

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, September 19, 2019

Committee Members

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

External Representatives

Ms. Candace Kennedy, Parent
Ms. Claudia Lozano, Parent
Ms. Hilda Rodriguez-Guzman, Parent

District Members

Ms. Deneen Cox, Chief Compliance and Performance
Monitoring Counsel
Ms. Niru Jayaraman, Assistant Budget Director
Mr. Aaron Jeffery, Co-Lead Director, Division of Special
Education
Ms. Lisa Kendrick, Administrator of Special Education,
Local District Northwest
Mr. Ryan Morse, Principal, Leichman Career Preparatory
and Transition Center
Mr. Marco Tolj, Co-Lead Director, Division of Special
Education

NOTES

The meeting convened at 4:00 p.m.

Board members Ms. Jackie Goldberg and Dr. George J. McKenna, III were not in attendance.

OPENING REMARKS

Committee Chair Scott Schmerelson briefly discussed the upcoming schedule of the Special Education Committee meetings. He welcomed everyone and asked that committee members introduce themselves. Mr. Schmerelson highlighted the purpose of the Special Education Committee and briefly provided the background of the Chanda Smith Modified Consent Decree. He introduced Ms. Deneen Cox, Chief Compliance and Performance Monitoring Counsel, to provide an overview of the Chanda Smith Modified Consent Decree.

CHANDA SMITH MODIFIED CONSENT DECREE OVERVIEW

Ms. Deneen Cox provided a brief review of the Modified Consent Decree (MCD). On August 9, 2019 the United States District Court approved a Stipulation between the parties (the District and MCD Plaintiffs) to conclude and terminate the MCD, effective December 31, 2019. There will be a shift from focusing on the outcomes that were set forth in the MCD which will allow the District to focus more on the State Performance Indicators. Providing services and efforts dedicated to students with disabilities will continue. The District is still focused on implementing student

Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and improving student outcomes. She provided a graph showing the MCD outcomes relative to State Performance Indicators.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OVERSIGHT AND
DISTRICT VALIDATION REVIEW PROCESS AND
STATE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW PROCESS

Mr. Aaron Jeffery, Co-Lead Director, Division of Special Education, discussed the continued monitoring of special education. He discussed the internal and external monitoring systems and briefly discussed the District Validation Review (DVR). He outlined the 14 State Performance Indicators.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP) SERVICE DELIVERY

Ms. Larisa Crookston, Director, Related Services, Division of Special Education, briefly spoke about service delivery. Currently the State does not include service delivery as a specific indicator, however, the State is working on parameters and guidelines to include service delivery as a state indicator. She stated the District is on the forefront where service delivery is concerned because the District already has mechanisms in place.

Ms. Crookston briefly discussed Modified Consent Decree (MCD) Outcome 13. Outcome 13 is comprised of three parts. Outcome Measure 13A addresses the percentage of service delivery that the District must meet by the end of the school year. Outcome Measure 13B addresses parent awareness and notification process to parents. Outcome Measure 13C addresses the Parent Portal access. The District has met all three measures of Outcome 13. She discussed moving forward with disengagement from the MCD.

Comments were heard from committee members.

REVIEW OF 14 STATE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Ms. Lela Rondeau, Coordinator, TK-12 Special Education Instruction, and Ms. Mary Ann Sullivan, Coordinator, TK-12 Special Education Instruction, briefly discussed Performance Indicators 1 (Graduation), 2 (Dropout), 3 (Statewide Assessments), and 5 (Least Restrictive Environment).

Ms. Jackie Mora, Coordinator, Behavior/Least Restrictive Environment Support, Division of Instruction, reviewed Performance Indicator 4 (Suspension & Expulsion).

Ms. Theresa Martin, Director, Early Childhood Special Education, explained Performance Indicators 6 (Preschool Least Restrictive Environment), 7 (Preschool Assessment), and 12 (Part C to Part B Transition which is a two tiered system for servicing preschool children).

Mr. Marco Tolj, Co-Lead Director, Division of Special Education, briefly spoke about Performance Indicator 8 (Parent Involvement).

Ms. Mayra Santos, Director, Psychological Services, Division of Special Education, briefly discussed Performance Indicators 9 (Disproportionality Overall), 10 (Disproportionality Disability), and 11 (Eligibility Evaluation). Ms. Santos responded to questions from committee members regarding how schools can request more psychological services and how students are identified.

Mr. James Koontz, Coordinator, Transition Services, Division of Special Education, reviewed Performance Indicators 13 (Secondary Transition Goals & Services) and 14 (Post-School).

EMMA C. v. TORLAKSON CASE

Ms. Deneen Cox, Chief Compliance and Performance Monitoring Counsel, provided a brief overview of the Emma C. v. Torlakson case. There is a recent court order that established a four phase process for determining whether the state is in compliance with its monitoring and enforcement obligations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. She discussed the four phases of this court order and the different levels of state monitoring. She said the District's ongoing internal monitoring and the foundation in place will help the District with the California Department of Education's monitoring and enforcement.

Mr. Schmerelson announced Mr. Tony Aguilar, Chief of Special Education, Equity and Access, is the point person to address parent needs during public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speakers addressed the committee on the subjects indicated:

Ms. Pam Cohen, Community Member	Chanda Smith Consent Decree
Ms. Sophie Ryan, Community Member	Ethics Violations
Mr. Seymour Amster, Parents, Educators, Teachers, and Students in Action	Chanda Smith Consent Decree
Mr. David Tokofsky	Chanda Smith Consent Decree, Topics for Future Meetings
Mr. Carl Petersen	Chanda Smith Consent Decree
Mr. Jonathan Fratz, Student	Students with Disabilities
Ms. Mayra Zamora, Parent	Support and Services for Students with Disabilities
Mr. Juan Mangandi, Parent	Support for Parents of Students with Disabilities
Ms. Lisa Mosko, Parent	Students with Special Needs

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Schmerelson thanked the presenters and everyone on the committee for participating.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schmerelson adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

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Materials related to an item on this Agenda distributed to the Board of Education are available for public inspection at:
<http://laschoolboard.org/09-19-19SpEd>