

Tulare County
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
For Special Education

MINUTES
November 5, 2009

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Filomena Rocha, Claudia Garcia, Tim Perrotta, Gary Kenny, Stephanie Caldera, Connie Acevedo, Ramon Cervantes, Aimee Miculian,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy McMahon, Shelley Dever, Dana Collins, Tiffany Stark,

OTHERS PRESENT: Norma Erwin, Brenda Beatty, Renae Bendix; Parent Liaisons /Tulare County Office of Education, Deanna Wright, Special Education teacher/ EUSD

WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS: Tim Perrotta welcomed the Community Advisory Committee members and self introductions were made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no comments from members of the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tim Perrotta requested approval of the October minutes as presented. It was moved by Filomena Rocha and seconded by Stephanie Caldera. The motion was unanimously carried.

D.O.S.E. REPORT: Aimee Miculian, DOSE representative gave a report on the Medi-Cal overview provided. She said with the exception of dental services, there were numerous medical service programs available to children.

Aimee Miculian reported that Deaf and Hard of Hearing programs are currently being assessed through Linda McKean and others. Information is being collected on curriculums and resources used and will inform the SELPA of the present situation.

Aimee Miculian provided a CAHSEE update. She said CDE has not yet provided guidance on what to do with students who graduated with certificates during 2007 to 2008 when no waiver existed for students with special needs. She reported that some students are re-enrolling to fulfill credits and complete their diploma and others are taking it at least once during their junior year.

Aimee Miculian reported that Kaye van Gilluwe and others are polling schools to see how preschoolers are getting to their programs and surveying safety issues and other concerns.

2010 "MEETING CHALLENGES" CALENDAR REPORT: Brenda Beatty, parent liaison staff provided the committee with a preview of the final draft of the "*Meeting Challenges with Technology*" calendar before it goes to print. Brenda Beatty reported the estimated time of arrival to be November 18. The committee approved the final draft. Norma Erwin informed the CAC that the calendar will be presented to the County Board

December 2, 2009 at 3:00 pm in the TCOE board room. Members were invited to present the calendar to the board and several members agreed to be there.

DECEMBER AND JANUARY MEETING SCHEDULE:

Norma Erwin proposed that the December Holiday meeting be a catered luncheon in the board room in order to allow the members to enjoy their holiday luncheon meeting and pick up CAC calendars at the same location. The committee approved the idea.

Norma Erwin informed the committee of the early January 7th meeting when most schools would still be out on winter break and asked the committee what they wanted to do. Some members said they would be out on break too. Tim Perrotta suggested the item be carried over for discussion in December when more members could be present to decide. The committee approved this recommendation.

COS DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY:

Norma Erwin informed the committee that the COS sponsored Disability Awareness Day event was cancelled by COS due to rain and it had not been rescheduled.

STUDY TOPIC: FULL INCLUSION OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN- THE IMPACT ON CLASSROOM AND TEACHING:

Linda McKean, program administrator of Mild to Moderate programs presented the topic by posing and answering the following questions: 1) Why do we fully include? 2) How do we help train administrators, teachers and other school personnel to create learning environments for all kids?

Linda McKean explained that special education is a service not a place. FAPE and LRE is a mandate of IDEA and it is critical that learning environments be improved for all kids providing a basic floor of opportunity unless they are extremely medically fragile. They attend a regular preschool and kindergarten. Eventually, the gap may get too big and the child may need to be evaluated for an SH program. The evaluation will determine if the child is gaining academic skills. Adaptive and cognitive scores will determine if the child needs a more restrictive environment or not.

Linda McKean discussed a variety of ways that TCOE promotes full inclusion, provides the tools and knowledge to make it work and helps prepare schools to work with fully included students. She named several publications and programs such as “Guidelines for Support of Fully Included Students”, “The Behavior Intervention Handbook”, “A Guide for Classroom Teachers”, “PECS”, “Handwriting Without Tears”, “Autism Certification”, Preschool Team, Bright Future, and pointed to others listed in the TCOE Publications Guide. Linda McKean described the different strands available in the staff development calendar at no cost to local districts, county programs and parents.

Announcements: Claudia Garcia, parent shared the November calendar of activities from Parenting Network. Brenda Beatty announced the “Soup, Sip and Shop at The Creative Center’s Annual Holiday Gift Faire” would be held November 12 and said their famous greeting cards would be on sale also.

Meeting Adjourned 3:15 p.m.