

**Tulare County
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
for Special Education**

**MINUTES
December 4, 2008**

The Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education met at the Visalia Marriott, 300 S. Court, Visalia at 12:00 noon.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shelley Dever, Stephanie Caldera, Gary Kenny, Tim Perrotta, Connie Acevedo, Ramon Cervantes, Amy McMahon, Randi Kestner, Claudia Garcia, Dana Collins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Higgins, Filomena Rocha

OTHERS PRESENT: Norma Erwin, Brenda Beatty, Renae Bendix; Parent Liaisons/
Tulare County Office of Education

WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS: Chairperson, Stephanie Caldera welcomed everyone to the annual winter lunch meeting. CAC members introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no members of the public who were present to address the Committee on agenda items.

MINUTES: The minutes of the November CAC meeting were approved with the amended correction that Sherene Montes was not present for the November meeting.

2009 “PARENTS MEETING CHALLENGES” CALENDAR:

Brenda Beatty reported that the CAC calendars were delivered hot off the press on Monday and all but 600 of 5000 copies have been distributed to families, schools and community agencies. The CAC committee approved the finished product and commented how great the pictures looked. Norma Erwin stated it would be formally presented to the County Board in January. Tim Perrotta asked that a copy be sent to the governor once again.

D.O.S.E. REPORT: The report on the November Directors of Special Education meeting was tabled as Jeff Higgins was not present.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON PRELIMINARY PLANNING: Norma Erwin reported that the date for the Annual SGC, DOSE and CAC luncheon has been scheduled for May 14, 2008 and the banquet room reserved at the Holiday Inn.

The committee members discussed entertainment, table décor and how to work in the parent involvement theme. Randi Kestner commented that the sale of student art work at the tables last year reminded everyone why they were there and perhaps something like

that could be considered again. Happy Trails and Miracle League were considered as options. Amy McMahon shared that Linda Chester's Special Day Class at Tulare Western High School normally presents dance choreography for Mother's Day. Amy will find out if they would like another opportunity to perform. Claudia Garcia offered to talk to her son who is a sophomore and fully included at Mission Oaks High School. Her son, Salvador is hearing impaired and he would be willing to sing in sign language. Tim Perrotta suggested the idea to have someone do a videography of the parents and students participating as they did in the calendar to be shown at the luncheon and or perhaps having them attend. Decisions were not made at this time until ideas could be explored further.

DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS AND ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY 8 MEETING:

The Community Advisory Committee took a roll call for next month and voted to go ahead meet even though it may be a short meeting and four members would not be able to attend. Stephanie Caldera told members they should email any agenda items for January to Norma Erwin. Stephanie Caldera informed CAC members that Mike Stephens would be unable to present the OT topic of study for the February meeting and asked if they would like to move on to a different topic or have Donna Martin from the Occupational Training Program Learning Center present. The committee voted to have Donna Martin present if she could.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Claudia Garcia made several announcements regarding Parenting Network; 1) The Parenting Network signs are up and an Open House will be held January 14, 2009. 2) Parenting Network will deliver presents to about 100 families. 3) A mini food pantry will be set up soon to help families with immediate needs.

Stephanie Caldera announced that Eric Sinclair and Tiffany Stark have been approved for membership and will be appointed by the County Board in January. Stephanie also announced that Randi Kestner would be stepping down due to family concerns. Stephanie Caldera thanked Randi Kestner for her years of service on the Community Advisory Committee. The committee wished her well.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.