



TRI-VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA (SELPA) Community Advisory Council (CAC)

September 12, 2022

Pleasanton Unified School District Office – *Bernal Room* Meeting Minutes

The CAC meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by David Bona, Chairperson.

Each member present provided introductions. Members present; David Bona (chair, PUSD Parent), Charmaine Wood (Assistant Directors. SELPA), Nanette Gray (SPED Director), Jamie Renton (Transition Specialist, Adult Ed), Careen Chan Thompson (Dublin Parent/Employee), Tara Kyle (A.D. Dublin Sped), Jeni Rikard (Senior PUSD SPED Director), Janine Rubino Brown (Workability Specialist PUSD has a special needs adult that graduated), Sloane Kraft (Livermore Parent), Priya Rangarajan (chair of the PUSD SNC)

Public Comments

CAC Members asked about the requirements for being a CAC member and what constituted a quorum. David Bona reviewed the roles and responsibilities of CAC members. Nanette reviewed the CAC by laws and requirements for the number of members and the number of required meetings/activities.

Sloane Kraft discussed the special needs parent groups in Livermore. She explained that the more focused topic is the higher turn out. Livermore's Facebook group has 700 members. Livermore started a program advisory parent group last year and continuing this year. Priya Rangarajan also expressed that the PUSD Special Needs group has experienced lower turnouts.

Approval of agenda

The Agenda was amended to change item #5b from "Election of Secretary " to state "Election of Officers". Sloane Kraft motioned to approve the change in the agenda. Careen Chan Thompson seconded.

Approval of meeting minutes

David Bona motioned to approve the April 26, 2022 meeting minutes. Sloane Kraft seconded the motion.

Overview of the Parent Handbook

The SELPA Director reviewed the newly revised Parent Handbook. She stated that the parent handbook is also translated in Spanish - all uploaded on the Tri Valley SELPA Website in a web based format. There was a discussion on how parents could access the handbook. It was stated that the SELPA posts and sends out documents electronically to be more fiscally and environmentally responsible. Charmaine Putnan discussed possibly adding the QR code for the parent handbook and mental health emergency local numbers on business cards. Some members stated that when the Tri-Valley SELPA's website is Googled, they are taken to an old PUSD SELPA site. The SELPA office will explore ways to rectify this problem.

Election of CAC Officers

The floor was opened for nominations for CAC chair or co-chairs. Both Sloan Kraft and Careen ChanThompson were nominated to be Co-Chairs of the CAC.

David Bona made a motion to approve Sloan and Careen as co-chairs. Priya Rangarajan seconded the motion. Jamie Renton voiced support in helping with planning CAC events.

There were no nominations for the Secretary's position. Charmaine recommended that we all share in the responsibility of taking the minutes and to revisit the secretary's position at a later date.

Discussion of CAC Events for the 2022-2023

Committee and members present discussed several possible events/programs. Some mentioned; to create a Family Partner program through SELPA, to have an in-house special education support to navigate the IEP process for parents, to have training on the ADR and facilitated IEPs process. Jeni Rickard elaborated on the ideas of ADR when the school-site IEP teams come to an impasse. Jeni felt as though parents/teams are not aware of ADR and how the processes can support it when there's no IEP agreement. It was asked if the CAC had its own budget. David and Nanette explained that there is no separate CAC budget, but any costs for events were paid for through the SELPA's AU budget.

The CAC committee agreed to have the Resource and Transition Faire in-person this year. The date scheduled is Saturday, February 11, 2023. Frank Sevaggio agreed to host the event in Livermore since Dublin USD has hosted the event in previous years. Committee agreed that hosting the event at a high school would be best.

Make a Difference Awards is currently scheduled for April 19, 2023. Tara Kyle, Dublin USD Special Education Director agreed to host the event in Dublin. Location is TBD.

Committee discussed the possibility of hosting a dance or prom for the students with disabilities. The committee discussed the previous Best Buddies Dance/Prom hosted in Dublin High School by Jaime Melvin, DHS teacher. The "A night to shine at Alameda County Fairgrounds" was also discussed. The concern for this dance was that in previous years it was only open to students 16 years and older. Priya mentioned that there is interest also in the SNC group to provide accommodations for students with disabilities to be able to participate in a Homecoming Dance - (i.e. quieter space) Committee agreed to forgo the dance/prom idea for this 2022-23 fiscal year.

Parent Trainings

Topics of Interest were discussed. Sloan shared recent parent survey with Livermore parents re: training interests, transition resources (post secondary), and actually support for transitions from Elem to Middle, and Middle to High. Information on Regional Center Services - SELF Determination (invite RCEB to provide training), Being able to appeal if denied - since everyone is getting denied right now. They provide housing, etc.... Sunflower Hill Diablo Valley College transition faire has a lot of resources. Other suggestions was to have Consultant Jim Hyuck from Huyck speak on RCEB self-determination and how to have your student get qualified when denied. Contact phone number for Hyuck Consulting was provided (916) 529-5300.

Jeni Rickard - having workshops with Neurodivergent voices, bringing them into the community and parents, Autistic, Deaf OT - recently did a presentation for the Department of Special Education (DOSE). Sarah Salvaki was a phenomenal speaker that Jeni recommended.

Jeni Rickard also suggested Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) training for parents. David asked what the ADR training would look like for parents. Charmaine Putnam suggested a series of training sessions similar to last year on behavior.

Committee felt that having the ability to do both in-person and virtual training at the same time would be great. Nanette shared that she would explore this option as it is currently being done with PUSD in some CCEIS meetings.

Overview of the S.A.F.E.T.Y. N.E.T. Event

The SELPA Director discussed the October 1, 2022 S.A.F.E.T.Y. N.E.T. Event. This event will be held in the PUSD District Office Parking Lot. She encouraged all CAC members and directors to spread the word. At this time family registration was low. Caroline Doidge, CAPTAIN cadre member and Livermore Behaviorist has worked really hard on the logistics of the event.

Each LEA's Special Education Director provided a report.

Dublin Unified School District: Report by Tara Kyle, special education director

The Assistant Director's name will be brought to the board for approval on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. District is incorporating the supplement curriculum, Teachtown and Encore, for the extensive needs program. Insight Education has been hired to provide training and support to Dublin in their 3 year EQUITY work. New teachers are receiving training on Sonday Curriculum.

Pleasanton Unified School District: Reported by Dr. Jeni Rickard

Jeni reviewed the 2022-23 department's Mission and Vision statement- "We ALL Belong". Jeni introduced current special education office staff with pictures. They have added a HR technician, another SEIS Specialist. This has been a game changer and digging through the data to find issues. They have also updated Paraprofessional categories - reorganized and combined categories. The current incumbents were elevated in range and pay.

Preschool Paras were changed to early childhood para educators who have their early childhood credits and can be considered as general ed prek teachers within the programs. The district also created Para professionals in specialty areas, such as VI, DHH, etc... RBTs are now site wide rather than student or classroom specific. Jeni clarified why the paraprofessional name titles were changed. Extensive Support Needs - rather than mod/severe, CTC has revised the SPED credential, Ed Specialist - Mild Mod and Ed Specialist - Extensive Support Needs

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District: Reported by Frank Selvaggio

It was reported that staffing issues are really intensive and with no end in sight. There are multiple factors contributing to this issue. The Paraprofessional to Teacher pipeline is being used to fill vacant teaching positions. Livermore Spectrum opened and is doing well. Arroyo Seco School is now fully co-teaching all throughout the grade-levels on campus. Priya asked about the Spectrum Program at Livermore. Frank explained that it is a behavioral program, 2 classrooms and for mild/mod with extensive needs. The programs are at Livermore High and Arroyo Mucho Campuses.

Assistant Director for Clinical Services: Reported by Charmaine Putnam

Started the year fully staffed for the first time since the 19-20 SY. 12 MHCs and started with 4.5 MHCs 10 years ago. Have clinical supervision - to develop internship program, improve tiers/continuum, sustainability - flow of staff, in conversation with training programs to develop this partnership with them

23-25 Funding Shift - Districts OPT IN - ERMHS funds available for Gen Ed Use, Program Evaluation to determine if clinical services as it stands is meeting Districts needs. SELPA Clinical Services continues to expand. The question to explore is "Should we keep expanding?" The SELPA opened its 8th CEC program. Charmaine also reviewed the past and upcoming trainings/PDs with the Diagnostic Center.

SELPA Senior Director: Reported by Nanette Gray

The SELPA Director reviewed the Statewide SELPA Committees she co-chairs. She discussed the possible transition from SEIS to SIRAS and the next steps to pilot after a meeting with the SIRAS representatives and the LEA's Calpads/SEIS personnel. There is also a plan to utilize the Co-Teaching observational tool with site administrators and special education directors. School psychologists within the SELPA will undergo extensive training on the Patterns of strengths and weaknesses (PSW) model. She encourages all to attend Monday's SELPA Governance Council meeting. A guest speaker from California School Services will provide an overview on special education finance and the SELPA's allocation plan.

There are no requests for future discussion items.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.