

# Sonoma Valley SEAC

Regular Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 21, 2019

## Location

SVUSD District Office - 17850 Railroad Avenue - Boardroom 6pm - 7:15pm

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Announcement of Spanish Language Translation Services

Attendees: Celeste, Mindy, Mario Castillo, Elizabeth Stevenson, Lisa Bell, Lily Raaka, Emily Raaka, Abel Moya, Sharon Johnston, Lani Gullotta, Fran Weber, Nona Gamble, Vanessa Riggs, Dani Moussa, Stacy Derickson

Approval of Agenda - Approved by Abel Moya & Stacy - Dunbar

Approval of Minutes from 12/20/18 - Lani Gullotta, Fran Weber

## **Public Comment**

- Mario Castillo - Request for childcare at meetings from public. Started support group for Spanish speaking Special Needs parents. Second meeting will be 6p on Feb 28th - at El Verano room 20.2 and Matrix will be there to do IEP basics. Interpreter will be there. Mario has been sharing info regarding this group at ELAC meetings.
- Nona Gamble - NPS communication to parents is still problematic.
- Lily Raaka - Nasir Winders and Lily will be holding informational sessions at high schools with Special Ed teachers, parents and experts to increase awareness. Want to create an ad hoc with adults.
- Celeste Winders - Tuesday, March 5th is a Transition Fair in Santa Rosa. Spanish interpreters will be available. Great opportunity to discover what options are available regarding higher ed, residential options, health, etc.
- Stacy - Recognized the wonderful work of Celeste and Mindy who volunteer every day and put so much into supporting our group.
- Fran - Ed Rev is coming up first Saturday in May 4 at Giants Ball Park. It is a worthwhile Special Ed expo with 2 sessions in AM and PM covering all areas of special ed. Admission is free. Mindy usually works it and reports that it covers everything from dyslexia to executive functioning. They also have many fun activities for kids.

## **Reports**

**1. Special Education Director, Vanessa Riggs**

New developments - Hiring a consultant to develop staff handbook with policies and procedures to create consistency among expectations and rules. They also plan to create a parent handbook covering IEP basics, how placements happen, etc.

Performance indicator review - Sonoma was out of compliance in 2 areas. Least Restrictive Environment (too many special ed students are in Special Ed all day) meeting with the CDE to send someone to discuss process. Working to give special ed students access to more general ed. Secondary principals will all be involved. The other compliance issue was regarding suspensions. Celeste has requested suspension data.

State Targets for special education inclusion are:

No more than 52.2% should be out of general ed

40% in general ed, should be 50% - Sonoma is 10% off

Research says that inclusion is best for children. Inclusive settings benefit general ed and special ed students. Breaking down barriers, making sure all kids are valued.

- Class size and difficulty of teachers to meet needs of kids with IEPs in large classes.
- Too much focus on “checking the box” for mandates instead of taking care of kids’ individual needs. Supports need to be in place to include special ed students successfully.
- Principals in this district are receptive. Lori states that it is understood that there is not a quick fix.
- Curriculum - increasing curriculum in RSP program, special ed. Seeking feedback from teachers. New Lang Arts, new Math, Orton Gillingham, Seeing Stars, more specific reading.
- How are programs and curricula monitored for success with each tier of kids? Tier 3 will all have the same plan for all special ed kids at all sites, serving all needs at all sites consistently.
- Issue of how ELL, bilingual, bicultural kids are served.

Vanessa & Lori responded that these students are a key part of the district. Socorro and Elizabeth have tried to engage more ELL parents but it has been a struggle. They want to hear directly from parents. Lani suggested adding childcare to parent meetings to increase access. Vanessa reported that in former places that she has worked, people were paid for childcare.

**AGENDA**

**1. Special Education Moment ..... Information**  
Tied into Agenda item 3

**2. SEER (Sonoma Educación Especial y Recursos) meeting..... Information**  
**Mario Castillo**

The first meeting was in January, next meeting will be Feb 28th. Childcare would make the group more successful. Parents are enthusiastic. Covered struggle with language at IEPs and inability for families to gain access to services. Striving to share about resources, gaining educational tools to advocate for our kids. 10 people attended (a great start).

Abel - reported that it was a great group with lots of questions. People felt free to be more open in a less formal setting. There is a concern to make sure that kids are not put into the wrong placements just to meet numbers.

Mindy suggested sending out flyers to principals and groups again.

SEER - approved and are part of collaboration with SEAC. Created to provide safe space...linguistically, culturally to make parents comfortable to share at their level. The goal is to make one group going forward.

### **3. ESY ..... Information**

Extended School year is a service that is part of IEP. Doesn't always mean summer but typically does. Concerns that are qualifiers for ESY, kids who love the consistency of school. Entering into March. If you have an ESY offer or not, now might be a good time to reach out to IEP team to make services and logistics come into play.

- Qualifications include possibility of regression, efforts to recoup skills, emerging skills, nature and severity of disability, etc. Celeste wanted to make sure that SEAC understands ESY. Suggested reaching out to parents at sites that parents don't know about ESY. It exists on service page but has possibly been passed by quickly or skipped.
- Vanessa stated that every IEP should have a conversation about ESY
- Important - confusion because ESY is not a place - it is a service unique for each child
- Lani asked about Extended Service time. How does this extend to supports, who is attending. V - it is complicated depending on expectations, second piece around 504. If your students have a school activity, reach out to team. Includes outdoor ed. You must do this in advance, contact Director of Special Ed but plans had to be done ahead to do staffing.
- Mindy - Question to V regarding bringing up options at IEPs for ESY
- Hervy Williams teacher at high school is the principal of ESY - very responsive, approachable, gives kids what they need
- Determining sites - parents will start receiving permission slips in the next month or so to determine staffing, etc. Each kid gets different offers depending on needs. V - one child had extra summer camp to have social emotional time with peers.
- Sharon - posed question about using ESY to make up services? No, but summer would be a good time for compensatory services. Does a parent have to make a request by March? No - just contact manager.
- Lani - Questioned accountability piece regarding informing parents about ESY options.
- Could district send out memo for service providers to review records and make sure missed sessions are made up?

- DO dates: June 10 - July 5, no school on the 4th determine area of need for your child?
- Mindy - summer reading program - is it an option for kids with IEPs or 504s. Unlikely gen ed reading program will be offered to special ed but on a case by case basis. Historically, there has not been allowance.
- Mario - Will follow up on this ESY topic in Spanish for next week's meeting, Celeste will attend meeting too

**4. LCAP Committee Member Seat .....Information**

Local Control and Accountability Plan - funds service socioeconomically disadvantaged, ELL or foster. Need more people on LCAP - especially Spanish speaking parents. Please reach out to solicit for more participants.

**5. Break out groups for strategic goals 2019 ..... Information**

Lily and Mindy and Mario interested in Lily's ad hoc committee. Nasir and Lily wanting to reach out to parents and students to educate and do forums.

**6. Future Agenda Items Proposed ..... Information**

- Preschool and a possible preschool transition fair.
- Community outreach - working with Community health center into improve timeline for early intervention.
- SEAC working on Response to Intervention model to increase access to early intervention, articulating intervention model and overcoming "failure model" to gain access to services.
- Investment in alternative programs. Working around problems in federal law and the way that qualifying qualities are written to reduce gaps between special ed and general ed kids.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting:

- Thursday, March 21, 6pm - 7:15pm at District Office

Move to Adjourn:

Lani Gullotta moved, unanimous second

Minutes respectfully submitted by Emily Raaka