

SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 02, 2021 6:30pm

Via

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

I. CALL TO ORDER & NEW MEMBER WELCOME & INITIAL COMMENTS

Call to Order: 6:35pm

Attendees: Meredith Feldman, Grace Lanzetta, Payal Maniar, Gina Hope, Tomasa Scaccianoce, Jennifer Smith, Jon Kean, Deanna Sinfield, Angela Scott, Julie Ginsberg, Laura Leib, Satinder Hawkins, Jen Glazer, Jerry Seiner, Amy Frazier

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Members & Public

III. UPDATE: Special Education Director Deanna Sinfield

A. Back to School Progress

All preschool and social skills programs back. Muir has opened. Other elementary and middle schools are opening soon, Feb 8 transitions program open (with 2 kids), in Malibu - Hub, Feb 15th - opening JAMS PBS program. Conflicting feedback ongoing. Opening progress is great.

B. Collaborating K Pilot learnings and future planning - no new updates

C. Summer Planning Progress

Beginning paperwork for ESY. Hoping to be in person for summer.

D. Other updates

Vaccines: any service providers are able to get vaccinated as healthcare providers (SLP, OT etc). Teachers in the next phase.

Spoke with Betsey Margosian about her Diverse Subscription Book Program, 'Miles to Rowe' about providing diverse books.

IV. UPDATE: Board Liaison Jon Kean or Jen Smith

Board update: Topics of Phase 3 at SAMOHI and PBL at hand. What will happen with Phase 3 at SAMOHI, the construction of the History Building. Board gave the ok to continue on the path

for reconstruction. Parents spoke on how PBL has been beneficial for children who have IEPs or other needs. It's been a great pathway for a certain student population. A lot of positive parent support for those involved in the program. Seeking to collect lead and lag data on Distance Learning. Also on the agenda is social justice. Black History month and active parent group planning activities.

V. DISCUSSION: Dr. Satinder Hawkins on SMMUSD Social Justice Curriculum

Intro: Dr. Hawkins is ACES (American Culture and Ethnic Studies) Coordinator. She was hired to oversee implementation of the social justice program. Dr. Hawkins has been a classroom teacher for 30 years. Dr. Hawkins is interested in improving the learning outcomes for all students. When Dr. Hawkins began in this SMMUSD she found no Social Justice standards. Last year she began by finding out what teachers were not receptive to. She began by helping teachers improve their instructional strategies (the way that they teach kids). She began teacher Cohorts in Santa Monica and Malibu, meeting once a month asking teachers to design units of instruction around these standards.

Another track is work with the U.S. History Team. There is currently a High School ACES requirement for students. A class that is taught by multiple perspectives (racial, socio-economics etc) that includes some sort of Capstone or PBL activity at completion. Last year she worked with 11th grade students to write a curriculum guide that fulfills those requirements. The Board approved this course but has been ruled out this year.

Her ultimate goal is to have Curriculum guides written for every grade level, for History and Social Science. Currently they do not exist at SMMUSD. The U.S. History Curriculum guide can highlight thematic ideas that a teacher team can focus on related to social justice.

Her third area of focus is the Teaching and Learning Council. We have one rep from every school that meets once a month under her leadership. They would like to integrate Social Justice Standards in K-12. This year began with English Language Arts (ELA). Next year she would like to layer in Math. They built this idea by selecting books in K-5 and the members of the TLC create three lesson examples per grade levels - a total of 18 classroom ready lessons around Social Justice.

SEDAC Member Q: What will Dr. Hawkins do to emphasize disabilities with the new Social Justice curriculum? Member Q: What can we do to make sure we can incorporate this in a more proactive manner? We have good ideas, but the execution piece is difficult.

Dept: Dr. Hawkins can be a great partner for the Special Ed agenda. Perhaps incorporating Betsey Marsolan's Diversity books into the curriculum.

Dr. Hawkins: "I do not have all the answers but I am your partner." Goal is to be done with the social justice booklist.

SEDAC Member Q.: How much Special Ed teaching is represented in the TLC.

Dr. Hawkins: She is not sure but at least in a few in her Cohorts she would like to fold in Disability themes into the curriculum. She cannot promise everything.

SEDAC Member Comment: A request to have multiple Special teachers at different grade levels attend the TLC.

Dr. Hawkins: We can ask chosen Special Ed teachers to join the TLC. The TLC is voluntary but they do get paid. She believes recruitment will be better next year, this year she had a hard time having people join.

SEDAC Member Q: How many teachers are in the TLC.

Dr. Hawkins: Malibu - 6 teachers, Santa Monica, 15-20 Teachers.

Dept: It is important to begin education and tolerance at the elementary level.

Dr. Hawkins: She does not have expertise in Special Ed. What would be helpful in this partnership is if we send book ideas, curriculum ideas/lessons that we like, it would be helpful. She is open to emails and collaboration. One of her strengths is her teacher perspective. She finds that when there are many resources, even when you are a good teacher, you do not always have time to create curriculums. This is why curriculums are her main agenda. She would be open to lesson plan ideas from us to create these classroom ready special ed lessons. You have to be constantly vigilant to make sure there is follow through of the teachers with these curriculums. This also involves classroom visits and gathering evidence. She is approaching this phase next. She is interested in attending another SEDAC meeting. Next October is Disabilities Awareness Month - an event is possible, we can brainstorm about it at the end of this school year.

Dr. Hawkins email is: shawkins@smmusd.org

FOR DISCUSSION/ PROGRESS UPDATES:

A. Board Policies: Accommodations and Implementation Systems

Understanding Board policies for accommodating Special ed students.

SEDAC Member: There are policies that do not always make exceptions for Special ed students. For example, not allowing a special ed student to miss a P.E.session for learning resource time. Doctor's notes or medical reasons are a different reason that exemptions are made. When there is rigidity with policies and no account of special needs stories there can be unintended consequences.

SEDAC Member: Because there are not specific exemptions written into policies. Why do we need to hire lawyers to help make these exceptions?

Board Member: Are there certain policies you have in mind?

SEDAC member: For the PE story we are not sure why one Middle School can have a policy and another does not. Also Pathways for Middle school, you can be stuck in one school and one pathway when another school is better for the child.

Board member: He would like to find out the origination of certain policies.

SEDAC Member: How much Special Ed interest was considered when policies are originally made? We need to know who created the rule and find out if any exceptions can be made.

B. 2020-2021 SEDAC Charge Updates:

1. Distance Learning Communication, Support and Feedback Loop
2. Website architecture

C. Staff/ Teacher Training on unconscious bias re/disabilities: update

Deanna has not had time to look into it. SEDAC Member comment: working with Dr. Hawkins to help with curriculum can help teach teachers about neurodiversity.

D. Parent Resource Network: update

VI. Julie Ginsberg and Laura Leib put together a presentation by a local Psychologist on how to keep kids focused and family situations that come up during Distance Learning.

A. Parent and Student Sex Education: update

UC-LEND - through UCLA/Irvine willing to help with education. We need to just come up with dates, perhaps spring. Discussion of creating a SEDAC sub-committee to discuss curriculum. UC-LEND also offers a support group for parents of special ed kids.

VII. COMMENTS: Members & Public

Meeting ended: 8:43 pm.

For the 2020-2021 school year, SEDAC meetings will be scheduled on the first Tuesdays of the month at the Office Board Room 6:30 pm or via zoom. Next Meeting: First Tuesday (Mar 2, 2021)

If you will require accommodation to participate in the DAC meeting, please notify the Special Education Office at (310) 450-8338, ext. 70210, at least two business days prior to the meeting.