

Continuing Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2023- Hybrid Meeting
9:00 AM - 12:03

CAC Attendees: Amy Litzinger, Claudia Cavazos, Marissa Esquivel, Janie Melendez, Jo Ann Wofford, Tara Cevallos, Diana Nelson, Aaron Bangor, Adrian Guerra, Kevin Markel, Agatha Tibodeux, April Estrada

CAC Absentees: Susan Nicholas, Sheryl Kubala

Texas Education Agency: Stephanie Koch, Kristin McGuire

9:00 Welcome and Opening-Amy Litzinger, CAC Chair

Quorum was reached at 9:00, Amy Litzinger opened the meeting and reviewed meeting guidelines, and agenda for the day. Quorum was present. Member introductions were made.

9:11 Presentation by Kristin McGuire TEA, Senior Director of Special Education Programs and Policies

Updates from TEA.

Legislative Updates

HB3, SB 2304, HB 3928, SB 133, HB2938

Special Education Funding

504 Data

Dyslexia student data, services, and program questions were posed and answered.

See supplemental documents/links

- <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/dyslexia-and-related-disorders>

9:47 Public Comment

No one signed up for public comment via Zoom. There was one individual in person to make a public comment. Stephanie Koch read the guidelines.

Stephen Aleman was in person. (Disability Rights Texas)

3 topics

1. Dyslexia
 - a. Topic - Dyslexia handbook as it affects students with disabilities. Review and discuss updates and regulations.
2. SB 133
 - a. Regarding SB 133 where it mentions the use of restraint and other techniques in 5th grade or below. He would like the exception to use specific language and it not be left for interpretation.
3. Special Education Funding
 - a. Improve financial support in public schools for special education.
4. Link for commissioner report.
 - a. <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/government-relations-and-legal/government-relations/texas-commission-on-speciale-ducation-funding.pdf>

10:13

CAC Legislative Updates/CAC 2023 Legislative Report Comparison/Work Groups – Amy Litzinger

- Reviewed the CAC web page in the TEA website.
- Biennial Report work and timeline were discussed.
 - Report Due 1/1/2025
 - Submit by 9/1/24
 - CAC recommendation to route for signature 8/15/24
- Ideas for report
 - Recommend that TEA works with the State Board of Education on Dyslexia Handbook.
 - Digital Literacy and Accessibility
 - Staffing shortages in special education classrooms.
 - Concerns were raised regarding staffing companies that districts are being required to use and the issues that using these companies entail.
 - Behaviors that cause injuries by staff and students - training needed and not required for school staff.
 - October Special Session
 - Vouchers for special education
 - Border security
 - Dyslexia
 - Funding
 - Juvenile justice in schools
 - Health and safety
 - Special session issues
- Biennial Report work groups were created.
- Report formatting
- Recommended that new members review past reports.
- Stephanie will share email contact information.

See supplemental documents/links

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1idSUeeGSv_34qSIQSHv7VAMvVAdSTM0I/edit?usp=sharing&oid=118207715288708236834&rtpof=true&sd=true

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/sses-overview-english.pdf>

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education/supplemental-special-education-services-sses>

11:19 Approve Past Meeting Minutes

- September 21, 2022 Joann Wofford made a motion to approve. Aaron Bangor seconded the motion.

- June 5, 2023 (Not available today)

11:36 Discuss Possible Topics for the Future Meetings

- Investigate feasibility of CAC to develop and distribute a survey soliciting topics and issues regarding special education in partnering with GCPD for developing and/or distributing survey.
- 18+ Program
- Dyslexia Handbook
- SB 133
- Special Education Funding
- Beckley Wilson Act - making Dyslexia a special education issue and not 504
- Zoom link access for the public
- SHARS data and billing process update

11:29 Discuss Possible Future Meeting Dates and Take Possible Action on Current and Future Topics

Monday, December 4, 2023

11:55 Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes made by Amy Litzinger. Jo Ann Wofford, seconded motion.

12:03 Motion to Adjourn

Tara Cevallos made a motion to adjourn. Aaron Bangor seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:03.