

## Capistrano Unified School District

### Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Minutes

October 25, 2023

In Person & YouTube Live

**Meeting called to order at: 9:32 AM.**

#### **Attendance:**

Rachel Niemeyer-Sutherland

Mina Carson

Beth Davis

Michele Ploessel-Campbell

Danielle Schmiesing

Kimber Smith

Carol Atkinson-Smith

Julie Cole

Whitney Zolna

Sonia Moser

Jillian Stewart

#### **CAC members absent:**

Steve Burke

Janelle R Stever

Nicole Lindstrom

#### **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. Julie Cole seconded. No corrections to the September 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.

#### **Chairperson Reports**

**Beth Davis- CAC Chairperson-** Sped Reps are still needed at the following schools: Carl Hankey, Concordia, Del Obispo, Hidden Hills, Kinoshita, Ladera Ranch Elementary, Las Flores Elementary, Marian Bergeson, OCASA, Tijeras Creek, and Viejo Elementary.

If you'd like to reach out to Laura Kindron at Lobo regarding ADA playgrounds her email is:

[lakindron@capousd.org](mailto:lakindron@capousd.org)

If you are looking for an Ability Awareness speaker, Mathew Kenslow can be reached at [mjkenslow@gmail.com](mailto:mjkenslow@gmail.com). He is an autistic substitute teacher, who writes about autism and does assemblies for free across OCDE.

ATP will be hosting their annual Holiday Boutique on December 1, and 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am – 1:30 pm at the district office. Please see flyer for details in the post meeting CAC email.

**Superintendent Dr. Chris Brown-** Dr. Brown introduced himself and said he has been with the district for about 3 ½ months. Rachel Niemeyer-Sutherland asked Dr. Brown when the district would be hiring more paraprofessionals. Dr. Brown responded that interviews for paras need to take place at the school site that is hiring the para. He is aware school administrators get very busy, and he is encouraging admin to interview candidates quickly before another school district hires them. Unfortunately, para pay cannot be increased to provide more incentive for applicants. Mina Carson suggested that special education get more attention and inclusivity throughout the district.

**Cuco Gracian – Executive Director – Cultural proficiency, equity, access, & social emotional learning – Overview of 504’s** A handout was provided for this presentation. It can be found in the post meeting CAC email. This year the focus for 504’s is making sure that staff implement 504’s in the classroom, and that 504’s are adapted appropriately. Also, staff needs to make sure that 504 support doesn’t hinder the learning environment. IT is working on creating 504 alerts in Canvas, or other online platforms, so teachers are aware of a students’ needs. Some reminders:

- The first step before a 504 is a Student Success Team, or SST meeting
- 504’s follow students to college, IEP’s do not
- 504’s do not have transitional meetings when going from elementary to middle, middle to high school, etc. In the future, it would be beneficial to create transitional 504 events, just like IEP’s have

**Sonia Moser - Family Resource Center Liaison- FRC Happenings, Families Connected-**

On November 16, there will be an IEP parent training from 10 am–12 pm at the Family Resource Center. Please see flyer for details in the post meeting CAC email. Also, on November 16, at 6 PM, Amy Neville will speak at Marco Forrester to discuss drugs. Please see flyer for details in the post meeting CAC email. On February 7, 2024, Dr. Laura Cooper-Smith will be discussing the importance of sleep, with more information coming. Finally, four new mentors were trained recently for the Families Connected program. Should have enough mentors for the year. In total, there are currently 14 families placed with mentors in the district. If you would like to be connected with a mentor, please contact Sonia Moser at [somoser@capousd.org](mailto:somoser@capousd.org). More information can be found on Instagram @CUSD Family Resource Center.

**Michele Ploessel-Campbell - Legislative Update-** The governor has now finished either signing, vetoing, or sitting on the bills passed by the Assembly and Senate by the deadline in September. There are several that impact special education - specifically:

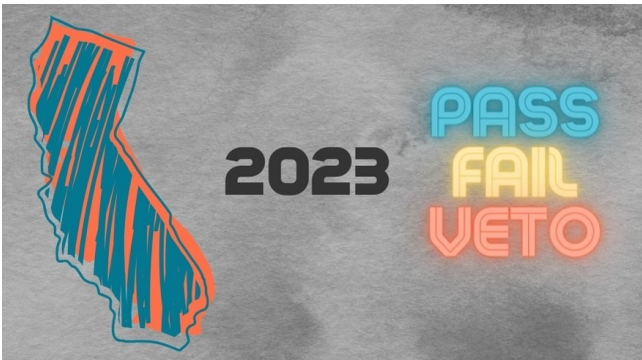
AB248 - updates language within laws to modern terms including developmental disabilities, impaired, or disabilities

AB447 - establishes and maintains inclusive college programs at the CSU and UC's for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities

AB1466 - requires districts to post data on website related to restraint and seclusion practices

SB323 - requires comprehensive school safety plans to address accommodations required by Federal disability laws. Authorizes parents and others to bring concerns regarding a student's safety to principal.

These and a selection of other laws impacting education can be found at ED100 blog post at <https://ed100.org/blog/2023-pass-fail-veto>



[New laws that parents and teachers should know about: 2023 | ED100](#)  
This post summarizes new California laws passed in 2023 that affect students, parents, and teachers. The post includes useful links to each new law, its legislative history, and relevant context.  
[ed100.org](https://ed100.org)

**Julie Cole – Sunshine Committee**-The Sunshine Awards are currently scheduled on March 28, 2024. This could change after a venue is decided upon. We need volunteers the day of to help, or ahead of time. The Sunshine Committee is also looking for a space larger than CUSD District Boardroom to hold the Awards. If you would like to volunteer please email Julie ([julie@thecoled.org](mailto:julie@thecoled.org)).

### **Administrator Introductions/Discussion**

**Clint Collins, Asst. Superintendent, Special Education Services**- A handout was provided for this presentation. It can be found in the post meeting CAC email.

- Mr. Collins provided information regarding the upcoming November 1, 2023 certificated training day. A Bridge Credential training will take place at the district that afternoon.
- Strategic Plan Committee meeting will be taking place to develop the next three-year plan to replace the former plan that was made 8 years ago.
- When Mr. Collins visits school sites, the principal of the school is asked which paraeducators should be recognized for outstanding work. They are then honored in person, and the photo is posted on CUSD Cares Instagram page.
- Crisis Prevention Training, or CPI training is used district wide. CPI incorporates physical violence, behavior, and intervention training. Key aspects include identifying what causes the behavior, re-direction, and extinction. Last year 350 staff members were trained in CPI.

- IEP teams can decide that a para is needed for a student who rides the bus to school, but those positions can be hard to fill.
- If your child is being hurt by another student in their class, parents should be notified by the school site. Please contact your case carrier if the school has not contacted you, and you know your child has been hurt by another student

**Next Meeting is Wednesday November 15, 2023, with a guest speaker on Disability Rights, Attorney Daniel Hernandez, Overview Presentation on IHSS (In Home Supportive Services)**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM.**