

Tulare County
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
For Special Education

MINUTES
February 4, 2010

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: Aimee Miculian, Amy McMahon, Claudia Garcia, Connie Acevedo, Gary Kenny, Ramon Cervantes, Shelley Dever, Stephanie Caldera, Tiffany Stark, Tim Perrotta

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dana Collins, Filomena Rocha

OTHERS PRESENT: Norma Erwin, Brenda Beatty, Renae Bendix; Parent Liaisons / Tulare County Office of Education, Randi Kestner; Parent, Glen Stewart; Exceptional Individual, Adrienne Skaff; CVRC, Joe Martinez; RtI presenter

WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS: Tim Perrotta welcomed the Community Advisory Committee and members of the public. Introductions were made.

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

RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTION AND INTERVENTION (RtI²): Joe Martinez, Special Education Director for Dinuba Unified School District provided the committee with an overview of the RtI² process and implementation at Dinuba Unified. Joe Martinez stated that RtI² looks at the student's skill deficits rather than organic deficits. Joe Martinez explained how the RtI² model provides a framework for every school site to address the needs of "all" students through universal screening, instruction and intervention using research based core material.

Joe Martinez reported that Aims Web was adopted by the district to track focused data and explained how data driven decisions are made in teacher collaboration meetings to address student needs early on before they get behind. He used charts and graphic illustrations to show how RtI² uses benchmark data to monitor student progress. All students move through Tier 1 together. Students still experiencing difficulties move to Tier 2 for progress monitoring and core curriculum support. Students not responsive to Tier 2 may continue to Tier 3 for more strategic interventions. Students not responsive to Tier 3 interventions are assessed for more intensive Special Education.

The CAC had three questions for Joe Martinez. #1: Why has RtI² been so successful? Joe cited a combination of things; leadership at the district office, professional development with Core Adoption, understanding the systematic process, AIMSweb, and developing collaboration meetings to look at the data. #2: Concerning the AIMSweb data collection;

is it user friendly? Joe Martinez stated yes, it is user friendly especially for parents because it provides specific data about how the student is doing. #3: What is the parent feedback concerning the RtI model? Joe Martinez reported that the parents are pleased for the most part and have been accepting of the data and response time as they report to parents after 12 weeks. Joe stated that the discrepancy model is no longer used for special education assessments however full psychological assessments are still done when it is warranted.

He explained that working thirty to thirty-five minutes a day on subsets and skills is sometimes more than what some students would receive on an IEP.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tim Perrotta requested a move to approve the December minutes. It was moved by Stephanie Caldera and seconded by Amy McMahon. The motion was unanimously carried.

D.O.S.E. REPORT: DOSE representative, Aimee Miculian reported on the highlights of the previous Directors of Special Education meeting. Aimee Miculian reported Exeter Unified School District recently rolled out an RtI process stressing a fuller core curriculum with an emphasis on fidelity.

Aimee Miculian summarized the presentation provided at DOSE regarding the statewide focus on restraint and seclusion. She reported that TCOE SELPA is aligning its' policies and procedures with what the state is doing and that rough drafts are currently being revised.

Aimee Miculian reported that CDE has developed additional training for teachers regarding Autism and those programs are starting to evolve to provide special education staff with specialized training.

Additionally, Amy informed the committee that the Impact Center is developing a program too that includes field work. She said our SELPA will work with Madera to develop classes targeting mild to moderate teachers with credentials. She also added that the Bright Future training schedule is provided online for teaching staff and parents.

REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE "HOT TOPICS" LIST: The committee members reviewed the list of topics and numbered them in the order of their priority for study. Norma Erwin told the committee that she would tabulate the votes and schedule presenters according to the collective priority.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON PLANNING: Norma Erwin informed the CAC that the letters requesting nominations for teacher & parent awards were distributed to the Directors of Special Education and the Superintendents at their respective meetings. She brought to the attention of the committee that the number of awards and short time frame for presentations. The committee members agreed and suggested complete bios be provided at each table if needed.

The members voted to have the following menu options: Marinated Shoulder Tenderloin,

Chicken Da La Sol or Vegetable Lasagna. And Chocolate Layer Cake for desert.

The CAC discussed various ideas for the luncheon entertainment. The members approved a rolling power point to be played during the meal. The power point will feature pictures from this year's "Meeting Challenges with Assistive Technology" calendar. Committee members agreed that students in Special Education programs should continue to be featured and that music should be a focus again this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Tim announced that the Next CAC meeting would be March 4.
2. Claudia Garcia explained the Parenting Network flyers concerning the Parent Academy, Support Group, and Sign Language Classes
3. Renae Bendix explained the Synchrony - "Saturday Clinic" counseling available to families for \$20. per hour regardless of insurance.
4. Tim Perrotta made a technology resource catalog available to parents
5. Norma Erwin extended an opportunity for members to participate on a parent panel for a Child Development class at COS.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:12 p.m.

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ADDENDUM TO MEETING DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT TO VOTE THROUGH TELEPHONE / EMAIL:

Tim Perrotta, Claudia Garcia, Dana Collins, Gary Kenny, Stephanie Caldera, Tiffany Stark, Filomena Rocha, Aimee Miculian, Connie Acevedo,

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Amy McMahan, Ramon Cervantes, Shelley Dever

DECISION TO MOVE THE NEXT CAC MEETING TO MARCH 9:

On February 12, 2010 the CAC members voted by way of e-mail or telephone to move the next CAC meeting from March 4, 2010 to March 9, 2010. This move was approved to accommodate the speaker, Dr Rankin who will present the study topic concerning, "Funding and Budget Cuts" - Doing more with less funding"

The next meeting on March 9 will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room.