



S A N T A M O N I C A - M A L I B U U N I F I E D S C H O O L D I S T R I C T

Early Care and Development District Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 via Zoom

- I. Call to Order made by Iao Katagiri at 6:03pm. Present: Ivy Chang, Gary Huff, Iao Katagiri, Raven Kraus, Laurie Lieberman, Susan Samarge-Powell, Jennifer Smith, Ben Swett; Absent: Jon Kean, Kristina Lizama, Laura Manson
- II. Public Comments - None
- III. Approval of Minutes and General/Old Business – No old minutes; Welcome to New Member Ivy Chang!
- IV. Board Liaison report – Board members Smith and Lieberman discussed the mandates the school board has put into place, including masking for all inside and outside on campuses. Staff are being required to get the Covid-19 vaccination and be fully vaccinated by 10/1/21. In addition, all students and staff will be tested weekly (regardless of vaccination status). Excited that 95% of students and staff were registered to test. Continue to be concern regarding positive cases and supporting students who need to be out due to quarantine.
- V. SMMUSD Staff Reports
District Return Update – Susan shared that the district fully returned to campuses on Thurs. 8/19 and students are present daily. We continue with daily health screenings (through a new system called Lintelio) and have protocols in place that all staff are expected to follow. More information about Early Learning in the next discussion point

ITC, PK, SAP Update

ITC – 2 classrooms of 7-10 (pre-Covid 2 with 12 kids)

PK – 12 classrooms of 16 (pre-Covid 17 with 16-24 kids)

SAP – 18 classrooms of 28 (pre-Covid 24 with 30-32 kids)

*We noted that classes are smaller because we wanted to ensure staff were able to follow all protocols, and to provide space for students to be in the rooms with at least 3 feet of distance. We have fewer classrooms, however, because we continue to be short-staffed. After layoffs some staff did not return (most prevalent reasons included new job opportunities, concern with own childcare; concern with Covid). Member Huff offered to have an SMC staff member contact us regarding potential additional staffing and substitutes.



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Overall, staff have returned to campuses and are supporting students. While Covid remains at the forefront, we are trying to renew all of the work we were doing prior to our closures. Working to try and renew our focus beyond Covid.

VI. New Business

- a. DAC Goals Review – waiting on Board recommendations, but a discussion came up about maybe a goal should be about recommendations to be developed based on our work during the Pandemic. How do we use our learning to make adjustments to benefit students? This led to another discussion about building in capacity to review and evaluate learning in our systems. We want to ask questions like was our work timely, effective, and/or what prevented us from doing better?
- b. Members Katagiri and Swett brought up Universal TK and asked about how SMMUSD was handling the planning, or if there was any preparation already underway. This was brought up as the Universal TK rollout seems to also be confusing across the state, with little information at the ready. Susan confirmed that she has not seen much information from the state, but the district has had a meeting about it and we are in the early discussion stages about funding, facilities and programming. There was a 9/19 webinar noted with TK as the main topic. The discussion also included what the long-term impacts of Universal TK would be for children, but also CDS and SMMUSD.
- c. DAC proposed dates for 2021-2022 – we discussed how meetings would remain virtual through at least October, and then we would discuss each meeting and make a decision based on the community health levels at the time. It was noted that our DAC has been VERY productive (and well-attended) virtually!

VII. Announcements - Member Kraus noted that she would like to spend some time discussing mental illness in our young children (2yo). She also wanted to know about how preschool is working to support mental health needs. Member Katagiri also suggested we have someone from Pinwheel project present in the near future if possible.

VIII. Adjournment was at 7:37pm with a reminder that the next meeting will be on 10/13/21 virtually.