

## **Report of the Community Advisory Group for the Stockton Unified School District**

November 21, 2019 (Meeting #2)

*What is the Community Advisory Group (CAG)?*

CAG is an important component of a formal, court-approved, five-year agreement (Agreement) between the Stockton Unified School District (District) and the California Department of Justice (DOJ). It is intended to provide members of the community with an opportunity to review and comment on changes made by the District and approved by DOJ as they comply with mandates intended to better serve the needs of its students. The CAG is required to meet on a quarterly basis with a written overview of the meeting being published within 45 days. The report is intended to be reviewed by the DOJ approved monitor, School Superintendent, the Chief of the school police department, and the public.

*Who attended the second CAG meeting?*

Jesus P. Garcia

Julie Schardt

Steve Jackson

Gary Gershon

Vickie Delph

Raymond Aguilar

Rudolpho Sanchez

Facilitator Alan Caddell

Monitor Michael Gennaco

*What took place at the second CAG meeting?*

Mr. Gennaco provided an overview of progress made by the school police department and stated 22 tasks have been submitted in accordance with the October 13, 2019 deadline and an additional ten tasks have been submitted before their due dates of December 2019. Of these 32 tasks, four have been formally approved by the Monitor and DOJ. Mr. Gennaco advised that the submissions are under various stages of review as they move through the review and approval process.

Mr. Gennaco highlighted several tasks including the District's student referral policy which will provide guidance to school staff on how to handle a wide array of student behaviors with an emphasis on de-escalation, administrative responses to specified behaviors, and reducing the need for police intervention and the introduction of juveniles into the criminal justice system. He also talked about revised policies under discussion including the use of restraints and interrogation of students by police.

Mr. Gennaco expressed to the group the importance of their role and encouraged their participation in the review process, including following and/or attending school board meetings for those tasks requiring board approval. He stated the group can consider inviting stakeholders to attend CAG meetings (such as

the Superintendent, the Chief of Police, and other School District Personnel) when their presence is related to content under review and where additional clarification would be helpful.

Mr. Caddell reiterated the status of the 32 tasks currently under review and stated the State of the Department report (for the SUSD Police Department) has been completed and he expects to distribute it to the Committee soon. He stated the report will further describe each of the 32 tasks and provide an overview of the Department's progress for each.

Mr. Caddell responded to concerns that CAG was not involved in the initial review of draft policies required by the Agreement. He emphasized the role of the CAG is to provide final verification that all required tasks of the Agreement have in fact been met, how they were accomplished, provide any additional feedback to the changes in policy and practice, and to disseminate this information to the community. He acknowledged that at this point the group had yet to receive a bulk of approved policies for review but reminded them that per the Agreement, the CAG was not required to have been formed until late December, 2019 and would not have been expected to meet before January, 2020. Under the envisioned initial timeline, a number of policies would have been approved prior to the initial meeting of the CAG. He explained the District decided to form the CAG much earlier than the Agreement required, so that the District could benefit from community input as the product of that Agreement began to take shape. Mr. Caddell stressed that the Department considers the CAG a vital component of its community policing strategy. He also indicated the Department's interest in reaching out to the CAG for input about issues not required or contemplated by the Agreement.

Mr. Caddell led the discussion regarding the CAG selecting a Chairperson, designating an author for the required CAG meeting report, and the CAG meeting schedule. Member Sammy Nunez was nominated as Chairperson and the nomination will be sent to all CAG members for consideration and solicitation of others who might be interested in serving as Chair. For the time being, the decision was made to have Mr. Caddell continue to write the CAG meeting report, and the group chose the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each quarter for meetings required by the Agreement (the meeting dates may vary depending on schedule availability). The group discussed the potential of CAG meeting on a more frequent basis and Mr. Caddell and Mr. Gennaco made clear the group is free to meet as often and at a schedule of their choosing. There may be logistical issues regarding the availability of District meeting space and the Monitor and Facilitator might not be available to attend, but there is nothing in the Agreement that precludes the group from meeting when they feel it important to do so. The consensus of the members in attendance was to assess the need for a meeting (prior to the next quarterly meeting) upon the selection of a Chairperson, availability of members over the holiday season, and the availability of material to review. The group emphasized their desire to have any materials for review sent to them in advance of the quarterly meetings.

Upon discussion, the next three quarterly CAG meeting dates were scheduled as follows:

- February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (schedule modified due to conflicts)
- August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Mr. Caddell then presented the group with depictions of a proposed new graphic design for the Department's patrol vehicles. The group agreed that the proposed graphics send a more positive image of the police than the current design. They also agreed the removal of the push-bars from the front of

patrol vehicles, and relocation of the light bar from on top of the roof to inside the cars resulted in a less intimidating image. The group stated they felt the proposed design could be improved by enlarging the Department logo to better convey the agency it represents. There was discussion from some members about alternative paint schemes, how vehicles are selected for purchase, and alternatives to conventional gas vehicles such as hybrid and electric options.



#### *What happens next?*

An email will be sent to CAG members informing them of the nomination of Sammy Nunez for Chairperson. Members will be afforded the opportunity to nominate themselves or another for additional consideration before a final email is issued requesting their selection for the position.

The State of the Department report and other approved documents will be sent to CAG members as they become available.

The next CAG quarterly meeting will be held on February 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the District Board Room.

#### *What if I have questions about the CAG?*

Inquiries about the Community Advisory Group can be sent via email to consultant Alan Caddell at [AlanCaddell@gmail.com](mailto:AlanCaddell@gmail.com) or to the monitoring team at [michael.gennaco@oirgroup.com](mailto:michael.gennaco@oirgroup.com).

Report prepared by Alan Caddell and reviewed by Michael Gennaco.

