

WHITTIER AREA COOPERATIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

8036 SOUTH OCEAN VIEW AVENUE, WHITTIER, CA 90602

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JANET QUENEAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Community Advisory Committee
10:00 a.m. on September 15, 2022
8036 Ocean View Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602

MINUTES

A. Roll Call- The meeting opened at 10:03 a.m.

East Whittier- Present
El Rancho - Absent
Little Lake - Present
Los Nietos - Absent
South Whittier - Absent
Whittier City - Present
Whittier Union - Present

B. Approval of Agenda for September 15, 2022

Moved: Gloria Ruiz
Seconded: Joel Escobar
Vote: 4-0

C. Approval of Minutes for May 12, 2022

Moved: Lacey Harris
Seconded: Gloria Ruiz
Vote: 4-0

D. New Board Officers (Chairperson and Vice Chairperson)

Hilda Lopez nominated Gloria Ruiz for the Community Advisory Committee Chairperson for the 2022-2023.

a. Nomination and election of new Chairperson

Moved: Hilda Lopez
Seconded: Joel Escobar
Vote: 4-0

Gloria Ruiz nominated Hilda Lopez for the Community Advisory Committee Chairperson for 2022-2023.

b. Nomination and election of new Vice Chairperson

Moved: Gloria Ruiz
Seconded: Lacey Harris
Vote: 4-0

E. Public Input

Yvette Baptiste, Executive Director of the Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center, introduced herself and shared that they had recently been chosen as a Family Empowerment Center (FEC) for the WACSEP SELPA area. The agency has been around for 30 years serving families through the regional center. Ms. Baptiste described some of the services they offer. She also promoted an upcoming event.

F. Budget Review

- a. \$5,000 has been budgeted for CAC for the 2022-2023 school year.

The CAC reviewed the budgeted amount for the 2022-2023 school year.

G. Discussion Items

- a. 2022-2023 Parent Trainings

Ms. Janet Queneau shared that last year the CAC Board talked extensively about potential parent trainings which included the topics of the IEP process, cyber safety, middle school, community college support, autism, and transitioning out of high school. The Board discussed whether the training should be in person or virtual with the consensus being in person.

- b. 2023 Disability Resource and Transition Fair (DRTF)

- i. Feedback from May 12, 2022

Ms. Janet Queneau reported there were approximately 65 attendees at the last Disability Resource and Transition Fair at Pioneer High School which was a good turn out for our first year back in person. There were families from all but one of the member districts. There were three breakout sessions with a small group attending each one. Ms. Gloria Ruiz and Ms. Hilda Lopez shared they thought the event was well received.

- ii. Planning for 2023

The Board discussed potential dates for the Disability and Transition Fair in March and hoped to work with Pioneer High School once again in

regards to location.

c. CAC tablecloth and DRTF banner

The Board discussed purchasing a CAC tablecloth to be used at future events and a vinyl banner for the Disability Resource and Transition Fair for a more professional look.

d. Meeting with Legislators and inviting them to WACSEP

Ms. Janet Queneau shared that there was a request from a CAC Board Member to meet with legislators outside of the meetings held during the Legislative Sharing Day. WACSEP reached out to three legislators but had only heard back from Senator Archuleta's office; he could meet with the CAC Board on October 4th. The Board agreed to move forward with the meeting in person at the Senator's district office. The Board hoped to meet with Assemblymember Lisa Calderon's office as well and invite her to see what WACSEP does.

e. Ideas for publicizing CAC and WACSEP

The CAC Board discussed ideas for publicizing CAC which included making informational videos, fun social media posts, promotional stickers, and improvements to the WACSEP website making it more user friendly. The goal is to make WACSEP resources easy to find and WACSEP be a welcoming place for families.

H. Action Items

- a. It is recommended that the CAC Board approve, not to exceed, \$375.00 to pay for a CAC tablecloth and a Disability Resource and Transition Fair banner.

Moved: Hilda Lopez
Seconded: Joel Escobar
Vote: 4-0

I. Director's Comments

- a. WACSEP website and Instagram account - coming soon

Ms. Queneau thanked Ms. Alexandria Duchi for her help in explaining Instagram and some of its features; she has a lot of ideas on how WACSEP can use Instagram to increase connection with the community from a business standpoint. The Instagram handle had been secured, although not yet active. Ms. Janet Queneau looked forward to launching it along with the new website. The website was actively being worked on as well and hoped to have it ready to launch in January.

b. Finalized California Budget

The Governor budget gave a \$500 million increase to special education in the 2022-23 budget; the base rate increased to \$820 per Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for total enrollment. It increased from \$715 to \$820 which is a significant increase. There are many districts across the state with declining enrollment, so this increase might help with that. Also, there is a proposal to have state and federal mental health funds go straight to districts, based on ADA. Currently, the money goes to the SELPA, and all member districts decide how the money is disseminated to support all students in the SELPA. This change would not mean we would be losing resources, but could mean that the resources are coming from different funds. She also shared that, as of 2025, the state is required to have a special education addendum to the LCAP on how money is spent for special education.

c. Other items

Ms. Janet Queneau shared that the CAC Board has a new member for the Little Lake City School District, Renee Martinez. She anticipated her presence at the next meeting. Additionally, she congratulated the new chair and vice chair and thanked Ms. Veronica Ramirez for her service as vice chair for the previous term.

Ms. Janet Queneau shared information on SB 1113, an inclusion bill, which requires more support and requirements for administrator and general education teacher credentials around inclusion for students with disabilities. She thanked the CAC Board for a good job on pushing support for the bill.

Ms. Janet Queneau also introduced Brandi Nerio, WACSEP's new SELPA Liaison. She is highly experienced, has taught in the community, and went to school in the area. She would be working as a neutral facilitator for districts and parents, helping everyone work together. She is currently developing our Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program and will take the lead on some parent trainings and liaison with the Family Empowerment Center (FEC).

Ms. Janet Queneau reported that WACSEP was chosen for a CalECSE grant which supports early childhood. Ms. Paula Miller, WACSEP Transition Coordinator, will be serving as Technical Assistance Facilitator and supporting WACSEP teams, districts, and helping families in the area as well as Regional Center.

Lastly, Ms. Janet Queneau reported that there was an MOU with Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center to have trainings at WACSEP. Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center supports our students but is housed in Alhambra so this will be more convenient for many of our SELPA families once they resume in-person trainings.

J. Adjournment- The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Moved: Hilda Lopez
Seconded: Joel Escobar
Vote:4-0

