different methodology from General Education students to reclassify. One exception is mental disability.
- Credit recovery is better managed for disabled students in ELA and Math instead of returning in general Ed class. It is urgent for juniors and seniors if we want our graduation rates to go up for students with disabilities.
- There will be teacher training besides student teaching.
- How to identify parents/guardians who want to be trained as surrogate parents. *Members expressed that they wanted more relevant and in-depth training for surrogates and members would like these trainings to occur more frequently.* Araceli May, Coordinator Psychological Services provided clarification about training for surrogate parents. At this time there is not a great need for surrogates due to lack of request for them. Students have the right to request a surrogate represent them on their behalf. *Members wanted to know how students know that surrogates are available.*
- Provide parents with information about child development; and help parents to acquire the necessary skills that will allow them to support the implementation of their child's IEP or individualized family service plan (IFSP).
- Reduce disproportionality of African American Students with disabilities in Special Education. Based on data, the District is developing a workshop for schools that focuses on alternatives to suspension in hopes to decrease suspension.

Members were encouraged to put their questions in writing by using the question forms on the tables.

Chairperson's Report

Sharnell Blevins reported on the following:

- The LAUSD Board of Education Special Education ad hoc committee has been suspended and members have requested that we submit a letter to Board President to inquire and request that this ad hoc be reinstated.
- Performance Indicator Review (PIR) Committee. Mrs. Blevins informed the committee that she and Kathy Kantner are parent representatives on the PIR committee and asked that Kathy provide the update. Kathy Kantner: LAUSD is conducting Performance Indicator Reviews in four areas that were identified by the State and Federal Governments as Needing Intervention Graduation, Statewide Assessment Data, Drop Out Rate, and Least Restrictive Environment. Local Educational Agencies have three years to correct issues, otherwise penalties or sanctions are handed down. We are now in Year One.
- A strategic plan is being developed looking at strategies, required resources, and the person responsible for implementing the plan, methods to ensure success, and a timeline.

Zella Knight requested that the chairperson's report be given in writing at the next meeting.

Performance Indicator Report: Suspension and Parent Involvement

LaTanya Tolan, Laura Zeff, Coordinator, Behavior Support Office and Araceli May, Coordinator Psychological Services presented on the following:

- La Tanya showed Parent Involvement efforts of LAUSD. Some steps include Districtwide workshops/trainings and parent counseling and trainings for Parents of students with disabilities (PCT). How is PCT defined by the law? Assist parents in understanding the special needs of their child. It is important to remember that parents are part of the team.
- Ways of Reducing Disproportionality: suspensions of African-American Students with Disabilities. There has been a drastic reduction in suspensions for more than 10 days from 5,000 in the 2004-5 school year to 37 students in 2015-16. Of the 37 students with disabilities suspended 51.3% were African American. During 2015-16, 10.14% of students with disabilities were African American.
- In 2016-2017, Districtwide African Americans comprised 11.4% of students with disabilities (AASWD). AASWD constitute 33% of the suspensions among students with disabilities. There are 3 suspension types, Category 1, has no administrative discretion to suspend (for 5 main reasons, firearm, knife, drugs, sexual advance and explosives), category 2, has limited administrative discretion to suspend, and category 3 has administrative discretion to suspend. Parental involvement can assist to lower disproportionate suspension. The presenters gave members a few minutes to brainstorm and come up with suggestions on ways can parents/guardians partner with schools to address disproportionate suspensions.

Bylaws Discussion

Sharnell Blevins, Chairperson discussed with the members about forming a bylaw ad hoc committee to update the existing bylaws, making use of two bylaw drafts, for presentation to the CAC.

Motion

Kathy Kantner, made a motion that an ad hoc committee with no more than 16 members be formed to review and make recommendations to the CAC regarding updated bylaws. Anna Carrion seconded the motion. Kathy Kantner made an amendment to the motion to include that it will be presented to the CAC by the April 2018 meeting. Claudia Lozano seconded the amendment. The members had discussion on the amendment. Members were informed that they would vote on the amendment first. The result for the amendment was 13 votes in favor, 3 against with 0 abstentions. The motion passed. The chair stated the original motion would now include the amendment.

Due to the lack of time, the motion for the main motion for the bylaw ad hoc committee was not voted upon nor was the committee able to finish the last two agenda items, *Agenda Recommendations* and *Announcements*.

The meeting adjourned at 1:01pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Ana Carrion, CAC Secretary