Minutes

Meeting with Foster Youth Council
October 20, 2022
11:30 to 1:00

via zoom video conference

Please join us for a video conference call via zoom on Thursday, October 20th at 11:30am. Here is the link: https://pasadena-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMscOmppjguH9JrRbrjR9cDvEYSv_DzH6BU. Be sure to download the zoom app and that you are on a device that has video capability. If you are on your cell phone, you should not need to call the audio number. If your computer does not have a microphone, you will also need to call in.

I. 11:30am - Call to order

a. Request to record the meeting for the purpose of taking minutes.

II. 11:30am to 11:40am- Welcome and introductions

Lily Bartenstein - Chair FYC, Resource Parent in PUSD with a student at PHS
Aide Suarez - Community liaison for foster youth at PUSD
Damon Avery - IEP Parent advocate & Pasadena Resource parent at Blair
Audrey Urquidi - Foster/Kinship parent at PUSD
James Russel - Community liaison for foster youth at PUSD
Lilian Avalos - Early Interventionist with PUSD
Kristi Lopez - office of State Senator Portantino, contact information Kristi.lopez@sen.ca.gov, 909-599-7351
Miriam Lopez-Torres - LACOE Foster Youth Services
Sherrell Bennett - Legal guardian/foster parent at PUSD
Denise Sandoval - CSW medical case management unit, contact number 213-435-6971
Natasha Mahone - Parent at PUSD, also represents LCAP PAC & CAP
Leticia Hernandez - Foothill Family Services kinship support
Vanessa Perez -
Judy McKinley - special education advocate
Cedric Johnson - School Counselor for foster youth in our middle school programs
Dr. Julianne Reynoso - Head of Student Wellness and Support @ PUSD

III. 11:40am to 11:45am – Review List of Members

IV. 11:45am to 11:50am – Review of August and September 2022 minutes

a. We do not have a quorum to approve minutes at this time.

b. A question is raised about voting according to the bylaws which Ms. Bartenstein could not answer in the moment. It turns out ⅓ of membership is considered a quorum for this group. That document is linked here for future reference: FYC Bylaws

V. 11:50am to 12:05pm - Pending Issues of Concern from September 2022 meeting

a. What should happen with regional center at 16 - we are making a request of the DCSF regional center liaison to attend a future meeting to address this question.

b. Follow up on Mr. Avery's previous concern about getting extra help for his son - he was able to call for an emergency IEP meeting and the team agreed to complete an assessment for 1:1 support in the next 60 days.

VI. 12:05pm to 12:15pm - New Issues of Concern to Foster Parents

a. Damon Avery - It took 4 years for the special education department to agree to complete the assessment they are currently undertaking. Do we have a right to insist that on an assessment, or does the school have to approve of doing that assessment in order to do it?

   i. Ms Lopez-Torres - there is a right to request the 30-day IEP. Encourages Mr. Avery to continue reaching out to the fantastic team at PUSD, and for foster parents in other districts to connect with their educational advocates at LACOE.

   ii. Ms. Suarez - Parents always have the right to call for an amendment meeting at any time, and if it is refused, to receive an explanation as to why this decision was made.

   iii. Ms. Lopez - referred Mr. Avery to the Disability Rights California IEP Parent Rights manual. The senator's office works with Disability Rights California and if you need additional support, Ms. Lopez's email is Kristi.lopez@sen.ca.gov to facilitate a connection with their contact there.

   iv. Ms. McKinley - clarified that the Disability Rights California document is the Special Education Rights and Responsibilities manual.

   v. Ms. Bennett - shared her positive experience working with a DCFS education advocate, and a parent advocate through their children's other psychological service providers

b. Damon Avery - School Safety concerns on the Blair campus. His child has concerns about bullying and retaliation, anxiety about returning to school, and returned to the middle school campus for safety when he was threatened by other students. Where should students with these kinds of safety concerns go?

   i. "Fight Fridays" at Blair where a weaker student is targeted and attacked

   ii. Ms. McKinley - Asks is there a safety plan in the student's IEP? Encouraged Mr. Avery to request a new IEP meeting to address this now ineffective safety plan.

   iii. In school suspension and home suspension - Mr. Avery also raised his concern at how suspensions are handled for students with disabilities when they are taken advantage of by other students, as happened with his child.

   iv. Ms. Sandoval - suggested reaching out to the social worker on campus if available for additional support.

   v. Ms. Lopez - reached out to a contact with their office, they are aware of and working with the city of Pasadena to address these kinds of gang related issues at Blair and other schools in our community.

VII. 12:15pm to 12:25pm – Updates from PUSD

a. Special Education Representative - the request for a representative from special education has been forwarded to Dr. Jacobs.

b. Aeries contact info - Dr. Reynoso's office is working with Alliance for Childrens' Rights to implement best practices, including this kind of contact information, and is collaborating with the IT team to create the structures needed to implement.

    i. AB740 has been signed into law which extends notification requirements re:suspension/expulsion/etc to the CSW and Attorney. Ms. Lopez provided a link to the analysis on AB740.

c. PALs Program - This previous question *(How does the future planning for the PALs program support foster youth? Is there a recording/recap from the 10/11 Facilities Master Plan meeting re: spaces devoted to the PALs program?)* is also best addressed by the special education department, and would probably need to be an agenda item for a future meeting.

d. We do have an update on data on Foster Youth - the current count is 215. Ms. Suarez should be able to share that data broken down by school site with the council as well.

e. Website implementation - currently PUSD does not have a webmaster, so that project is on hold until a new webmaster is on board. The planned website includes interactive elements and information flow for various stakeholders and will integrate with additional print materials e.g. a planned bookmark that connects to those resources via QR code.

f. Introduced Lilian Avalos, our new Early Intervention specialist. Ms. Avalos works hand in hand with community liaisons and counselors, and brings to this role great experience with McKinney-Vento. She will be managing BID meetings, and working with the Educational Passport system. She's been jumping into all the training since joining the department in this role.

g. PUSD has updated the STARS brochure and it is being printed, a more academic focused brochure for grades 9-12 has been developed as well. These materials will be distributed to all of our sites.

h. The team opened a STARS site at McKinley, rm A211, and visiting sites across the district, the team is also working with Marshall to expand STARS space.

VIII. 12:25pm to 12:30pm - Collaboration between FY Council and PUSD SWSS

a. Request for a more detailed conversation outside of the council meeting

    i. Tabling this item due to time.

IX. 12:40pm to 12:47pm – Language for FY Council webpage at PUSD

a. Language describing the FYC for the PUSD website was shared, and will be linked in a follow up email to FYC members for additional feedback so that we may officially approve updated language.

X. 12:47pm to 12:50pm – Recruiting caregivers to join the council

a. Engagement strategy - Ms. Bartenstein will also be sharing information about the Foster Youth Council & related content via Social Media/Instagram

XI. 12:50pm to 12:55pm – Update from PUSD School Board candidate forum

a. The Unified Candidate Forum happened on October 10th. Four PUSD trustee districts have school board candidate elections this year. Ms. Bartenstein will be sharing the links to the video

recordings of the forums so that community members can learn more about the candidates running for office in advance of this November's election. Links below connect to the point in the recording where our question re: foster youth specific experience was asked.

b. Unified PUSD School Board Candidate Forum: Districts 1 & 3 - Oct. 10, 2022

c. Unified PUSD School Board Candidate Forum: Districts 5 & 7 - Oct. 10, 2022

XII. 12:55pm to 12:57pm – Announcements

a. Next meeting date: November 17, 2022

   i. Workshop topic prior to meeting: *Questions to Ask Before Accepting A Placement to Support Placement Stability*

b. *Turning Dreams to Degrees: Creating A College-going Culture for 6-10th Graders pt. 2* has been rescheduled to November 3rd from 9:30am to 11:30am.

c. Legislative Updates - this link connects to some highlights of recently signed legislation

   i. SB1016 - FASD as a IEP qualifier under OHI

   ii. SB532 - extends diploma / 5th year options for highly mobile youth, "consult" rather than "inform"

   iii. AB740 - extends parental notification requirements re: suspension and expulsion to CSW and attorney

XIII. 12:57pm to 1:00pm - Public Comment

a. Denise Sandoval - DCFS Medical Case Management services joined us this afternoon, her work is in connecting youth with foster families who can meet their complex needs. Their department within DCFS is here to help as well. Contact phone number: 213-435-6971.