



CAC
Chairperson's Report

Meeting Date: September 16, 2020

Chairperson's Name: Lisa Mosko

Meetings/Trainings attended:

9/3/2020 Officers Planning Meeting

Dear Membership:

I want to welcome back our previous members, all of our new members, and our new student members in particular. I'm excited to work with you this year. We have a big year ahead of us. In addition to our usual duties advising LAUSD on the Special Education Local Plan, we will also be working on the revision of the Local Plan. This is important work as it offers an opportunity to update the actual content of the plan so that it better addresses the needs of our students with disabilities. Additionally, we will need to transcribe the Local Plan from its current form to a new standardized statewide template. This is no small feat, as the new template requires us to rethink the organization of the Local. The CAC must also identify our Annual Priorities for advisement on the Local Plan. We are engaging in this work during an unprecedented time in public education. How do we address the needs of our most vulnerable learners during a worldwide pandemic? What new challenges and opportunities has distance learning brought to the fore? Remember that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act was not waived during campus closures. How do we work with LAUSD to ensure that every last student's IEP be faithfully implemented so that students with special needs do not get left behind?

For our meeting today, the officers and I asked the Division of Special Education to present on the organizational structure of special education throughout the district, and the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan. Today we start with the "how" of special education in LAUSD. I encourage you to think about what other issues around special education are most urgent right now.

To prepare for this important work, we all have a bit of homework to do. First, if you haven't already, familiarize yourself with the Local Plan. Second, know our committee's bylaws. Also, get to know the Brown Act and Robert's Rules. As a state mandated committee, we are bound by the Brown Act and use Robert's Rules as a guide to ensure smoother meetings. These guidelines are here to support us, and must be used wisely. I urge all of you to use these laws and protocols to ensure efficiency in our meetings and not to slow the meeting down and prevent us from moving ahead with the urgent work of advocating for students with disabilities in LAUSD. Additionally, to ensure a smoother meeting, I ask that you wait for me to recognize you to speak. With the support of our parliamentarian and the team at PCS, I will do my best to give time for everyone's voice to be heard.

I also want to thank the Division of Special Education for the monthly presentations they offer us and thank the Office of Parent & Community Services for facilitating our meetings. This is my fourth year with the CAC, and I've seen so much progress in the level of collaboration between all stakeholders.

We all have different perspectives on how we can lift up students with special needs. That's the beauty of the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education at LAUSD. I'm so grateful for everyone's point of view and look forward to working with all of you.

Thanks again everyone, and let's get to work!

Sincerely,

Lisa Mosko