



## **Palo Alto CAC Year-End Report to the Board of Education June 30, 2022**

Here is a summary of the activities of the Palo Alto CAC during the 2021-2022 school year.

### **Community Building**

- Family Fun Day (8th Annual) - this year it was back in person, held at Paly. We had about 250 attendees join and children were very engaged with popcorn, juggling, lawn games with the Palo Alto Library, a live animal experience with the Jr. Museum, and a fun art activity offered by a PAUSD student.
- Unity Day/Inclusive Schools Week (9th annual) - promotion and facilitation of district wide bullying prevention programming with PTA Special Ed/Inclusion Reps.
- Holiday Tea (8th Annual) -This is our annual wellness and self-care event for parents and caregivers. This year we included a docent-led tour of The Art of Disability Culture exhibit at Palo Alto Art Center. Treats, tea and coffee were served by students from our high school Futures program.
- Sweetheart Awards (18th Annual) - over 100 teachers, aides, bus drivers, principals, classmates, and other community members received an appreciation award. We did our ceremony virtually again this year, but nevertheless it was a well-attended and meaningful celebration of kindness and the people who have had a positive impact on our students with special needs.
- Special Olympics of Northern CA - we helped to promote the events and support PAUSD's Adaptive PE teachers, and provided a hot dog lunch.
- Bus Driver Appreciation (27+ year Annual) - we provided breakfast prepared by Ada's Cafe for this annual celebration of our district's bus drivers.

### **Parent Education**

- Workshop for Special Education and IEP Fundamentals with an advocate member of non profit organization, COPAA - about 50 attendees at an informative presentation and Q&A.
- PTA Special Education/Inclusion School Rep Training & Support.
- Anxiety, Mindfulness and Resilience Q & A with CHC (Children's Health Council)
- Co- Hosted 3rd Annual Transition IEP Parent Night with PAUSD Special Education Team- Attended by 85 families and well received
- Hosted Mini-seminars with various community presenters and PAUSD department leaders
  - Math and Special Education/ Learning Differences with Youcube from Stanford
  - IMSE (Institute for Multi- Sensory Education)
  - Introducing new museum and access features and service with Palo Alto Junior Museum
  - Assistive Tech with PATCH (Palo Alto Tech Collaboration Hub)
  - Non-academic skills/interests/talents K-12 w/College & Career Exploration & transition specialist
  - New PAUSD Mental Health Initiatives with Incoming Mental Health Director
- Co-sponsored Elementary Virtual Info session for Ohlone Elementary
- Learning Differences Simulation for all 5th Graders at Hoover with their classroom teachers
- Collaborated with PTAC using their eNews as a platform of parent education opportunity for the topics of special education and disability.

## **Advisory**

- Dyslexia/English Language Arts -- continued calls for investment in professional development, universal screening, evidence-based interventions, and capacity-building. Stakeholder meetings with District Literacy and Dyslexia Coordinators. Legislative advocacy for California SB237 (Universal Screening for Risk of Dyslexia). Participation in Early Elementary Curriculum Adoption Committee.
- Equity - Represented needs of Students with Disabilities in the district stakeholder meetings to address the CDE's Finding of and Plan for Significant Disproportionality in PAUSD.
- Secondary Education - advocated for public discussion of bi-annual D/F and A-G reports and continued support for Federal Perkins V, requiring states to utilize a portion of their allocation in the recruitment of special populations to enroll in CTE programs.
- Advocacy and support for Santa Clara County's new Office of Disability Affairs
- SELPA1 CAC -- Representation at meetings and collaboration with local area parents
- Bi-monthly analysis of School Board Meeting Agenda items and statements to the Board on relevant items (available in [News section of CAC Website](#))..

## **Operations**

- Monthly CAC Meetings open to the public, where parents could hear from Special Education Directors, School Board Liaison, and others.
- Maintained website, google group and communications with parents of students with IEPs

During this unprecedented year, our mission remained the same: to support families of students with special education needs by providing forums for respectful interaction and communication between families, the community, and the school district. We aim to educate and advocate about issues in our community, to develop and encourage understanding, acceptance and inclusion so all children have the resources and support they need for an appropriate education

Signed,

Palo Alto CAC Co-Chairs and Committee Members  
[www.cacpaloalto.org](http://www.cacpaloalto.org)