

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
GOVERNING BOARD OF THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room
4:00 p.m., Thursday, January 9, 2020

Committee Members

Mr. Scott M. Schmerelson, Chairperson
Ms. Jackie Goldberg, Board Member
Dr. George J. McKenna, III, Board Member

External Representatives

Ms. Claudia Lozano, CAC Representative
Mr. Alan Newman, UTLA
Dr. Beth Lasky, California State University,
Northridge

District Staff Members

Ms. Deneen Cox, Chief Compliance and Performance
Monitoring Counsel
Mr. Aaron Jeffery, Co-Lead Director, Division of Special
Education
Ms. Lisa Kendrick, Administrator of Special Education,
Local District Northwest
Mr. Marco Tolj, Co-Lead Director, Division of Special
Education

NOTES

The meeting convened at 4:04 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Scott Schmerelson welcomed the audience and asked the committee participants to introduce themselves. Ms. Goldberg and Dr. McKenna were not in attendance. Mr. Schmerelson made a statement outlining the Special Education program Chanda Smith Modified Consent Decree which concluded on December 31, 2019. He thanked all of the teachers, paraprofessionals, service providers, administrators, classified staff and other personnel for their efforts to comply with the law and improve student outcomes.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mr. Schmerelson introduced the item by explaining the role of the Community Advisory Committee and asked Ms. Lisa Mosko, Community Advisory Committee Chairperson, to give an update on the parent committee. Ms. Mosko reviewed the work of the committee over the last months. She asked Mr. Alan Newman, who was representing UTLA on the Special Education Committee, to present two resolutions that he presented to the Community Advisory Committee.

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMPLIANCE UPDATE

Mr. Schmerelson called on Mr. Marco Tolj, Director, Strategic Planning and Data Management, to review the progress of the District. His presentation included the State Performance Plan Indicators and which

department within the District is responsible for each of the indicators such as the 4 year graduation rate, drop out rate, and 12 other instructional indicators for special education students.

Mr. Tolj went into detail on several areas of success and progress including Individual Education Plan timelines and least restrictive environment where special education students are spending less time in the most restrictive environment. He also mentioned the areas with opportunities for growth.

Mr. Schmerelson commented on the issues of mainstreaming and data entry. He called upon other committee representatives for their comments. Mr. Tolj responded to the issues raised including whether more staffing would be helpful to meet the division's goals.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT (MTSS) AND STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRESS TEAM (SSPT)

Mr. Andre Spicer, Administrator, Access Equity and Acceleration Unit, and Ms. Annmarie Serrano, Administrative Coordinator, Local District West, presented on the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) and the need for enhancement of structural supports for individual students. The premise of MTSS is to prevent students who are struggling by addressing academic and behavioral challenges in a responsive way. It is important that the District review practices to make sure there is no disparity in achievement, educational opportunities, special education enrollment, or discipline among different demographic categories of students.

Mr. Spicer said that targeted intervention with more monitoring is necessary. Intervention is done in layers with three tiers with the highest tier having the fewest students but the most intensive intervention. He mentioned that the intervention at each school is expected to be different depending on the needs of the students and the community. Each school has a Student Support and Progress Team (SSPT) to identify students that require additional supports and monitor student progress.

Ms. Serrano spoke about the data the SSPT monitors. She said the team looks at trends and instructional practices. She showed the SSPT website which displays a "toolkit" for use by District staff.

Mr. Spicer responded to questions and concerns raised by the committee. Mr. Tolj said that the Special Education Division should work more closely with the Access Equity and Acceleration Unit to make sure there is greater coordination between the departments. Many students that are enrolled in special education programs do not first go through a Student Support and Progress evaluation. Students who receive tier 2 or tier 3 interventions may be able to avoid special education programs. Dr. Beth Lasky raised the issue that often due to the segregation of special education students, these students may not have received tier 1 opportunities that may have been beneficial.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Schmerelson announced that the next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speaker addressed the committee on the subject indicated:

Mr. David Tokofsky

Budgeting, funding, and extended year for staff

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schmerelson adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

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Materials related to an item on this Agenda distributed to the Board of Education are available at:

<http://laschoolboard.org/01-09-20SpEd>