

**Los Angeles Unified School District
Parent and Community Services
Community Advisory Committee
Minutes
April 21, 2021**

I. Call to Order

Lisa Mosko, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Rocio Elorza, CAC Member, led the Pledge of Allegiance at 1:06 pm.

III. Public Comment

Ariel Harman-Holmes, Parliamentarian, oversaw public comment at 1:06 pm. Paul Robak shared their public comment.

IV. Material Overview

Mayra Zamora, Vice-Chairperson, reviewed the meeting's materials.

V. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

Yoo Eun Kim, Secretary, conducted roll call for the establishment of the quorum. A quorum was established with 25 members and 1 alternate.

VI. CAC Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Mosko began her report with an acknowledgement of the work of the Special Education advocacy groups and community members at large. She shared the attributes of strong leadership and acknowledged the factions of groups within the Community Advisory Committee. According to California State law, every SELPA has a Community Advisory Committee for Special Education. The process behind the selection of CAC membership was shared. Chairperson Mosko also welcomed members of the public to reach out to her and leverage Public Comment, Office of Parent and Community Engagement, and other mediums if they have any questions. The public is encouraged to apply to become a member of the CAC. Agenda action items were shared, and Chairperson Mosko updated membership that Board Member Schmerelson was not looking for CAC representation on the Special Education Committee at this time.

VII. Division of Special Education Update

Marco Tolj, Director shared an update from the Division of Special Education. As of April 2, 2021, 61,058 IEP team meetings have been conducted during the 2020-21 school year. If family members have questions about participating in IEP team meetings, they are encouraged to reach out to the child's case carrier or school administrator. Family members can use Adobe to electronically sign IEP documents.

Hybrid reopening started on April 12, 2021. Around 1,400 parents and guardians have signed up for their students to return to school. In the next four weeks, more schools will gradually reopen, with an anticipation of around 20,000 students with disabilities to return. Safety protocols are being followed, and services and supports outlined in the student's IEP are being provided.

Director Tolj shared pertinent resources, website, and phone numbers. California's request for relief from certain federal testing, accountability, and reporting requirements has been granted. A Q&A session followed.

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VIII. Presentation

Marco Tolj, Director at Division of Special Education, and Claudia Valladerez shared the timeline of the Local Plan feedback. Director Tolj shared major updates made on the Local Plan. Specialist Valladerez shared how the comments were incorporated into the draft of the Local Plan through the Local Plan Complete Portfolio.

A Q&A session followed.

IX. Division of Special Education on Dyslexia Update

Mary Ann Sullivan, Coordinator TK -12 instruction, DSE Veronica Mullen, Specialist, TK-12 Instruction, DSE Diane Angel, Special Education Support Provider provided a presentation on dyslexia, which is a “specific learning disability with a neurological origin characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word reading and poor spelling and decoding abilities,” according to Dr. Nadine Gaab from Harvard University. Research has shown that “kindergarten children with a deficit in phonological awareness were approximately 5 times more likely to have dyslexia in second grade...”

The presentation covered phonemic proficiency which is important for students with dyslexia to identify and manipulate sounds of words. Activities involving advanced phoneme level were held. Specialist Muellen shared that since 2018, the Department of Special Education has held dyslexia training for at least 1,000 educators from grades K-6. All elementary schools have received a phonics lesson library kit and 98% of elementary schools have at least one trained teacher. Follow up support is provided. Administration staff members undergo synchronous and asynchronous professional development focused on dyslexia. All schools have educators who have had training on Orton Gillingham Approach, which is a systematic structured curriculum focused on phonics.

Currently, Senate Bill 237 requiring schools to screen students in K-2nd grade for dyslexia is currently under review. If approved, it would start in the 2022-2023 school year. As part of CCEIS grant, 4 new IDEC centers will be opened in the Fall. Coordinator Sullivan shared a literacy dialogue tool that covers core reading instruction and assessment. A Q&A session followed.

X. Action Item - Approval of March 21, 2021 Minutes

CAC Officer John Perron moved to accept the February minutes with any corrections, additions, and deletions necessary to address minor grammatical and clerical errors. CAC Member Patrick Bromark seconded the motion. The motion passed with 18 “yes” votes and 1 “abstain” vote.

XI. Parent and Community Services Update

Antonio Plascencia, Jr., Director, Office of Parent and Community Services (PCS), began his report with the acknowledgement of emotions that have risen during the pandemic and the work of the CAC members.

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He reiterated supports and resources available for school reopening including the Los Angeles Unified Family hotline.

As of Monday, individuals can walk to campus to get COVID-19 testing without an appointment. The Daily Pass is being leveraged to share news and updates to family members including classroom schedule. A Q&A session followed.

Director Plascencia shared about the request to the California State Board of Education to waive Education Code § 45134(c) to allow Jim Morris, who is a retired member of a school retirement system, to continue to be employed as an advisor to the Los Angeles Unified through December 31, 2021. Previous waiver approved by the SBE expires on June 30, 2021. Director Plascencia shared the request for Mr. Morris' extension of his support until June 20, 2021 for learning recovery and school reopening.

XII. New Business for Possible Action at Future Meetings

CAC Member Alan Newman moved that we write that we as the CAC understand that there are no new positions being appointed at this time but are asking the Board of Ed to include a specific spot as a representative of the CAC for the next school year. CAC Member Patrick Bromark seconded the motion. A discussion followed. The motion passed with 20 "yes" votes and 1 "abstain" vote.

XIII. Updates

CAC membership will receive an invitation to the Bylaws meeting on April 27th from 1:30 - 3:30 pm PST. Officer Mayra Zamora invites CAC members to the upcoming Monday IEP meeting to review the latest draft of IEP materials. Officer John Perron shared the latest updates on the CAC Parent Ambassador Working Group. Using the SMART concept, his team is looking into the duties of the Ambassador role. He wants to solicit comments from the Student CAC members and encourage them to participate. Danny Dixon shared that student CAC members will share a presentation at the May CAC Meeting.

XIV. Announcements from members and PCS staff

CAC Officer John Perron oversaw announcements. PCS staff shared that there will be a Meet and Greet session this Friday from 2-4 pm PST with the Local Control and Accountability Plan team. CAC Member Rocio Elorza requested for clarity on the Public Health Ambassador group for the upcoming year. CAC Officer Mayra Zamora shared the upcoming election of the student board member. CAC Chairperson Mosko shared a food charity in honor of a student and led a moment of silence.

XV. Adjournment

Lisa Mosko, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 4:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Yoo Eun Kim