

Tulare County
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
For Special Education

MINUTES
December 3, 2009

The Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education met in the Board Room of the Tulare County Office of Education at 12:00 noon

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dana Collins,

OTHERS PRESENT: Norma Erwin, Brenda Beatty, Renae Bendix; Parent Liaisons /Tulare County Office of Education, Leslie Berry; TCOE Graphic Designer, Cindy Ward; Parent Randi Kestner; Parent, Glen Stewart; Exceptional Individual

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tim Perrotta requested a motion to approve the November minutes. It was moved by Filomena Rocha and seconded by Gary Kenny. The motion was unanimously carried.

2010 “MEETING CHALLENGES WITH ASSITIVE TECHNOLOGY”

CALENDAR DISTRIBUTION REPORT: Brenda Beatty, parent liaison staff informed the committee that the calendars arrived a week earlier than expected which provided more than enough time for calendar distribution. Brenda offered to send out more calendars as needed and said it was a very popular calendar because it provided teachers with information on what Assistive Technology is and what is available. CAC members approved the calendar and commended the staff for their efforts.

CALENDAR PRESENTATION REPORT: Norma Erwin reported on the calendar presentations made to the Superintendents Governance Committee members on November 17 and the County Board members December 2. Norma Erwin reported to the CAC that the Superintendents Governance Committee presentation was made by the parent liaison and assistive technology staff who were introduced along with two parents, Filomena Rocha and Candace O’Dell whose children were featured in the calendar. Each SGC member was presented with a copy of the calendar and it was well received. The County Board presentation was made by CAC members, Stephanie Caldera and Filomena Rocha. Filomena was accompanied by her son Joseph Rocha. CAC members provided

testimonials on how their student benefits from using assistive technology at home and at school. The County Board members were complimentary of the calendar project and thanked the CAC members for sharing their story.

D.O.S.E. REPORT: Aimee Miculian, DOSE representative stated that DOSE would not meet until next week and a current report would be available at the next CAC meeting.

Aimee Miculian volunteered an update on the CAHSEE exemption for students with disabilities as per a current CDE release. Aimee Miculian provided a brief summary and offered to email a copy of the release to the CAC. Aimee Miculian said basically, the CAHSEE is a requirement for all tenth graders but not for eleventh and twelfth graders. Students who graduated in 2008 and 2009 with a certificate can ask to have their IEP reopened as long as all graduation requirements have been met. Accommodations and modifications are still an IEP driven process but the CAHSEE can be waived. Districts are being encouraged to keep offering the CAHSEE courses to students because things can change at any time. Claudia Garcia asked how long the waiver would be in effect. Aimee Miculian said CDE has extended the waiver to 2011. After that it is expected that CDE will have alternate forms of CAHSEE for students with disabilities.

JANUARY MEETING SCHEDULE: Tim Perrotta led a discussion on whether to have a CAC meeting in January. It was determined that a quorum was not possible with only three members present. Filomena Rocha made a motion to dispense with the January meeting and it was seconded by Gary Kenny. CAC will reconvene February 4, 2010.

BRAINSTORM NEW STUDY TOPICS FOR NEXT YEAR: The CAC brainstormed the following ideas for future study: (See the copy attached.)

BRAINSTORM NEW THEMES FOR 2011 CAC CALENDAR: The CAC brainstormed the following theme ideas for future calendars:

- Say more about Assistive Technology
- Inclusion Aides
- Combine Assistive Technology and Inclusion Aides
- Early Intervention
- Update previous students in calendar
- Highlight educators nominated for Special Recognition
- Transition / Adults

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Norma Erwin announced that the date for the Annual DOSE, CAC and SGC Luncheon has been set for Wednesday, May 12, 2010.

Norma Erwin also informed the committee about a recent bill introduced on the US Senate floor by Barbara Mikulski and Michael B. Enzi entitled Rosas's Law. The bill if approved would change the phrase "mentally retarded" to "an individual with an intellectual disability."