
Social Justice Ad Hoc Committee, 2021-2022 School Year

Special Education District Advisory Committee

Ad Hoc Committee Members

Meredith Feldman, Gina Hope, Laura Leib (Chair), Payal Maniar, Angela Scott, Gerald Seiner

Our Charge

Collaborate with Dr. Satinder Hawkins, Coordinator of American Cultures & Ethnic Studies for SMMUSD, to integrate neurodiversity into the district's social justice curriculum.

Accomplishments

Additions To Dr. Hawkins List Of Book Recommendations

Individuals serving on the Ad Hoc Social Justice Committee researched and vetted book recommendations to add to the document used by Dr. Satinder Hawkins and the TLC when discussing and selecting books for SMMUSD teachers to use in their classrooms when they teach subjects relevant to diversity and social justice. Books added by the SEDAC's Ad Hoc Social Justice Committee covered topics such as Autism from the perspective of an Autistic adolescent, Down Syndrome, physical differences, social emotional learning, and more.

Important Moments In The U.S. History Of Neurodiversity and Disability

Members working on this charge created a timeline of important events in the history of neurodiversity and disability in the United States.

Important People

The Ad Hoc Social Justice Committee also created a list of people who are key figures in the movement for acknowledgement of and support for the rights of people with disabilities and the neurodiverse. Both the *Important People* and *Important Moments* documents were sent to Dr. Satinder Hawkins, who will use them when working with the TLC to create curriculums and lesson plans.

Future District Wide Neurodiversity Event

In the hopes that SMMUSD will host a Neurodiversity event for parents in the future, ad hoc committee members came up with potential organizers, speakers, and an ultimate purpose for such an event: *Participants will come away with a deeper understanding about the diverse needs of our student population, why inclusion is so important for all students, and how to engage with this group in SMMUSD. They will learn some better definitions of what disability is, how people with disabilities function within our community, and insight about how to be better allies.*