

Sonoma Valley SEAC

Regular Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 18, 2019

Location

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

CALL TO ORDER

Announcement of Spanish Language Translation Services

Approval of Agenda

Lily and Emily Raaka

Approval of Minutes from 3/28/19

Celeste Winders and Elizabeth Stevenson

Public Comment

Lily Raaka - update about info panel. Lily spoke with Ms. Swanson at SVHS who advised to start in the early fall.

Emily Raaka - shout out to Celeste for pre-IEP information and pep talk.

Celeste Winders - Reported on SEAC outreach at Community Health fair - she had a table about the organization, vision statement information. Had handouts and a basket of sensory balls. It was a successful way to connect with new people.

Elizabeth Stevenson - Reported being impressed by kids coming to their own IEP meetings, stating the classes they wanted, higher reading levels, enjoyed the families and kids.

Nona Gamble - Described ongoing transportation problems at NPS - shuttles are arriving late. Approximately 50 min service lost every week at ANOVA. There is still no notification about the SEAC meetings or district news to outside sources such as NPS parents. Preference would be to get too many robo calls/emails as opposed to not getting any. There are currently approximately 30 kids in NPS.

Mindy Luby- can site principals put this info on calendar/newsletter?

Reports

1. Special Education Director, Vanessa Riggs

Summer rec opportunities - details in link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WGaVVxa5HE1fpfMgkod_qhxuTEGvfB0yEeD3mOndN7k/edit?ts=5cb8fdd2

Camp Kennedy and Camp Kaos mostly 1:1 in Howarth.

Cycle without Limits - great for a variety of disabilities
Friends Adventure Camp

Cypress - 2 week blocks, great outings June 10-21, Aug 5-16
Boost - for kids with phys disabilities, cp, making big jumps in physical skills Bring specialist from Europe - quite lovely
Creating NPS housed at Cypress for kids with physical disabilities.
Camp Crem - NBRC members can save up respite for use
Epicenter in Santa Rosa has a camp too
Many families report positive experiences at these camps.

2. Council member reports
n/a

AGENDA

1. Special Education Moment: Vision Statements (Celeste)..... Information
Carryover from health fair. Passed out samples of handouts. Would like to do workshops of 15-20 people. Vision statement is what you would like to see for your child in the world and what you see for your child as an adult, helps child stay centered and includes close goals and big picture goals. This can be included as parent addendum at child's IEP. SEAC parents should think about making one for their own child/children and then reach out to parents at your site. Celeste will send out so that SEAC members can share.

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

Had a good meeting last month. Issues brought up were: lack of consistency on services. When Mario asked Matrix to support by regularly attending it didn't really go anywhere. A lot of people reached out to the Matrix rep but she did not really follow through. Never confirmed participation at last meeting and did not show. It comes down to resources and parents not getting the support that they need. SEER goal is to create a vision where we bring parents together and build leadership and capacity to get them to join at SEAC table. They need the resources - education and information. Bicultural and bilingual. Idea to see if possibly Socorro could help. Multiple issues that impact a child...it is a matter of working together. SEER goals are same as SEAC with the hope of merging them together.

Melanie Blake - Suggested reaching out to Marin or elsewhere who could help with outreach and information with language and cultural match for consistency.

Mindy - Suggested that she has people in mind who are trained in advocacy and education but they would have to travel for a fee. They are from Southern CA - two women who sit on two councils and would like to provide services.

Lori Stark - Want to provide support and resources without making SEER participants feel like they are invading. SEER seems like parent support group and DO staff is happy

to come if they would like a district rep, answer questions, provide info. Agrees that we need to find to find bicultural, bilingual support.

Mario - Wishes to create a model that can be supported by district and be a bridge between SEAC and SEER but does not have the time or resources to be the leader.

3. Special Education Report Information

-Focused Timeline & Action Items (Vanessa Riggs) - Jumping to May

-Special Board Meeting April 27. 2019

El Verano

Basic plan:

9-9:10 welcome and introductions

9:10-9:40 Data overview and LCAP overview

9:45-11 Trustees rotate among DELAC, Equity Task Force, LCAP Committee and SEAC

Process:

Introduce committee and its goals/purpose

Q and A with Trustees (Trustees will rotate in groups of two to address the following questions with SEAC representatives)

What do parents see as the greatest needs for students with disabilities in this district?

What academic and social-emotional supports do your children need to access their education?

What do you think is working to support students with disabilities?

How do you see the district promoting inclusive practices for all learners?

What opportunities do parents currently have for involvement in their child's education?

Where do you see additional opportunities to support your child's education?

Any other thoughts you would like to share with the Board about students with disabilities?

Could they do robo-call to parents to let them know that they can come?

Mario - re: LCAP wanted clarity about stipend. Also asked about translation to make the meeting accessible. (especially ELAC group)

Melanie - Suggested perhaps do the meetings primarily in Spanish?

4. Role of Site Council Members.....Information

Site council representatives can define own roles on each campus...guideline of SEAC left it open on purpose. HW: Think about how we see our roles, how we would like to see our roles. What we could be doing that we are not? Be specific. Perhaps morning coffees? How can SEAC support reps? When creating bylaws, Site Council reps were envisioned as point people who are accessible to parents and can communicate back to SEAC, identifying what needs are. Representing SDC, NPS, preschool, all with unique needs. We also have unique seats that need to be filled...it is critical that El Verano and

Flowery have Spanish-first reps to see what more we can do to have better representation at each table. The goal is alternating translation at each meeting. So many Special Education kids are ELL. What is each Site Representative's role and how can we support that? And it may change!

Nona - NPS outreach is difficult except for personal friends because of confidentiality. DO can send out NPS email introducing Nona and giving her contact info. Mindy and Celeste will put outreach information together and Vanessa and Lori can send it out to NPS families. Most people don't know that SEAC exists.

Opportunities to share SEAC: Back to school night, registration (rush). Site reps could work tables at these events?

Mario - Hopeful that DO rehires an EL coordinator and makes an investment due to LCAP so that ELACs and DELACs begin to truly function. Celeste echoed that EL position was huge loss of a critical person who was helping bridge and coordinate between schools and administrators. The DO needs to take a hard look at their allocation of resources to serve these kids. The former person was making headway but now nobody is serving in that role. Mario expressed concern about possibly bringing people to meetings where they might not be listened to or served - this is a critical issue.

5. College and Career CenterInformation
Celeste invited Mr. Mori or College and Career Center (CCC) rep to come for May SEAC meeting and speak with a Special Education lens.

- What we can share with them that we can give to make CCC more accessible?
- Can our kids access workability?
- Can counselors attend transition IEPs?
- Could they possibly start working with Becoming Independent for students who need more high level assistance?
- How do students receive translation if parents do not ask?
- How do they serve kids with anxiety?
- Could they be more culturally sensitive - perhaps bilingual/bicultural staff?

SVHS brings SRJC rep for one day per year to work with students. The CCC doesn't seem accessible for Special Ed students. The onus seems to be on kids to come to CCC and there is not a lot of outreach to SE.

Celeste discussed the Dashboard and how college and career readiness is a big part of it. There is an opportunity for the SEAC to work with the CCC to give a lens, provide insight and ed and enhance services.

Ideas included:

- Adding a corner for severely handicapped students. There are programs for at many colleges for SH.

- The counselors should go to every classroom and highlight services available to kids at each level, including mainstream Special Ed students who have anxiety, dyslexia, high functioning Autism..

Lily - Reported that Link Crew gives tour to Freshmen and that this was the first year that special ed kids were included. Emails go out to students too. Information could be embedded into advisory, transition plans.

Melanie - Reported having had a meeting recently in the CCC. There is a sincere interest to create new service and delivery models to expand services.

Mario - Attended "Parenting in the Age of Anxiety" sponsored by SVHS. Sad to hear a mom talk about how challenging and sad it has been to see pressure of kids going to 4 year college.

Lily - maybe bring Creighton back from SRJC for panel as SE person. Promoting SRJC more. As Freshmen, kids made vision boards...last year went on Naviance to set up goals and pathway.

Celeste - Suggested outreach to local business people. Trying to create employment opportunities in various trades in Sonoma. How can we support students who have anxiety/dyslexia in job path? Can we work around ESY? Can we work with business owners and non-profits?

Lori - Suggested that SEAC members create list of questions, concerns, barriers and send to Celeste to help prep.

6. Future Agenda Items Proposed Information

May is last meeting before break for Summer.

Ad Hoc - Lily to work on this during the summer - can plan at May meeting

Attendees: Nona Gamble, Mario Castillo, Melanie Blake, Celeste Winders, Mindy Luby, Lori Stark, Vanessa Riggs, Elizabeth Stephenson, Lily Raaka and Emily Raaka

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting:

- Thursday, May 16, 6pm - 7:15pm at District Office
 - This will be our last meeting before Summer Break