

SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 6:30pm

Via

ZOOM: <https://smmk12.zoom.us/j/7316602466?pwd=RIQ4Y1l4aVluaThjd1lROGlhNldMZz09>

- I. CALL TO ORDER & NEW MEMBER WELCOME & INITIAL COMMENTS
- II. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Members & Public
- III. UPDATE: Special Education Director Deanna Sinfield
 - A. Back to School Planning
 - Two phases back: but DPH recommended not returning at this time.
 - a. Phase 1 – Transition is back and one of the social skills programs at Grant is back.
 - b. phase 2 – Next week 1/19 all of phase 2 is back except for McKinley preschool.
 - No new programs returning at this time.
 - Looking into testing and vaccines for staff.
 - Back to School Planning
 - Department of Health strongly recommending that no schools open until Feb 1 due to high numbers. They urge that all campuses remain closed.
 - There is a push to have teachers and especially custodial staff vaccinated. District continuing all assessments (i.e. IEP) outside at this time and without incident.

B. Other Updates

Q: Updates on Litigation: Still happening. A couple attorneys requesting records, SMMUSD settling for a lot less and still taking care of a lot of business during IEPs.

Q: How does it work with teachers who refuse to get vaccinated?

A: Deanna: It may be a government mandate. LAUSD is requiring vaccinations for staff. SMMUSD is talking with Providence/St. John's to provide testing.

Q: What constitutes an outbreak?

A: Currently if there is one case then programs are shut down. Contact tracing is enacted. SMMUSD have had school nurses build a dashboard and contact tracing mechanism for the district website.

Other projects: ESY program planning. Hoping that may be in place for the summer.

Q: Could there be summer adventures on campus or other programs?

A: Too soon to tell. We do not yet know what will be on campus yet. Best scenario: offering a very vibrant summer program that can blend with ESY to enhance the social emotional for our students.

IV. UPDATE: Board Liaison Jon Kean or Jen Smith

- We are hoping to get a vaccine schedule from the LA Board of Health, and that vaccinations may be distributed in February.
- Top priority for the Board at this time:
 - Working on strengthening distance learning.
 - Identifying Distance Plus Learning when it's safe.
 - Summer School.
 - Return to Fall.
- On the 14th Board meeting there is an appointment for Council member's Della Torre's seat. On the 21st they will begin addressing facilities issues and how exciting programs such as PBL (Project based Learning) can work with Facilities.
- February 4th: The Board discussed programs at refreshing the oldest schools with district funding.
- There are mental health resources the District is currently offering
- Q: Any advancement on the initiative for finding a Social Justice curriculum?
- A: In future Board meetings it is an agenda item. Jon Kean looking into local programming. On the 14th there will be a new board policy for Historical resources. Jen Smith asks if this can be a part of library curriculum? An excellent way to spread a social justice message. Jon suggests Dr. Hawkins to come to a meeting - she runs all of our American Cultural and Ethnic Studies. Angela comments on her commitment to this issue. Deanna has shared with other school principals how book share was carried out in Franklin. There may be interest and possibility in having this program started.
- Special Education will be considered in decisions made for DL Plus.

V. FOR DISCUSSION/ PROGRESS UPDATES:

A. Collaborating K Pilot: progress, learnings and future planning

Deanna began the process of beginning a Collaborative K classroom before Covid. How do we pick up and begin again and can there be continuity into First grade for eligible students? Principal believes the program is going very well. They believe students are more ready for GenEd. They can continue to stay at Will Rogers if they want to. This year kids aren't so attached to Rogers due to Distance Learning. Many parents may choose to go to home schools due to this. For this year the program does not need to continue on to First grade. Most

students are ready for Gen Ed with para support/teacher support or no support. She can consider a Collaborative First Grade, but there are currently only 6 students. This is a hard test group to use as a sampling. Will have to see in the Fall. One metric to measure success: In class testing being done comparing these kids to the Gen Ed kids.

There is an ability for kids who want to stay at Will Rogers to continue on at the school. What we have learned when there is an early intervention of the gen ed classroom; there is success. Combining skills of Maureen and Gen ed teachers, elevates the kids. District will examine the data to look for gaps and what are the needs going forward. The Principal is open to however we design it. It helps that Maureen is there and knows each child's profile as well to help guide the other teachers as the child progresses. Deanna will have a meeting with Will Rogers Principal and Maureen next month and will be sharing data with SEDAC.

B. Summer Program Planning: progress, learnings and future planning

Learning losses. What can we put in place for Special Ed so we can understand who has fallen behind. Deanna is gathering formulas to figure out learning loss. The thinking is if we can bring kids back there can be mitigation at that point. Maybe an academic Boot Camp. In current meetings many kids still appear to be meeting their goals despite distance learning.

C. Distance Learning Communication, Support and Feedback Loop

Deanna will be meeting with Dr. Kuo on Jan 20th. SMMUSD is looking at programs such as Book Share that looks at comprehension and tracks data. Will also discuss Sex Education program.

D. Website architecture

Deanna feels that it is clunky and not pretty. Any thoughts and ideas how to make it better please let her know. Jamie found a phone number that is still wrong.

VI. COMMENTS: Members & Public

Complaint about high school electives information not descriptive enough to know if it is good for special ed kids. You must choose your elective before you have your IEP meeting. It would be nice if options were available to review online. You are having to make decisions in January without input from the Counselors with this timeline.

Discussion about introduction to Middle School transition for our kids. Hoping for three days of introduction, campus tour, meet and greet with teachers and service providers. Deanna has it on her agenda to enhance the middle school transition.