

**District Advisory Committee
Board of Education Annual End-of-Year Written Report
2024-25**

CHILDCARE AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Administrator Co-chairperson: Susan Samarge-Powell, Ed.D

Co-chairperson: Ben Swett

Charges:

Charge 1 - Continue to research and discuss Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) integration opportunities, including the Infant Toddler Center (ITC), Preschool (PK), Transitional Kindergarten (TK), School Age Programs (SAP), and Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P).

Charge 2 – Explore ways to expand our visibility in our communities so we can identify new staffing opportunities and further grow our programs.

Charge 3 – Explore the best avenues to maintain stable fiscal support even with variances of outside factors.

Accomplishments for the year:

- The DAC has supported the district team as the expansion of Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) has greatly affected the manner in which the district develops and runs the Preschool and Transitional Kindergarten programs
- SMMUSD has grown from eight to twelve TK classrooms and has done so to meet the needs of the community. Meanwhile, the DAC has worked with SMMUSD staff to ensure ITC and preschool programs still remain viable even as TK has expanded.
- The DAC has become more well versed in the ITC programs, School Age Programs and Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP). In becoming more conversant with the other areas, they have been able to understand and discuss the dynamics in early education within SMMUSD, and the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu.

Highlight(s) of particular note:

- SMMUSD has had Early Childhood Consultants (ECC) in all Preschool and Transitional Kindergarten classrooms throughout the course of the entire school year. Staff have found this to be a productive and positive support mechanism for classrooms that have had to shift with age levels over the last five years.

Possible Charges for 2025-2026 (to be reviewed by co-chairs & board liaison(s) prior to coming to board for approval in the fall):

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Budgetary Implications:

- Unfortunately, as TK grows, our preschools start to shrink. Our early learning team is very seriously considering more toddler options (2-year olds) to help keep our programs stable. This is a more expensive endeavor and we will need to work with our Board of Education to consider what the best options will be to keep stability within our early learning community.