

Sonoma Valley SEAC

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Location: SVUSD District Office - 17850 Railroad Avenue - Boardroom

CALL TO ORDER

Announcement of Spanish Language Translation Services

Approval of Agenda - Emily Raaka approves, Dani Moussa seconds

Approval of Minutes from 11/15/18 - Fran Weber moves to approve, Renea Magnani seconds

Public Comment

Lori Stark - The CAC invites parents all over the county to meet, they are working with SELPA The CAC is meeting in Santa Rosa Feb12 and April 9th - will send flyers - SVUSD currently not represented in Sonoma County CAC
CAC serves to create outreach between district and families

REPORTS

1. Special Education Director, Vanessa Riggs

- Exciting activity in district - researching new training program for assistants. Previously consisted of short training on monthly Wednesday or coaching on the job and they recognize the need for something more formalized.
- Partial online program and paraprofessional program... any staff including bus and yard duty will be eligible for training. Staff can select additional modules such as Autism, intervention, reading.
- DO will be documenting processes and creating transparency and formalized process.

2. Council member reports

- Dunbar (Nona Gamble) using program for social emotional learning - Zones of regulation.
- Elementary principals looking into supporting systems. Celeste - Zones of Regulation app. Mindy - can be used for people of all abilities.
- Question from Mindy - will it go district-wide? Renea says that more programs such as "Step up" will also be helping get on track. Every school has something they are using and are working on ways that the schools can do more to support social/emotional health.
- Mindy suggested Confidence & Joy: Success Strategies for Kids with Learning Differences: A Step-by-Step Guidebook for Parents and Professionals by Dr. Deborah Swain

AGENDA

1. Special Education Moment Information

Renea Magnani

Recapped Daniel Silberstein training from the Diagnostic Center of Northern California. Demystifying Dyslexia - it was a 3 hour workshop covering diagnostic procedures and training regarding CA AB 1369 in CA - Dyslexia guidelines for special and regular ed teachers.

Topics included being an intervention teacher, how dyslexia is diagnosed, guidelines, how is it identified.

Powerpoint from Renea - view here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bwog00Gq7L3ecGhZQ2k1R25XUkVfejRGM0dyNmpSdUI3RjQ4/view>

2. Ad Hoc updates Information

Three google docs have been created - a place to plant ideas and marinate Suggestion to perhaps meet and start making some movement...a starting place Outreach, parent workshops and survey (both teachers and parents)

Ad hoc committees are a great opportunity for people who cannot commit to the full responsibility of serving as part of the SEAC

Survey - Marnie Sager will start by creating a Google form.

3. Site Outreach at PrestwoodInformation

Marnie Sager & Lani Gullotta

Spoke with Principal about newsletter re: being parent reps of SEAC, how it started, etc. Attached minutes, etc. Parents can read minutes and opt to participate.

It was suggested to replicate this process and share to other sites.

- Nona - NPS families are not getting info from schools or district - there was no announcement about this SEAC meeting. Confidentiality is such a problem for communication. Specific needs with NPS - outreach has to come from the district. Needs to go out at the beginning of the year. Parents need to be advised regarding case managers.
- Suggestion regarding district sending potential email regarding SEAC to NPS parents?

- Is Lori Stark in charge of NPS students? She is case managing most. She and Vanessa send a child to an NPS but they need to know that they are still part of the district. A letter would be great for people who don't have internet.
- Letter to ALL special ed families regarding SEAC and outreach.
- Lani - ad hoc committee suggestion: Support - we have people who are qualified to be support people, perhaps pairing families who could mentor each other? Spanish speaking families? Unique diagnoses? Preschool parent mentors?
- Lori - Can we consider ad hoc about translation at IEPs? She needs feedback.
- George - translator described what he sees in 3 IEPs per day - most families are agreeable but the language and information are so much and so fast that he gets chased out in parking lot afterwards because parents are confused.

4. Recommendation for District to hire Spanish translator for Special Ed Action

- DELAC/ELAC specific to special ed, translation of IEP docs, paperwork. 180 seems low given that there are 670 families in Special ed in district. Some are reclassified as non-ELL, but that doesn't mean that parents don't need translation. 164 ELL IEPs
- Lori and Vanessa agree - working with who the district has now to ensure understanding of terminology, acronyms. Everyone has a right for translation. SVHS has a translator who is fast.
- Abel Moya cited that there is a need for more accuracy. In some IEPs and meetings, the translator can only communicate about 60%. Meetings should be slowed down for accurate translation. Translators need help.

Motion to approve: Emily Raaka, Marnie Sager seconds...

Roll call: Emily Raaka/Abel Moya, Fran Weber, Nona Gamble, Renea Magnani, Jan Erickson, Stacy Derickson, Celeste Winders, Mindy Luby

Move to have Mario Castillo serve on SEAC as DELAC member
(ELACs currently not represented)

5. 2018 California Dashboard for Special Education students Information

Celeste Winders

- Parents can look at each child's school... caschooldashboard.org
It shows most recent proficiency data and is very visual and easy to read
- Shows that disabled kids are suspended more...this is of great significance... kids have a team, someone should be jumping in with in FBA or modified behavior plan
- Job readiness for students with disabilities is low
- ELA and Math - orange district wide but red otherwise
- Suggestion to look at subgroups and raise questions or concerns for possible agenda item - how this data will inform curriculum going forward
- Question from Mario as to how this affects ELL and socio economically disadvantaged kids?

- Celeste asked Elizabeth regarding CTE completion, AP testing, math performance because report does not include breakdown data on ELL progress. Can only get overall progress and will be shown in Jan Board Meetings.
- Mario - wants to know in Special Ed how district is determining performance and dynamics.
- Elizabeth pointed out that this is all a huge concern. Aggregate data is as much of a concern as subgroups. How do we effectively analyze this with people who are new and working hard in the district? Tr1, Tr2...needs to be evidence based. Lots of urgency. She will be reporting on data in Jan Board Meeting. Celeste will add third row for ELL and will send it out.

6. Continued contact with Maureen Burness (Special Ed review) Information

Maureen is always seeking feedback and can be emailed at moburness@gmail.com and svusdreview@gmail.com

End of January is cutoff date.

Vanessa will report back to the SEAC with deadline to share with reps at sites.

Suggestion to site reps: when doing outreach, make it clear that feedback is still being solicited. Parents can also submit to SEAC for submission to Maureen.

7. Future Agenda Items Proposed Information

- Working with Spanish Speaking parents - figuring out ways to do that, ad hocs re: translation and IEPs
- Planning action given the student Dashboard information
- Possible ad hoc for support
- Obtaining reports prior to IEPs - creating standardized practices around information, parent participation
- Procedures regarding joint or separate meetings for Spanish speakers - 2 separate agenda items.
 - Lori Stark wants feedback about translation
 - Mario suggested input about outreach
- Marnie - setting strategic goals for 2019 and prioritizing first full year of council to accomplish tangible goals/targets.
- Breakout groups to determine goals efficiently within ad hoc groups.
- Submit ideas in email and stack common goals to consolidate. The SEAC does not want to police the conversation... we want to support and guide but stick more to task.
- Google survey? Frontloading info for agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting:

- Thursday, January 17, 6-7:15pm at District Office
- Lani Gulotta moved to adjourn, Jan seconded

Minutes submitted by Emily Raaka