

**TULARE COUNTY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

MINUTES

The Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education met February 3, 2011 in the Board Room of the Tulare County Office of Education, 2637 West Burrel at 12 noon.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cyndi Ward, Blanca Florez, Tim Perrotta, Gary Kenny, Stephanie Caldera, Joyce Nunes, , Filomena Rocha, Amy McMahon, Tiffany Stark, Claudia Garcia

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dana Collins, Randi Kestner, Connie Acevedo

OTHERS PRESENT: Norma Erwin, Parent Liaison/ Tulare County Office of Education

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Tim Perrotta, Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all the members back.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Member of the public, Pete Martinez addressed the committee regarding the following announcement: The Porterville Rotary will be accepting donations March 5, 2011 for the upcoming Senior Prom for students with disabilities. The prom is held each year at Granite Hills. Pete Martinez is the DJ for this event and will forward more information.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The motion to accept the minutes of the December 2, 2010 CAC meeting was made by Gary Kenny and seconded by Blanca Florez. The minutes stand.

REPORTS:

1. DOSE Report: Joyce Nunes, DOSE representative reported on the December 6, 2010 meeting. She presented the following: a) Xay Xiong did a tech presentation that was very helpful. b) Jill Santivanez reviewed AB3632 which provides for Mental Health funds for children with disabilities. The state Governor has stopped the funding and there is debate over his authority to do so. Several SELPA's have filed a law suit due to the severe needs of students. The Bright Futures program through our TCOE SELPA has provided assistance by teaching techniques and strategies to school staff and it proved to be very helpful. c) Cara Peterson provided an update report on CASEMIS. d) Kaye van Gilluwe reported on the budget. e) The CAC calendar and the "Thank You" letter honoring the "Day of the Special Educator" was presented and appreciated.
2. Guest Speaker: Kaye van Gilluwe, Administrator, Student Support Services and Assistant SELPA Director provided an update on the "CAHSEE / Graduation Requirements". Kaye van Gilluwe reviewed the CDE handout entitled, "Exemption for Eligible Students with Disabilities - California High School Exit Examination". It reviews EC Section 60852.3 and may be downloaded at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/hs/cahseefaqexempt.asp>. Kaye van Gilluwe reported that the new CAHSEE exemption requires that LEA's come up with an alternative means of testing. Students are strongly encouraged to take the CAHSEE. Students are provided with CAHSEE classes to prepare and given multiple attempts to pass. The exemption is in place for those who cannot pass and applies to all students who

received a certificate of completion beginning in 2008 - 2009. All students have been notified of the current option and will be offered remedial instruction classes to prepare. Currently, the exemption is in place until 2012. The following questions were asked by committee members: Q) At times a parent will say, "I don't want my student to have a "Certificate of Completion" and or a degree. What is the difference? A) The CAHSEE applies to both the certificate and diploma. The rigor and requirements and whether the student should take the CAHSEE will vary from LEA to LEA. Students are always encouraged to graduate with a diploma. Q) How many attempts would a student have to make to be eligible for the Exemption? A) Technically only one time. Students are always encouraged to make more attempts because the legislation may always change. Q) Are there standardized forms to apply for the exemption? A) Requests are made through the local LEA so forms may vary but the Ed Code and the criteria have to be the same. Q) Which allows a student to walk in the graduation; a certificate or diploma? A) Both. Whether a student receives a certificate or diploma cannot be distinguished. All students, including students in TCOE satellite classes are included in the same activities, trips, marching practices, etc.

3. The CAC committee reviewed the plans for the March meeting focusing on Assistive Technology: The committee agreed to meet in Room 5 Maple Learning Complex to begin the Tech Center tour.
4. Norma Erwin reviewed the list of "Hot Topics" presented so far this year and the list of tentative panel presenters for the April CAC meeting. The panel will highlight leisure time recreational activities for teens and young adults who are considered "Severely Handicapped." CAC members expressed in interest in options and ideas for everyday life as well as sharing of how other parents handle them.
5. Norma Erwin provided the CAC with current updates for the Tuesday, May 10, 2011 Annual Joint CAC, DOSE, SGC Luncheon and the menu. The CAC selected luncheon entrees and approved of the strings trio that will play during the meal. The entertainment is still under review.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

6. Norma Erwin announced that the "Child Find" campaign was underway and explained that "Child Find" was an effort to identify children with special needs who are not already connected to any type of service and connect them to their local educational agency for evaluation and assessment of needs. Commercials aired in January and will air again in March on English and Spanish radio and cable TV. The "Child Find" campaign also utilized English and Spanish newspaper ads and distributed logos and brochures to schools, churches, food pantries and various members of the medical community.
7. Claudia Garcia announced that Parenting Network would host a new round of weekly Sign Language classes in March from 6 - 7 p.m. They would like to see more parents attend.
8. Amy McMahan announced that CVRC would host the annual "Transition Fair" March 23, 2011 in Visalia and March 30, 2011 in Porterville. The "Transition Fair" is from 6 to 8 p.m. and features speakers and vendors. It is a time for families to learn about opportunities available for young adults in transition.
9. Tim Perrotta highlighted the "Enabling Devices" magazine he receives periodically and made it available to parents on the committee.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.
Next Meeting: March 3, 2011**