

Sonoma Valley SEAC

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 15, 2018

Location

SVUSD District Office - 17850 Railroad Avenue - Boardroom

CALL TO ORDER

Announcement of Spanish Language Translation Services - completed

Approval of Agenda - Emily motions to approve, Fran seconded

Approval of Minutes from 10/18/18 - Dani Moussa, Lisa Bell seconds

Public Comment

Mindy introduced, made suggestions for public comment. No public comment.

REPORTS

No report from Director (not in attendance)

Question about Robo-calls regarding school closure for NPS parents

Nona Gamble commented that NPS parents had transportation issues and Lori reported that she is trying to figure out why parents didn't get calls

1. Special Education Director, Vanessa Riggs - absent, Lori Stark commented
 - o Director was going to speak about Maureen Burness who is doing Special Ed Review
 - o Lori reported that there will be a meeting to chat with Maureen for feedback on Tuesday the 27th - it will be 2-3 sites per day and she will meet with parents that night
 - o Marni Sager asks if there is a way to communicate in writing/printed materials?
 - o We were going to see the list of questions that the district has for Maureen... Vanessa has been sick since last Friday
2. Council member reports
 - Celeste Winders and Mindy Luby shared that COPAA is really great resource with a website to learn more at copaa.org. Annual conference in Spring - this year in New Orleans and they will be attending March 7-10. They will learn and share, inviting people to join and share resources.
 - Cameron McKesson mentioned that COPAA was in Monterey last year. She shared that some content is only available to lawyers and advocates and that this is a great opportunity for Q & A. She posited that if there is an area that SEAC members/Special Ed parents would like addressed or answered, this would be a great opportunity - we can also solicit our members who will be attending.

AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM #1.

Special Education Moment Information

Renea Magnani

Renea was absent but Mindy reported talking with her about a Dyslexia simulation. If there are parents who are concerned about Dyslexia, Mindy is making herself available.

Open opportunity to utilize time to make general comment regarding sped, following issues were raised:

- Addressing the need of students who are having increased behaviors - a need for a reminder to help children self regulate via push ups, sit ups, etc. and addressing perceptible needs.
- Focus on how 504 students have various levels of need and those needs are not as evident so children fall through the cracks.
- A call for SEAC members to be more self-aware, slow our speech for translation, open the group to a broader community and understand that many parents have multiple barriers to participation.
- Celeste suggested to do FERPA session first in Spanish and then follow up in English. (FERPA refers to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.)
- Lori Stark discussed that there have been many translation issues and the district wants to get more diversity in the room. Recommended that all parents should please email Lori with details such as:
 - is translation not working
 - does the translator not know technical language
 - is translation not available?
- Addressing the lack of cohesiveness among team members at IEP meetings and a feeling that parents, faculty and admins are not all on the same team.
- The need for legal education and training for all participants at IEPs, including educators, contractors and parents. The additional need for funding to not be the determining factor for services and the fact that some states have the monetary IEP decisions made by entities separate from those who determine services.
- Mario expressed gratitude to Celeste and Mindy creating the SEAC and working to partner with the district to collaborate.
- Mindy shared concern about a lack of protocol at the DO and how this is an area for Maureen to look into real deficiencies and successes during her study.
- Discussion regarding the two teacher development days with so much focus on instructional practices and a question about how and why the topics for those days are chosen.

- Elizabeth Kaufman (the associate superintendent for curriculum and instruction) explained why Maureen was hired. There is a collective feeling that the district can do better and with that understanding, everyone is trying to get up to speed.

- The DO wanted an independent lens who is not tasked with the fixing, to help to guide the process of prioritizing a plan, particularly with such new administrators.
- Maureen has a background in Special ed and sits on the CDE special education task force.
- A question was raised about her contract, whether it was uniform, whether the school board or superintendent approved it

ACTION ITEM #2.

2018/2019 Meeting Calendar Approval Action

Christmas & Spring breaks created two months to possibly adjust:

- December 20th meeting was in question but it was decided to keep it calendared. District teachers are not required to attend meetings the last week prior to winter break but may attend if their calendars allow them to do so.
- March 14th or 28th? The school board meeting is the 12th but based upon conference week, the date of March 28th was selected.

Cameron McKesson put motion to approve and Emily Raaka seconded

ACTION ITEM #3.

Bylaw amendments Action

Addition of meeting detail:

1. Addition to verbiage - 3rd Thursday of every month from 6-7:15
2. Changes to dates in December and Spring
3. Co-chairs vs. Chair
4. This SEAC will follow Roberts rules for practices (governance of following a meeting). We make decisions about what to advise people on as opposed to issuing policies. We set timeframe and have motions and seconds. Mario suggested written mission statement of group. When referring to acronyms, a visual aid would help. Celeste seconded and spoke to how easily one can get caught up in acronyms and edu-speak. Good reminder to spell things out - check sheet. Emily will typeset and get them printed. ABC's of special ed...

Motion to approve: Fran Weber second from Dani Moussa

- Revised meeting calendar (above action item)
- Added "Co-chair" and vice chair
- Voting procedures: Adoption of Robert's Rules

ACTION ITEM #4. Ad hoc committees for: Information

Potential ad hoc committees include:

1. *Special education survey*

Call for volunteers. Celeste, Deanna, Fran and Marni to conduct the survey. Mindy and Celeste will send an email regarding ad-hoc.

2. *Parent workshops (this could work in conjunction with survey committee)*

Organizing, finding speakers, determining how they are coordinated. Suggested using the survey to determine topics.

Some possible topics included:

- IEP basics EVERY year
- 504 info

Jennifer Saldana volunteered to organize a meeting to coordinate and plan potential workshops.

A suggestion was made that ad hoc committees should be less of a commitment than the SEAC and should be created to work with people's schedules to help promote engagement.

3. *SRJC*

IEP/504 information meeting planning

4. *Community outreach*

Ideas included:

- Forming a group to develop and implement a plan
- Working with law enforcement (particularly how special needs kids look different in the community and how to engage appropriately)

Celeste volunteered.

- Having SEAC representatives at each school site do outreach on campus and solicit members and opinions
- Outreach via the DO, Peachjar, teachers and using bilingual paper communication via these channels in order to access people who don't have email or wifi.
- Adding a welcome from SEAC for new families to be handed out at every IEP with the information about rights.

ACTION ITEM #5.

2018-2019 School Year Projects/Ad Hoc Committee Brainstorm.....Information

Ideas included:

- Mindy requested to send an email with suggestions - perhaps a Google Doc for parents, workshops, etc.
- Looking at air quality from the perspective of fragile kids and emergency planning specific to special needs students, for example, How to do drills, shelter in place.
- Future agenda item - what emergencies look like with special needs... mobility issues, sensory needs, inability to be quiet in a lockdown and the need for better

communication during emergencies including questions about socioeconomic differences.

- Modeling collaboration and creating best practices and a starting point between faculty, staff, administration and parents. Teachers see patterns, best practices, something that is missing.
- Highlighting the need for diverse perspectives and adopting protocols to remind that we sometimes forget what we and others might not know.
- The ability of the SEAC to not necessarily fix things immediately but fix things systemically and over a long time.
- Lisa Bell volunteered to do outreach with preschools.
- The date of November 27th from 6-7 was shared as the official time for parents to meet Maureen
- Feedback from Spanish/English Translator:
 - - The process was smooth but it was difficult because she doesn't know acronyms, policies about what happens in IEPs, pre-training via flyer for translators ahead of time.
 - - Translation is still trying to play catch-up. Same issues happen at IEPs. He suggested providing translators opportunities to ask for repetition.

ACTION ITEM 6.

Future Agenda Items ProposedInformation

Anyone can suggest agenda or action item...just email svseac@gmail.com

ADJOURNMENT - 7:39PM

Emily moved to adjourn

Celeste seconded

Minutes submitted by Emily Raaka