



Joint Communication

November 16, 2017

On November 7, 2017, a Special Education Advisory Committee met to review how we are providing supports to students receiving special education services and to identify opportunities to strengthen and improve our programs. This advisory committee was comprised of union leadership, parents, teachers (special and general education, at all levels), instructional assistants, program specialists, related service providers, principals, and district leadership.

During this session, no programmatic decisions were made and we accomplished the following:

- Shared our interests in terms of special education and services to our students
- Reviewed a variety of resources, including the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) report and the Special Education Workgroup Report from 2015 (see attached). In addition, two research based articles were referenced, *Improving Engagement for Students with Significant Needs* and *Best Practices in Special Education Service Delivery* (available at school sites for review)
- Drafted preliminary ideas about how to best serve our students with disabilities, in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Explored initial barriers and strategies

The purpose of this committee is to develop and design a long term plan to strengthen our educational supports and services for students with special needs in the least restrictive environment. We value broad participation in the work and will be seeking input from stakeholders. This committee will reconvene on January 23, 2018.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Courtney Martin".

Courtney Martin
President
Poway School Employees Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Logan".

Kelly Logan
President
Poway Federation of Teachers

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doyan Howard".

Doyan Howard
Executive Director, SPED
Poway Unified School District