



Community Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 19, 2024

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Professional Development Building

1680 David E. Cook Way

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

Presented by: Melissa Bailey, CAC Chairperson

- Mrs. Bailey welcomed all attendees and outlined the goals and objectives of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). She shared her personal experiences as a parent of students in special education within the District.
- Mrs. Bailey introduced the members of the CAC Executive Committee.

2. SELPA Updates

Presented by: Theresa Pafford, SELPA Administrator

- Mrs. Pafford provided a recap of the recent CAC Meet and Greet, which facilitated parent interaction with District Program Specialists.
- She acknowledged the District Administrators present and discussed the support provided by school sites to the CAC.
- Upcoming events were highlighted, including the Fall Art Show scheduled for October; details will be shared from individual school sites.
- Information was shared regarding the District's growth, including the hiring of additional teachers and support staff for Special Education Programs.
- Mrs. Pafford updated attendees on various training opportunities available within the District.
- A new Special Education and Early Start building is projected to open in Fall 2025, located on Fowler.
- A proposed bond measure is being introduced this fall; parents were informed about how to access further details.
- Attendees were invited to provide feedback on the day's roundtable topic: "What worked well with the start of school and what can we improve upon?"

3. 2024-25 Continuum of Services Presentation

Presented by: CUSD Special Education Administrators Theresa Pafford-SELPA Administrator, Carrie Carter- Director, Kristen Hatton- Assistant Director, Dawn Corley- Assistant Director & Paula Vived- Assistant Director

- A PowerPoint presentation provided an overview of the continuum of special education services offered within the District
- Parent resources, including websites and other contact information, were shared
- The PowerPoint presentation will be made available on the CUSD website <https://www.cusd.com/Community-CommunityAdvisoryCommitteeCAC.aspx>

4. Community Partner Awareness

Presented by: Will McGee, MAGIC

- Mr. McGee shared his experiences with special education services as a parent.
- He discussed various sports activities provided by MAGIC, which caters to individuals “ages 3 to 94,” currently offering soccer.
- A pamphlet with additional information was distributed to parents.

5. Family Resource Center Updates

Presented by: Leann Gajarian Keeler, CUSD FRC

- Mrs. Gajarian Keeler reviewed the flyers and pamphlets available at the resource table, including an information sheet with how to access parent resources on CUSD.com.
- Today’s seating arrangements were designed to foster connections among participants.
- She introduced the new “public awareness” sub-committee chairperson, Chelsea McCue. The goal is to promote awareness of the CAC throughout the district. Committee members volunteer their time and those interested were instructed to contact Leann or Chelsea.
- Information was provided on an upcoming trainings including:
 - A webinar “Special Education 101” on September 24. Parents are encouraged to register even if they cannot attend, as they will still receive a link to the recorded event and all handouts.
 - An in-person workshop on October 15, “Special Education- Going Deeper”. Parents can ask in-depth questions and will receive an IEP binder.
 - A webinar, “Regional Center 101 & Self-Determination Program” on October 29.
 - All trainings are offered at no cost.
- There was a request for Zoom access to the CAC meetings and the committee is working to provide this accommodation for parents who are unable to attend in person. However, in-person attendance is encouraged.

6. Roundtable Discussions

Topic: “What worked well with the start of school and what can we improve upon?”

- Open discussions at tables. Parents encouraged to share their experiences and suggestions on notecards provided or email input to specialed@cusd.com

2024-25 Meeting Dates:

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Thursday, May 22, 2025

2024 Executive Committee:

Chairperson: Melissa Bailey, Parent

Vice Chair: Julie Peeler, Parent

Treasurer: Kelsie Igasan, Parent

Secretary: Ronda Schmidt, CUSD Program Specialist

FRC REP: Leann Gajarian Keeler, Family Resource Center

SELPA Rep: Theresa Pafford, Administrator SELPA & Legal Compliance

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) serves in an advisory capacity to the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Our goal is to raise community awareness about the needs of students and their families regarding Special Education Programs; to actively review the Local Plan for Special Education; and to provide a forum that facilitates parent communication with other parents and with the school district. The CAC shall provide information, training, and resources to help ensure that quality programs educate the student with special needs in mind, body, and spirit.

Questions or comments?

Email: specialed@cusd.com

Phone: 559-327-8455

<https://www.cusd.com/Community-CommunityAdvisoryCommitteeCAC.aspx>

Community-based presentations may or may not represent programs that are affiliated or sponsored by CUSD.