

## SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee Meeting

### Minutes

**Tuesday, March 3, 2020 6:30 to 8:30 PM**  
**DISTRICT OFFICE – BOARD ROOM (2<sup>ND</sup> Floor)**

- I. CALL TO ORDER & INITIAL COMMENTS: 6:45 call to order
  
- II. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Members & Public:
  - Attendees: Jen Glazer, Meredith Feldman, Jamie Angus, Sarah Gardham-Thomas, Payal Maniar, Cassandra Melhuish, Barry Yates, Deanna Sinfield, Jon Keene
  - Members of Public: Julie Ginsberg (Franklin), Rachel Vine (Franklin), Tomasa Scaccianoce (Grant), Deanne Ozaki (Lincoln), Grace Lanzetta (Muir)
  - Julie: Asked about any updates for PRN? Deanna would schedule the meeting end of March, early April
  - Julie: Asked about advice to give people who are trying to make a special ed PTA and principals are not supporting it. Deanna suggested reaching out to her directly.
  - Tomassa: suggested having a parent ed about learning rights, regional center, advocates, attorneys; that there are other avenues to solve problems other than filing a lawsuit
  
- III. UPDATE: Special Education Director Deanna Sinfield
  - “re-imagine” Meeting 3/2 well attended: strengths, goals, concerns short and long term goals were written out by attendees; draft IEP reports should be coming 3-5 days before IEP meetings minimum requirements of 24 hours, drafts are updated in the meeting
  - Deanna’s Presentation available online SMMUSD website.  
[https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/030520\\_Sp%20Ed%20Update\\_presentation\\_17314oejz55yfbk1ivqv1ohayucu.pdf](https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/030520_Sp%20Ed%20Update_presentation_17314oejz55yfbk1ivqv1ohayucu.pdf) (to be updated)
    - **Special Ed Department Accomplishments Since July 2019**
    - **Current Cost Savings Activities While Maintaining Appropriate Supports**
      - Combined a preschool position with an open Infant/Toddler Specialist position for a savings of over \$50,000
      - ABA trainings were replaced with free Classroom Pivotal Response Training (based on ABA); piloting the program in two schools, savings of approx. \$150,000
      - Special Ed staff have been providing training to staff in most areas, rather than hiring outside consultants.
      - Solved two cases prior to going to mediation or due process
      - Trained administrators on how to create positive IEPs and consult with them regularly to help prevent legal action
      - Provided assistance to general education teachers to help them prior to referral to special education assessments
    - Administrators and teachers are seeing us as a resource to assist with Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III supports. Tier 1: core curriculum = 85% of students gen ed, Tier 2:

- small group re-teach or do a little more gen ed, Tier 3: pull out gen ed, Tier 4 (3B): SAI, modifications not just accommodations, specialized instruction
- Parent suggested handbook for gen ed teachers for best practices / coordination
- Are we building independence: not in every case but the goal is by HS everyone does not need a 1:1
- Parent suggested to have WSRC intake to come for a district wide event to review programs and process applications (Julie Ginsberg to help coordinate)
- **Future Cost Savings Activities While Maintaining Appropriate Supports**
  - Restructure programs with input from stakeholders to better meet student needs
  - Examine adults-to-students ratios in every classroom with goal to reduce number; ratios should support student learning, but not be overwhelming in number
  - Restructure coordinator roles to better meet student needs and address legal issues
  - Reduce number of school psychologist interns to align with amount of money raised through MediCal earnings
  - Work to reduce number of students in RTC and NPS placements by continuing to have programs that meet student needs
  - Continue to work on building trust with the community and help families BEFORE legal action is taken
- **FCMAT Recommendation Regarding Paraeducators: Para educator handbook will be posted in the parent portal**
  - Paraeducators – Number and retention of paraeducators. Beginning next year, paraeducators will be assigned to sites, rather than as one on-one supports. The site will assign paraeducators as per IEP needs. Additional adult assistance should be connected to a goal and outline the number of minutes required to meet the need and the goal
  - Staffing documents are up-to-date and accurately show paras placements
  - Design and provide professional development for paraeducators to assist students with individualized support to develop independence.
- **FCMAT Recommendations for Preschool**
  - Review the continuum of service in preschool to kindergarten transition to determine if students are served effectively in the existing model.( Remove the major transition problem: help kids be more ready to transition.
  - Meet with general education and special education preschool administration to develop a collaborative guideline between special education and general education preschool staff allowing for more integration.
- **FCMAT Recommendations for NPS & RTC Monitoring**
  - We have six students enrolled in RTC programs, with one to two students coming home in June.
  - We have 18 students in NPS programs. Coordinators monitor cases for their pathways. Assessments for IEPs are arranged through that

coordinator. Our office keeps track of all contracts. Tracking in SEIS and our SIS system.

- Continue to look for opportunities to shift these students to our program
- **FCMAT Recommendations for Assessments and Programs**
  - Require school sites to immediately schedule an SST meeting any time a request for testing is initiated by a parent. (SST Student Success Team: gen ed function; team meeting for concerns within 15 days of request)
  - Need to communicate the continuum of offerings available at each school site, the curriculum design for each and the types of students who would benefit from each placement and service.
  - Need to better integrate preschool – K kids onto the sites?
- **Legal information**
  - Since July 2019, we have had 19 filings so far. Four or five of these were filed before July 1, but completed after that date. We have either gone to hearing or settled 13 cases. Six cases are in progress.
    - OHI cases were majority: more complex medical conditions
    - ASD
    - Those who don't qualify
  - New filings this week; some have filed before and are coming back unhappy, more older students than elementary
  - Due process:
    - Resolution: after filing, no Judge, try to work out differences, confidential. District never waives this wants to resolve.
    - Mediation: after filing, due process hearing, Judge involved, longer time, higher attorney's fees. Settlement can be made.
  - Have to build trust with families, needs being met while being responsible along the way; have to start with the youngest students
  - NPS are approved, but we want to keep as many kids in the district as possible
- **Plan for Meet the Special Ed team on site before school starts**

#### IV. UPDATE: Board Liaison Jon Kean

- Board discussion of inter-district permits on 3/5 agenda
- 2<sup>nd</sup> interim budget presented in Thursday 3/5
- Fees lawsuit last day to submit 2/10 630 claims submitted out of 14k contacts = 5%; 45-60 day wrap up.
- Facilities: 3 yrs ago state of Ca said school may have alcohol permitted when no students are on campus excl students in attendance (concert venue rental, wedding). Could double facility fees in 3 years

#### V. DISCUSSION: 2019-20 Charges: deliverables and timelines for end of the school year

- Charge 1: Parent Portal - complete
- Charge 2: Transition Plan - complete

- Charge 3: communications calendar; information architecture: Mid year report submitted deliverables for charges 1-2, charge 3 in progress for end of the school year.
- Charge 4: Deanna requested a site map to be shared with her asap, assets can wait till the end of the school year. Deanna said we will be able to do this work ourselves

VI. DISCUSSION: other open items:

- SEDAC meetings through end of June 6:30 PM 3/31, 5/5 at El Cholo; open positions file through the superintendents office, makes presentation to the board for approval, officers
- SMMUSD budget cuts: process, transparency, concerns:
  1. Superintendent is required to cut \$4M for '20-'21, any recommendations for special ed will be presented in May, special ed budget has to be aligned to # of students but we are over staffed, we may not fill positions that are open, same for Paras; Deanna working to find a way to save as many staff as possible. Do we have multiple people serving the same functions? Needs to be communicated this way to special ed families who are nervous and hearing rumors. 1.5 years ago we changed from State aid to Basic aid: only get \$200 per student, we are a community funded district by our property taxes; permitted students: no funding follows students
  2. SEDAC suggestion for town hall with Deanna after budget is presented
- Director's March presentation to the board: email Sarah for June DAC reports June or 18

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 2/4/20: Payal motion for approval, 2<sup>nd</sup> Channing Frykman

Adjourned at 8:29 pm

The SEDAC meetings for the school year 2019- 2020 are scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month at the Office Board Room 6:30 pm. Next Meeting: 3/31/20 (rescheduled to April 28, 2020 due to COVID)