

Tulare County
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
For Special Education

MINUTES
September 3, 2009

The Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education met in the East Conference Room of the Tulare County Office of Education at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Filomena Rocha, Shelley Dever, Dana Collins, Amy McMahon, Tiffany Stark, Ramon Cervantes, Tim Perrotta, Jeff Higgins, Gary Kenny, Stephanie Caldera, Connie Acevedo

MEMBERS ABSENT: Claudia Garcia

OTHERS PRESENT: Norma Erwin, Brenda Beatty, Renae Bendix; Parent Liaisons /Tulare County Office of Education, Members of the public: Kevin Clements, Desktop Desk; Christina Joaquin, parent; Jennifer Harlan, School Psychologist/ Tulare City

WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS: Norma Erwin, CAC facilitator, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone back. Self introductions were made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Norma Erwin asked for public comments on the agenda. There were no public comments made.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Norma Erwin informed the CAC that Amy McMahon holds the vice chair position and that Stephanie Caldera had completed her term as the CAC Chair. Norma read Article IV of the Bylaws from the Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education and opened the floor for nominations. Stephanie Caldera nominated Tim Perrotta for CAC Chair. No further nominations were made. The Community Advisory Committee voted unanimously to appoint Tim Perrotta as the new CAC Chairperson. Norma Erwin deferred the meeting to Tim Perrotta.

CAC MEMBERSHIP: Tim called for a discussion on the open vacancies on CAC. Norma Erwin read Article I of the Bylaws from the Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education. Dana Collins, "parent at large" offered to fill the vacancy of "Special Education Parent" from Region VI. Christina Joaquin, parent expressed interest in applying for membership. Norma Erwin explained the approval process of new members. Jeff Higgins will ask DOSE for recommendations to fill the Exceptional Individual slot left vacant by Eric Sinclair. The committee also recommended that staff check with COS and also asked if there was an age limit. Norma said she would check with COS and other agencies and get back to the committee about the age limit for the Exceptional Individual slot.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON REPORT: Norma Erwin presented comments for the CAC to review on the May 2009 Annual Joint Luncheon meeting held. The committee agreed

there were lessons learned but that it was an overall success. The Parent Involvement video was viewed again since members had not seen it prior to the luncheon. Members were in agreement that it was well done and saw no need to redo it.

D.O.S.E. REPORT: Jeff Higgins, CAC representative provided a report of the June meeting of the Directors of Special Education.

Jeff highlighted a discussion provided by Scott Aldrich on Ed Code 56333. The discussion surrounded the qualifications for speech and language disorders. He said a student has a language disorder when the student meets certain criteria. He noted that eligibility for voice and fluency are guided by the Communication Severity Scale (CSS) criteria. A student must meet all three articulation criteria to be eligible for a SL Program; otherwise, the student should be considered for RtI using Classroom Based Strategies (CBS).

A CAC member asked about the CAHSEE. Jeff informed the committee that they have been officially informed that Special Education students will not have to pass the CAHSEE.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brenda Beatty provided updated information for members to add to their CAC binder. This included the Meeting Schedule and the Projects and Study Topics for 2009-2010. Committee members voted to accept the proposed Study Topics and updated the mailing list.

Norma Erwin reviewed the role of the CAC as listed on the CAC flyer that is given to parents at IEP meetings. She said many times parents do not understand what the flyer is about. Dana Collins agreed and commented that when the flyer is given to her it generally does not get explained. Norma Erwin offered that it does not require a lengthy explanation but the information should be clear and accurate. She recommended that special education directors cover only one bullet point from the “Our Job” section and let parents know that these monthly meetings are open to the public and can be accessed by calling or checking out the website.

Discussion on the COS sponsored Disability Awareness Day was tabled for next meeting.

Norma Erwin pointed out that Parent Education is one of the CAC priorities per the Ed Code. She reviewed the TCOE Staff Development Calendar and said that parents are welcome to attend any of the trainings offered as they will learn about best practices and services available.

Brenda Beatty presented a discussion on the proposed new theme for the 2010 CAC “Meeting Challenges” calendar. Brenda Beatty informed the committee that “Assistive Technology” was used as a theme in the year 2000. She cited research and said much has changed in the way high, medium and low technology is used to meet the needs of children with special needs. Dana Collins said that there are plenty of ideas that parents can use at home that are low tech and are inexpensive and maybe can be featured. There was further discussion on these ideas. The Community Advisory Committee approved the “Assistive Technology” theme for the 2010 “Meeting Challenges” calendar.