



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Early Care and Development District Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

6:00pm via Zoom

- I. Call to Order – made by Iao at 6:05pm; Present: Gary Huff, Iao Katagiri, Jon Kean, Natasha Kingscote, Raven Kras, Laura Manson, Susan Samarge-Powell, Ben Swett; Absent: Laurie Lieberman, Kristina Lizama
  - a. \*Assistant Director, Reham Dabash joined to present
- II. Public Comments - None
- III. Approval of Minutes and General/Old Business – Minutes approved as written.
- IV. Board Information
  - a. DAC members introduced themselves to our new Board member, Jennifer Smith; all members shared about their positions; Jennifer introduced herself and shared that she is an early learning believer; her child went through one of our CDS preschool programs before entering an SMMUSD elementary school;
  - b. Liaison Report – Board President Jon Kean shared about upcoming Board meetings: 1/14 will be the interviews and new board member appointment; 1/21 will be presentations on PBL, Samohi Phase 3 Construction; 2/4 will be the public meeting on Facilities; Board member Kean also shared that updates about staff vaccinations are starting to come in – it looks like we could begin as early as the end of January for on-site staff members; We are also in discussion with St. Johns about the potential of getting staff tested regularly; finally, Board member Kean shared that facilities and construction will be a big topic in future meetings.
- V. SMMUSD Staff Reports (30)
  - i. In-School Work Hubs Update –
    1. Currently we have 1 staff supervision hub at Grant (7 students); and 3 EL Hubs – Edison (8 students); Roosevelt (7 students); Webster (4 students incl sped)
    2. Another survey went out to elementary EL, F/R, Foster/Homeless, and subsidy care families; anticipating opening up 2-3 more – can't do anything until after 2/1 per LACDPH recommended restrictions
    3. EL hub at JAMS and LMS being developed to open after 2/1
  - ii. ITC, PK, SAP Update
    1. For ITC will open on 2/1 for 7 toddlers (can take 10)
    2. PK will open on 2/1 with 2 rooms at Washington West for our Full Day families; these classrooms will be up to 9 hours

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**Board of Education:** Oscar de la Torre • Craig Foster • Jon Kean • Maria Leon-Vazquez

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3. PK will continue with 90 students on Distance Learning
4. PK will consider part-day classrooms, but unsure
5. SAP will remain on Distance Learning until further notice

VI. New Business (10)

- a. Curriculum Discussion – Assistant Director, Reham Dabash, shared a presentation about the current PK curriculum; the program we work with is Creative Curriculum. Utilized for reviewing studies and providing teachers with organized information about lesson planning. However, our preschool program also reviews the Preschool Foundations and then uses inspiration from the Reggio Emilia experiences to support inquiry based and STEAM type of learning opportunities. DAC member Raven Kras thanked the team for bringing the curriculum information up; she expressed concern about teacher fidelity regarding teacher expectations – and wondered how our programs ensure teachers are following through in each classroom; Reham Dabash shared we have an Early Learning coach and also admin observations and teacher meetings support continuity across teachers. Member Kras also shared that really early childhood development begins before preschool. Need to remember that a lot is done before students enter preschool and we need to address/consider some of what happens. Finally, a discussion was had about the ASQs and how those home assessments are ways in which parents support and participate in teachers understanding of student development.
- b. State Monitoring for 2020-2021 – we still have not yet been told when we will be monitored, but it will be this school year. Everything will be virtual but we will have interviews, etc...DAC members may be interviewed, but will be notified in advance if this is the case.
- c. Remaining DAC dates for 2020-2021 (6pm – 7:30pm):
  - i. 2/10, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12, 6/9 (if needed)

VII. Announcements – A quick discussion occurred about publicity and outreach regarding early learning and providing good information to our community about the work of early learning, and in particular in SMMUSD.

VIII. Adjournment at 7:27pm

- If you will require an accommodation to participate in this activity, please notify us at least five days before the event.
- Si usted necesita que se hagan arreglos para que participe en esta reunion, por favor, comuniquese con las escuela de su hijo/a or el distrito 5 dias antes de la reunion.

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