

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement

COMMUNITY ADVISOR COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ingrid Levy, President, at 10:05am.

II. Flag Salute

The flag salute was led by Theresa Quarry member. (English).

III. Public Comments

Rep. Shanita Rodgers provided public comment. John PerrónPaul Robak,

IV. Chairman's Report

Chair Ingrid Levy welcomed us with a warm and friendly greeting, mentioning the importance of member participation and how their volunteer work is critical to the committee. He also recognized the roles of the new officials. She highlighted the role of the Division of Special Education for this committee (CAC) and emphasized how crucial it is to create outreach opportunities within the community, making sure that information reaches more families and students. It was highlighted that each meeting is linked to the Local Special Education Plan (SELPA), which guides the work of the committee. In addition, the mentoring program was mentioned, inviting those interested to register or communicate by email. He also reported on the revision of the statutes on October 30 and stressed the importance of attending upcoming meetings.

V. Division of Special Education (DSE) Update Updates on points pertinent to the CAC.

Dr. Soto, Executive Director of Special Education, began his presentation to Mr. Anthony Aguilar, Anthony Aguilar, Chief of Special Education, Equity and Specialized Programs, who warmly welcomed the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Mr. Aguilar underscored the importance of the committee's voices not only being heard within the group, but also resonating throughout the education system, ensuring a fair and equitable education for all students. He expressed his commitment to being an advocate for the committee during the school year.

Dr. Soto, continuing his second year as director, shared his enthusiasm for working together with the CAC and announced the start of a district-wide listening campaign. This initiative aims to gather input from various stakeholders, including the CAC, parents, students, teachers, classified staff, and regional teams. The results of this campaign will be used to inform educational planning for the upcoming school year. In addition, Dr. Soto highlighted that focus groups for parents will be organized, where topics such as the IEP process will be addressed, in order to make it more understandable for families.

Among the highlights mentioned by Dr. Soto for the upcoming school year include:

Professional Development in Alternative Curriculum:

The plan includes professional development opportunities in alternative curriculum, focused on training, assessment, and community-based teaching. In addition, virtual workshops for parents will be organized in the 2024-2025 school year, with topics such as preparing for IEP meetings and supporting students with diverse needs. The workshops will be held in October, December, February and April.

Hybrid Parent Workshops: In addition, a series of hybrid workshops (in-person and online) will be organized in each region of the district. Topics include strategies to support positive behaviors at home, fostering a sense of belonging at school, and exploring conflict resolution options in the IEP. These workshops will be held between October and April.

Open Data Dashboard: The district's accessible data dashboard will be updated regularly to offer key information such as enrollment, attendance, budgeting, and college readiness. This resource will be available to the entire educational community on the LAUSD website: <https://MyLAUSD.net/Dashboard>

Dr. Soto emphasized the importance of involving parents and the community in the educational process, inviting CAC members to actively participate in focus groups and other initiatives. In addition, she mentioned the coordination with the president of the CAC to organize a session to listen to parents, both in person and virtually, depending on what is most convenient for the committee.

Finally, Dr. Soto gave way to other CAC team members, Kristen Lambert, who shares with members instructional workshops for parents from TK to 12, which will cover topics such as dyslexia and inclusive practices in October and November. He also shared that the special education newsletter will be moved to a new, more accessible forum for parents and the community, and that there will be an information session for families with students who require extensive supports on how to earn a high school diploma. In addition, training for special education teachers on accreditation, family engagement, and IEP interpretation continues, and a session on 95% phonics for professionals.

Roll call/establish quorum.

Norma Gonzalez, Secretary, passed the attendance roll and a quorum was established with 24 members with alternates at 10:52 a.m.

VI. Approval of the minutes: Wednesday, August 25, 2024

President Ingrid Levy asked the members to make a motion to approve the minutes, of August/28/2024, Mrs. Ana Carrión made the first motion and the second Mrs. Sara Lucas, 22 members voted Yes, 0 members voted No and 0 abstention. The motion did pass.

VII. General review of the SELPA Local Plan.

In our presentation, we begin by reviewing the key acronyms used in education, which are critical for members and the community to understand the terms. The prominent acronyms were:

- **IEP (Individualized Education Program):** Individualized Education Program, which details personalized educational services for students with special needs.
- **Selpa:** Refers to the Local Plan Area for Special Education, which encompasses the planning and execution of special educational services.

- **LPAC (Local Plan Advisory Committee):** Local Plan Advisory Committee, made up of representatives of families with students who have special needs, in charge of contributing their voice and perspective in the development of the plan.

We are introducing the cover page of our Local Plan, which will be published on the LAUSD website soon. This cover page is not part of the standard template, but rather summarizes the sections of the plan, including important appendices and certifications.

During the training, we discussed the LAUSD organization in relation to the governance framework and the importance of involving stakeholders in decision-making. It was highlighted that LAUSD operates as a single educational district, unlike many smaller districts in California, which allows it to coordinate and provide services more efficiently, complying with state and federal laws. The primary goal of the Local Plan is to inform how LAUSD provides services to students and details the types of services and programs available to those who qualify for special education. It includes specific examples of services in various schools and resources to support families, such as parent counseling and informational workshops.

This Local Plan is reviewed every three years. The triennial review involves evaluating the sections of the plan, except for the sanctions section. Each year, Section D, which addresses budget and services, is updated. The projected timeline for the review was shared with members in the fall of 2023, preparing for the review in spring 2024. During this process, members were offered the opportunity to review the plan and provide feedback on the proposed changes within 30 days. Feedback was collected through a Google form, and the link was provided to LPAC members during the review process. Notes were also taken during the meetings on the suggestions discussed, which were documented and, in many cases, incorporated into the revised version of the Local Plan. For example, changes were made to improve the clarity of the content and the references to the Education Code were adjusted. During the LPAC, questions were raised about preschool programs, which led to the addition of information on the hours of operation and frequency of the days of the programs, which can be found on page 72 of the Local Plan. From over 100 reviews:

- **7%** were general comments that did not directly affect the plan review.
- **26%** were comments not applicable at the time.

- **21%** were comments discussed in LPAC sessions that did not require modifications.
- **47%** of the LPAC's suggestions were accepted and incorporated into the Local Plan, ensuring that the plan

adequately reflects the needs of the community and provides clear information to families with

students who have IEP. Se shared a link to access the <https://www.lausd.org/page/16734> [website](#)

VIII. Activation of the 2024-2025 CAC Subcommittees

Chair Ingrid Levy activates the subcommittees and mentions that based on the results of the member survey and the feedback received, we have decided to focus on engaging African American students by creating an IEP subcommittee, as well as a training and education subcommittee, along with parent ambassadors. We have already scheduled a meeting and need your participation and feedback. The objective is to review the work done last year and bring it to a vote before the end of the year. We are also organizing a special meeting for the local planning and monitoring subcommittee, in order to avoid simultaneous meetings and maximize participation. The parent ambassador subcommittee, led by Christy Lacey, already has several meetings scheduled, which will address key issues such as strategies, inclusion practices, and IEP resolution. In addition, there will be both in-person and virtual outreach opportunities. Shanita Rogers will lead the African American student subcommittee, and Veronica will lead the IEP training subcommittee. We invite you all to participate in the October 2 meeting, which will begin with a training session.

IX. Updating the Office of Student, Family, and Community Engagement (SFACE)

Diane Panossian, the director of the Office of Student Family and Community Engagement. Our update this month is truly a congratulation to all of you as members and to our officers. They are having a beautiful start to the new school year; they are really on the move. We wanted to provide you with some basic resources in our update to build a foundation on some of the things we offer through our office related to the parent portal.

We offer Family Academy workshops, which are usually held weekly via evening webinars. We also have links to special education. There are Equity Pathways courses, which are organized according to a relevant curriculum and are aimed at young students and those with exceptional needs. In addition, we want to share with you that if you are on the School Site Council, for members participating in the Elac and SSC committees, there are also links to the flyers in our update so that you can register and attend those workshops. Two of them are webinars and two are in-person. The in-person workshops will provide real hands-on learning, allowing them to interact with other members and delve deeper into the school's content. We also include some resources in the form of hotline numbers so they can get additional support and contact information.

Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement

[lausd.org/SFACE](https://www.lausd.org/SFACE)

(213) 481-3350

<https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/577/English%20Spanish%20Flyers.pdf> [lausd.org/familyacademy](https://www.lausd.org/familyacademy)

https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/577/List_of_Parent_and_Family_Engagement_Providers_0824.1.pdf

X. Emerging Issues for Future Meetings

Vice President Christy Lacey shared with members about the bylaws meeting that will be held on October 30, so that we can observe all the work done last year at those meetings. The plan is to have a future meeting to vote on approving the bylaws this year.

XI. Announcements.

Announcement by Nancy Hernandez, Public Relations Officer: We want to remind you that we are always looking for people interested in joining our subcommittee meetings. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Also, don't forget that the CAC meeting will be on Wednesday, October 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

XII. Closure of the meeting.

The meeting officially ended at 12:18 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Norma E Gonzalez CAC Secretary.