

Capistrano Unified School District

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Minutes

March 20, 2024

In Person & YouTube Live

Meeting called to order at 9:31 AM.

Attendance:

Rachel Niemeyer-Sutherland
Mina Carson
Beth Davis
Michele Ploessel-Campbell
Danielle Schmiesing
Kimber Smith
Carol Atkinson-Smith
Whitney Zolna
Sonia Moser
Julie Cole

CAC members absent:

Jillian Stewart
Mo Langley
Nicole Lindstrom
Janelle Stever
Steve Burke

Officer and Committee Reports

Beth Davis called the meeting to order. She asked attendees to please sign in. Whitney Zolna motioned to approve the agenda and start the meeting. Carol Atkinson-Smith seconded. No corrections to the February minutes. By raising of hands, the group approved the motions. All in attendance were notified the meeting was being recorded live on YouTube and would be available for future viewing on the CAC YouTube channel. A link will be posted to CAC social media accounts as well.

Voting Member Applications

Whitney Zolna motioned for the new member application for Helen Lavino to be approved, and the existing two members, Beth Davis and Michelle Ploessel-Campbell, to be renewed as well. Rachel Niemeyer-Sutherland seconded, and by raising of hands the group approved the motions.

Proposed CAC Slate for SY 24-25

Beth Davis reviewed the incoming slate for the school year 2024-2025.
Chairperson: Beth Davis
1st Vice Chair: Julie Cole
Vice Chair: Mina Carson

Vice Chair: Michele Ploessel-Campbell
Secretary/Treasurer: Helen Lavino
Director of Communications & Social Media: Julie Cole
Ability Awareness Chair & Co-Chair: Open Position
Legislation/Parent Advocacy: Michele Ploessel-Campbell
Grade Level Transition Event Coordinator: Open Position
Sunshine Awards: Julie Cole
Hospitality Chair: Steve Burke
Hospitality Co-Chair: Carol Atkinson-Smith
Local Plan: Open Position

Exceptional Student Awards

Rachel Niemeyer-Sutherland reviewed the Exceptional Student Awards. Each year every high school site with the support of CAC celebrates high school seniors who have made outstanding contributions in creating inclusive school communities by authentically building friendships and connections with peers who have disabilities. This award goes to neurotypical students and it is usually presented at a high school senior awards night. Special Education teachers and Best Buddy advisors are a good resource for nominations. Coordinate with the admin or PTA at your school to include this award in their senior awards ceremony. There are certificate templates on the CAC website page to use and then present to the point of contact for the senior awards night.

Chairperson Reports

Sonia Moser - Family Resource Center Liaison- FRC Happenings, Families Connected- April 27 is Dia Del Nino behind Union High School. There will be food, community agencies, and it is family friendly. More information on this event can be found on Instagram @CUSD Family Resource Center.

Michele Ploessel-Campbell - Legislative Update- You can now legally record your 504 planning meetings with educational staff. SB323 passed; students with disabilities must be included in each schools' annual safety plan. AB447 also passed. The new legislation requires four-year public universities to offer inclusive programs for students with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Nicole Lindstrom & Danielle Schmeising – Ability Awareness – Ms. Smeising reviewed the handout she created for Ability Awareness events. A good reminder is to approach your school PTA President now with your budget request for next school, so your event is included in the 24-25 SY budget.

Yasmin Faiz – Ability Awareness at Laguna Niguel Elementary SY 23-24 – Ms. Faiz reviewed her handout of tips she's acquired while planning her Ability Awareness event. Most notably, include supporting existing school initiatives within your event, normalize conversations around special education and include general education parents in your discussions, work with your PTA President, and include as many staff members as possible.

Administrator Introductions/Discussion

Clint Collins, Asst. Superintendent, Special Education Services- The extended school year will run June 10 - July 11 2024.

Jeana Dagley, SELPA – MediCAL reimburses services such as OT, PT, speech and counselors for some students in the district. The money received from MediCAL is used by the district to fund a grant program that district employees can request money from.

Next Meeting is April 24 at 9:30 am with guest speaker Michael Gomez with a LCAP Presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 AM.