Capistrano Unified School District

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Minutes
March 19, 2026
In Person & You Tube Live

Attendance:
Beth Davis
Carol Atkinson
Mina Carson
Julie Cole
Helen Laviano
Anu Mandalaparthy
Sonia Moser
Michele Ploessel-Campbell
Laura Ulyate
Claire Hise
Sarah Silvaggio

CAC Members Absent
Steve Burke
Kimber Smith

The CAC Meeting was called to order at 9:31am.

Agenda for today's meeting approved by Michele Ploessel-Campbell and Julie Cole. No objections.

Minutes from February's meeting approved by Michele Ploessel-Campbell and Laura Ulyate. No objections.

Beth shared that CAC meeting dates for 2026-2027 have been scheduled. Print outs with the dates were handed out. If anyone has any input or suggestions for speakers, please reach out to Beth.

Chairperson Reports:

Sonia Moser: FRC Happenings, Families Connected, shared the following upcoming events and had flyers available.

-March 20, Above the Stars, a Celebration of the Arts with all CUSD high schools participating at Dana Hills 6-9pm. CAC and FRC booths will be there.

-March 24, Special Film Screening of Can't Look Away at SJHHS PAC. 6:30-8:30

-April 17th, Shine Bright Ability Fest at San Clemente Community Center 6pm-8pm

-April 25th, Dia del Nino Children's Day Festival and Resource Fair at Sone Field Park in SJC 11am-3pm

-April 30th, Safety and Well-Being Expo at San Juan Elementary form 4-6:30pm. Free CFA sandwiches and bike helmets will be given to the first 200 students.

Sonia encouraged anyone looking for emotional support to take advantage of the Families Connected Mentor Program.

Julie Cole - Sunshine Awards Committee Chair

Sunshine Awards exceeded 300 nominations from 45 different schools! Invites will go out on March 30.
Still need entertainers, so far we only have two. Please reach out to Julie if there are any musicians that play an instrument and would like to perform.
Amazon wish list items have been coming in. Thanks to everyone who has contributed.

Mina Carson- Reflections Committee Chair

Mina presented information on the Reflections Program and encouraged everyone to participate. This year, 10% of 325 students in all of OC were accessible arts entries. There were only 4 students from our district that submitted their art. We are encouraging more entries within our district. Start working on next year's entry "What does culture mean to me". Parents can support as long as the artistic expression is from the individual student. There are two separate groups for Accessible Arts 1)Pre k -5, 2) grades 6-12.

Michele Ploessel-Campbell, Vice Chair & Legislation,
Michele shared the following information:

At Federal Level - Special Education Services are still housed in the larger Education Department - the shift to Health and Human Services is currently on pause - which is good for our families and students. However, the threat of potential moves still exist. There are serious concerns that any move of Special Education oversight will impact the civil rights of individuals with disabilities and their ability to file complaints if IDEA and FAPE are not being followed and provided. At this moment in time there is nothing for us to do, but I will continue to monitor and let you know if any action is needed in the coming months.

A bill I am watching is AB2189 the California Special Education Parent Advocacy and Training Act - it was introduced by Stephanie Nguyen. The bill aims to strengthen special education oversight in California and ensure families have the information, training, and support they need to effectively advocate for students with disabilities. If enacted, AB 2189 would authorize the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to award an $800,000 grant to a statewide advocacy organization to conduct outreach and training through local meetings and forums. The goal is to help families better understand their rights in special education and build a stronger network of informed parent advocates across California. - You can track this bill at https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?t=bill&s=AB2189&go=+Search+&session=25&id=2c2ce71b-88ed-4afa-8e17-738b60bebb8e

I wanted to share that EdSource is hosting a RoundTable Discussion on March 26th at 4pm on Special Education and impacts of the state budget on students. You can find more information

here:https://edsource.org/broadcasts/more-students-less-funding-california-special-education-in-crisis

Lastly, it is an election year. Are you registered to vote ? The California Primary Election is on Tuesday, June 2, 2026. You need to be registered to vote by May 18, 2026. You can register to vote and find out more information on the election at https://ocvote.gov/ Voting is vitally important to our communities and our families. Please make sure you are registered.

Special Education Reports:

Clint Collins- Assistant Superintendent, Special Education Services

-ESY locations and dates were shared. June 15- July 16 2026.
-Reminder that ESY is an extension to a student's current year, meaning students will attend ESY in there current program. The exception is high school "Seniors" who will transition up to ATP for ESY,
-Transition IEPS are taking place over the next couple of months. Schools will be meeting with sending and receiving schools to discuss the process and students. Typically not many changes to the IEP during this process, just location changes.
-Lobo will keep current STARS students at Lobo next year. Lobo SEALS will be moving to Marblehead as Marblehead continues to grow their STARS program.
Del Obispo STARS will be moving to Kinoshita next year. Early Childhood Center will be relocating to Del Obispo next year. An additional FRC office will be located there.

Jeana Dagley- Executive Director of Special Education Programs and Related Services, SELP Director

No updates today

Before closing the meeting, Beth announced that there may be some changes coming for the Exceptional Student Awards this year. An email will be sent to all of the high school reps with more information soon.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20am and was followed by our guest speaker Laura Meier Esq. presenting Special Needs Trusts.

Next and final meeting for this school year is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 9:30am followed by a special presentation on CalAble Accounts.