



**MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
(SEDAC)**

MINUTES

TUESDAY, February 19, 2019

9:15 AM GENERAL MEETING

11:30 AM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

**Horizon Hills – Multipurpose Room
33 Greta Street Thousand Oaks**

SEDAC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Cindy Liu, Chairperson

Erin Bell, Vice-Chairperson

Carole Shelton, Secretary

Rachel Brusseau, Parliamentarian

ADMINISTRATION

Lisa A. Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services

Erika F. Johnson, Director, Special Education

Kate Potter, Senior Administrative Assistant

Kathy Stevens, Administrative Assistant

HELPFUL INFORMATION

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES REQUIRING SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN A SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES' OFFICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING - PHONE: 805-497- 9511 X291, OR FAX: 805-373-6914

If you are on the agenda to present a report and need the use of a computer and audio equipment, please contact the Assistant Superintendent of Student Support's Office 24 hours prior to the meeting (805-497-9511 x291).

If you wish to address the Special Education District Advisory Council (SEDAC), then it is necessary to complete a speaker form (salmon) and hand it to the secretary. If you would like to make comments about items not on the agenda, a speaker form should be completed and turned in prior to the Public Comments section of the agenda. If you wish to address an agenda item, please submit your form prior to the Action portion of the agenda, Pursuant to the Greene Act, **members of the public have an opportunity to speak during Public Comments only**. The Special Education District Advisory Council cannot enter into formal discussion nor can a decision be made in regard to public comments. However, The Special Education District Advisory Council may briefly respond to comments or questions from the public, and ask clarification questions or make announcements. The Special Education District Advisory Council may provide a reference to District staff or other resources of information; request District staff to report out at a subsequent meeting or may request the Special Education District Advisory Council Executive Board to place an item on a future agenda. Public Comments will be limited to three minutes. On those occasions where there are 5 or more speaker cards, the Chairperson of the Special Education District Advisory Council may make the decision to decrease the time. Please present your comments in a factual, respectful, and dignified manner that models how we expect our members to participate in the democratic process.

If you wish to register your opinion on a topic but not speak, then please fill out a public written statement form (yellow) and hand it to the secretary. Special Education District Advisory Council Executive Board members will review these forms following the General Meeting.

Your input is greatly appreciated.

Tentative – Pending Approval at March 22, 2019 SEDAC Meeting

**NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT ADVISORY
COUNCIL (SEDAC) MEETING**

Friday, March 22, 2019

9:15 AM General Meeting, 11:30 AM Executive Board Meeting

AGENDAS ARE POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

CVUSD District Office, 1400 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362 *serves as the main posting location pursuant to the Green Act, Government Code 35147 (b)*

Additional locations

Newbury Park High School, 456 Reino Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320

Thousand Oaks High School, 2323 Moorpark Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Westlake High School, 100 N. Lakeview Canyon Road, Westlake Village, CA 91362

CVUSD Office of Special Education, 33 Greta Street, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Conejo Valley Unified School District
Special Education District Advisory Council Minutes
Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Horizon Hills, Multipurpose Room – 9:15 AM –11:30 AM (Times are approximate)

- I. General Meeting Session (9:15 AM – 9:30 AM Times are approximate)
 - A. Call the Meeting to Order
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance
 - C. Roll Call
 - D. Approval of Agenda – Agenda approved by all members

- II. Information/Discussion Session (9:30 AM – 10:45 AM Times are approximate)
 - A. Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC)
 - i. Ms. Dani Anderson and Ms. Alexa Martin reviewed the ILRC PowerPoint with members and explained that ILRC promotes independent living and full access for individuals with disabilities and special needs.
 - ii. Youth shouldn't feel alone. Youth need to see beyond their current situation and focus on their futures as independent, working, advocates taking leadership of their lives.
 - iii. Ms. Dani Anderson thanked Denice Welter, CVUSD Employment Specialist, Workability, for changing her life. The summer after Dani's junior year, Mrs. Welter provided Dani with information about the Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities (YLF) and encouraged her to submit an application. Dani submitted her application and attended the forum in Sacramento where students learn leadership skills, disability history and culture, and meet students their own age and successful adults with disabilities. It was through this experience that Dani connected with people in a career area she liked and that was the beginning of her now successful career.
 - iv. This year's YLF program will be held July 15-19, 2019. The YLF is a five day program held at California State University, Sacramento. It is a great opportunity for students who have been identified as potential leaders to participate in leadership and self-advocacy development.
 - B. Transitioning to Next Level
Panel Members: Mrs. Sonia Wilson, Director of Elementary Education/Title 1 Implementation; Mr. Kenny Loo, Director of Middle School Education and Professional Learning; Mr. Brian Mercer, Director of High School Education and Assessment; and Mrs. Erika Johnson, Director of Special Education
 - i. Panel members answered questions regarding students transitioning from elementary to middle school, middle to high school, and high school to post-secondary. Some topics covered were: Ensuring receiving school participates in IEP meetings and has a plan for continuing supports and goals; review successes of goals and plan for more general education time and less in restricted environment; CTE pathways; A-G requirements and master schedules that allow students to spend 80% of their time in LRE.
 - ii. Parents and students need to walk away from an IEP meeting knowing what is going to happen next year.
 - iii. The District has been working on coaching and training coordinators and teachers to be more flexible when looking at next year's students. We want

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- people to think outside of the box so that students can attend their neighborhood school or their school of choice. Think creatively and don't stick to the predetermined track.
- iv. Parents will want the high school counselors to participate in the IEP meetings. Counselors track courses, college requirements, and the plan for post-graduation. Counselors will know what course offerings are available and will assist with IEP decisions for high school and beyond.
 - v. Administrators need to look at data and students groups to identify gaps and create a plan for improving/narrowing those gaps.
 - vi. The District would like to see Parent Information Nights that are more interactive. For example, class tours to show actual classrooms and courses offered. We would also like to have Case Managers and Special Education Coordinators present at the events.
 - vii. The District sites are already holding different inclusion events that bring the schools and community together. (Unified Basketball Tournaments, Sparkles Cheerleading, etc.)
 - viii. SEDAC Members expressed that not all administrators appear to be receiving the message on the District's vision for special education students. Superintendent McLaughlin assured the group that all of the administrators are receiving the message and he will work with any administrator that isn't understanding the vision to ensure that they have the correct message and are communicating it with their staff. It is the District's expectation that CVUSD Leadership understand our District's process. In addition, there are a thousand (1000) certificated employees and two hundred and twenty (220) paraprofessionals that need to understand the scope of what we will be doing differently. There is a lot of training taking place now and planned for in the future. There are conversations taking place on all of this at the principals meetings and it is the expectation that the principals take that information back to their sites and debrief their staff.
 - ix. Superintendent McLaughlin expressed that there has been a lot of positive changes in our District. There is now an assistant superintendent of Student Support Services, a much needed position to assist with developing and executing plans to achieve academic success for students with special needs, attendance problems, behavior, homeless and foster students, etc. In addition, the district identified the need for a specific spokesperson for each level (elementary, middle and high school). Therefore, the Leadership team was restructured to include a director at each school level, which has improved the process and our ability to support parents and students. Administrators have recognized the needs in our district and our plan is coming to fruition which is evident by the amount of people here today.
 - x. Numerous handouts were distributed to the SEDAC members regarding transition and upcoming transitions nights.
- C. Robert Borelle – Attorney with Disability Rights California
- i. Mr. Borelle is with protection and advocacy office that serves the Tri Counties Regional Center. The Federal Government appointed the agency to protect people with disabilities.
 - ii. What does a good transition plan look like?
 - a. Key is interagency involvement of transition.
 - b. Local partnership agreement – MOU's – Mr. Borelle is pleased that

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CVUSD does have partnership agreements and MOU's in place with local agencies.

- c. Pre-employment transition services – new program – California calls it student services. DOR services available for students with IEPs and 504's.
- d. Workability – State operated program – Students with disabilities get work experience and opportunity to develop skills that allow them to succeed on their own.
- e. Expectation counseling on post-secondary opportunities (work and college).
- f. Denice Welter, CVUSD Employment Specialist, Workability, shared that our district has all of these recommendations in place. Although the DOR is invited to IEP meetings, they are not always able to make it, so we provide information from the Department of Rehabilitation in those cases. CVUSD currently does a good job of embedding our policies into our student's school day to ensure transitions are successful. Mrs. Welter also shared that CVUSD finished LPA last June and passed at the State level.

III. Reports (10:45 AM – 11:00 AM Times are approximate)

A. Executive Team

- i. Recommended SEDAC members attend or watch Board meetings. Tonight's agenda includes remapping of district for board member representation, and review of the SPSA plans. It was also recommended that SEDAC members review their school's SPSA plans and speak to their school's principal if they have questions.
- ii. Nominating committee needs to plan on process for nominating new candidates for SEDAC next year.

B. SEDAC Standing Committee

- i. IEP committee is working on the new parent toolkit with FAQ's. They are also working on creating a parent survey to obtain information needed for toolkit.
- ii. LRE committee is taking notes and building a plan.

C. Community Reports – SELPA/CACSELPA CAC

- i. SEDAC Secretary, Ms. Shelton, reported on calendars from various agencies in Ventura County and events taking place. Please visit the Ventura County SELPA website to learn more about events taking place each month. Ms. Shelton will also maintain an events calendar and post it in the shared Google SEDAC folder.

IV. Comments (11:00 AM – 11:30 AM Times are approximate)

A. Public *(Pursuant to the Greene Act, the CVUSD Special Ed District Advisory Council (SEDAC) cannot enter into formal discussion with individuals making public comments to the SEDAC. The SEDAC cannot take action on any issues raised during public comments that are not on the meeting agenda. Members may respond to public comments during the Individual Comments section of the agenda.)*

- i. Cindy Levenson – There are numerous events taking place in our community – The Jewish Federation of Los Angeles and Ventura County are good resources for families.

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- ii. Bill Gorback – Proud of how many people are here today. Goal for our district is not be just statistic oriented or focus just on LRE, but to provide services to our students. We have a great district because of all of you.
- B. SEDAC Chair
- i. Thank you all for coming. Just getting through the day is challenging, so thank you for your commitment and advocacy.
 - ii. February 22nd – Governor’s budget discussion. Chairperson Liu is requesting that someone from Assemblyperson Irwin’s office attend SEDAC meetings to learn about our district’s needs. Chairperson Liu also plans to request the same of Senator Henry Stern.
- C. SEDAC Members - Site Concerns and Successes
- i. Post-secondary site success – All classrooms are fully staffed with paraprofessionals and two new vans were purchased for the program.
 - ii. Redwood Middle School is holding their ability awareness event today.
 - iii. Newbury Park High School – Ventura County Star did a feature story about our District’s Unified Basketball Tournaments which are taking place at Newbury Park High School, Thousand Oaks High School and Westlake High School in March 2019. Anne Alvarez, SDC teacher, and Sammy Stuart, Adapted P.E. teacher, continue to develop the Special Olympics program at their site. Successful transition meeting for SPED parents. Multiple students recognized at the National Honors Society dinner.
 - iv. Los Cerritos – Principal met with SEDAC representative and explained the school’s vision for co-teaching and team teaching.
 - v. Lang Ranch Elementary – Ask your PTA what they can do to include all students. At the Valentine’s Day Dance the students with special needs went in 10 minutes early, her student was able to go in early and dance. The library was also set up and played softer music and was not as dark. Great for students with sensory issues. Big success.
 - vi. Sycamore – Meeting with PTA to get volunteers as paraprofessionals, please work with your PTA to collaborate for our students. Will continue to work with principal to communicate messages to 504 and SPED parents. Group recommended that the principal get families to opt-in to receive events calendars and newsletters. Encourage parents to attend SEDAC meetings.
- D. CVUSD Assistant Superintendent of Support Services, Ms. Lisa A. Miller
- i. Ms. Miller thanked everyone for being here today. Ms. Miller informed the group that she attends Advisory Council meetings but the collaboration and support at this meeting is amazing. We need your input, both good and challenging. I appreciate your willingness to participate and have a voice.
 - ii. Please encourage families/parents that have questions or concerns to reach out to either Ms. Miller or Erika Johnson, Director of Special Education. They will get back to parents and address their questions.
 - iii. Governor’s budget – seeing money earmarked for special education. Currently the way the budget is written it is not in the favor of special education. Money is only budgeted to provide funds for services beyond IEP and SPED, assuming CVUSD is fully funded, but we aren’t, so we want the funds provided to our District to use in a way we need and are legally mandated to do so.
 - iv. Concentration Districts only get the funds (maybe). If a district has a concentration level of 55% then they qualify for the funds, our District will

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miss out entirely. We need the funds. If you have the ability to communicate with legislators then please do so.

IV. Action Items – General (each item requires a motion for approval)

- A. None

V. Action Items Consent

(These items are considered routine and will be approved in one action without discussion. If a SEDAC member requests that an item be removed from Consent, or a citizen wishes to speak to an item, the item will be considered under Action Items.)

- A. Approval of Minutes for General Meeting January 22, 2019
 - A. All members voted in favor of approving minutes

VI. Adjournment General Meeting Session adjourned at approximately 11:15 A.M.