

SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 6:30pm

Via ZOOM: <https://smmk12.zoom.us/j/89610669328?pwd=dmdldC93cGIRZ05yK0w5bkF6Tm9JZz09>

- I. CALL TO ORDER & INITIAL COMMENTS
- II. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Members & Public
- III. UPDATE: Special Education Director Deanna Sinfield
 - A. Back to School Progress
 - B. Summer Planning Progress
 - C. Other updates
- IV. UPDATE: Board Liaison Jon Kean or Jen Smith
- V. FOR DISCUSSION/ PROGRESS UPDATES:
 - A. Transition Planning
 - 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
 - D. Parent Resource Network
 - E. Parent and Student Sex Education
- VI. COMMENTS: Members & Public

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: Second Tuesday (May 11, 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.

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AGENDA

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I. CALL TO ORDER & INITIAL COMMENTS

Change the date for next month.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Members & Public

II. UPDATE: Special Education Director Deanna Sinfield

- Back to School Progress

DEPT:

- We still have some students in Distance Learning. Most SMMUSD students are back, a few students are better served through a DL SpEd teacher. District hired a new teacher (who quit) then another teacher hired. She has 9 students right now with 3 para educators supporting her. Service providers have support online. Class length is 8:20-2:45 everyday. Student return going very well for the most part. Some Paraprofessionals did not come back so going through the hiring process again. There are some mass compliance issues (i.e. LADH state kids must be masked at all times. Some kids having sensory issues keeping masks on. Deanna recently purchased sensory specific masks). Some kids can use a shield with drape.
- Latest update: The guidelines have changed and kids may be pulled from class and be seen in mixed groupings. This just happened 04/04. This helps with SAI/GED children.
- ESY: ESY will be in person this year. There may be a DL component. It will look different. District is being more generous with ESY admissions than usual this year as realize more kids need to catch up.
- There is discussion of a Reading/Math Institute creation. One week of reading and one week math with some social skills after ESY is over. Also looking at tutoring for after school day for next year. Also looking at a Language institute for students who have Language services during the year. These services will be for students who may need a leg up before school begins. SEDAC discussed what

this could look like. There was also discussion of social-emotional supports during the institutes.

Member: ***Question around ESY eligibility. When do you hope you will communicate this so we can make plans?***

DEPT: *In the next couple weeks we will ask teachers who have the most need and begin there. We may go with our own teachers to teach ESY and then agency to hire more needed teachers.*

Member: ***What about IISS? (Intensive summer school).***

DEPT: *IISS is a general education program but some students with IEPs do attend. Other supplementary programs would be after ESY are over. Mainly elementary. Helps with school catch-up or credit recovery. Not necessarily to meet IEP goals. District also looking at possibility of additional summer programs for kids in SpEd - about two weeks of programming to help kids get ready for school year.*

Dr. Mora working on programs for General Ed but also Special Ed students. To be clear, an IEP is not tutoring.

Board: *The way most kids are referred is through their teacher.*

Board: *Big announcement - District is not doing CAASPP testing this year. Everyone is happy. But still need to do assessments as they are a roadmap to student success.*

Member: ***Parents are wondering how their students are going to be assessed for learning loss?***

Dept: *Teachers are constantly assessing globally. Not one measure measures a student. This not the same as special education. You must have an eligibility criterion that is met. We have disproportionate amount of English Learners right now who have a learning disability. Trying to parse out ESL issues. Referrals must be warranted and we should not identify a specific population of students. We don't want to identify so many kids as having special needs, when they don't have them.*

Member: ***How are teachers assessing students?***

Dept: *Teachers have a process to help students who may show difficulties. There is a team meeting with a Student Success Team. Students in special education show that they are falling behind. We must be careful that we are not over student ratios. The law states that we must follow guidelines and seek true learning disability. We use Education diagnosis and codes. Kids must meet education eligibility codes.*

Member: ***There are set schedules on when assessments are happening throughout the year?***

Dept: *We do a tremendous number of assessments compared to other districts. There must be an obvious delay.*

- **Summer Planning Progress**

See Notes Above

- **Other updates:**

Dept:

- Deanna has developed a class list of what classes and extracurricular activities are available for SpEd students going to SAMOHI. It goes across each academic year and how many years you must take each subject. We will be able to give it to parents before attending SAMOHI. It's not online yet. Working on Malibu High School next.
- Plan to open JAMS program next year. Social Skills opened at Grant this year. She has found a teacher for the south side of SM. Curriculum skills class with these types of students. Teacher is coming from Will Rogers. She will also do collaborative and SAI teaching. She can push in and not be so self-contained.
- Finally, we are in the second year of disproportionality. Money may be taken away from SpecEd and given to Gen Ed for more Tier III interventions if we go into a third year of disproportionality. We don't want that to happen. We are planning for more State funding for this year however. The point is they believe we are over referring to SpEd Ed. We are 0.3% over what we should be.

Member: ***Before they take the money away from us would there be an analysis?***

Dept: *No. They take away funds quickly.*

I. UPDATE: Board Liaison Jon Kean or Jen Smith

Board: Big news is our elementary schools are open. Nice transition to getting kids checked in. Summer school: comes down to Dr. Mora and programming. Staff is working hard and stretched thin. Jon Kean believes we will come out of this year healthier than peer districts, with budgets and programs. And these two months in school will help us when we come back in August - can be beneficial. We will have more fresh things to think about, new goals and priorities. Excited for next year.

Member: ***Have all District classrooms had AC and filters updated?*** Answer: *Any site that hasn't had all their AC upgraded, will be done this summer. Bids have come back 3 times higher. But work will be done. Air scrubbing units and air filters have all been added in all schools - stimulus funds have been applied towards this.*

Member: ***Is there a portion of the Stimulus money that will be put towards student social/emotional programming?***

Board: *We keep saying that this next year will not be an abnormal year. What can we do to bring more joy back - always advising senior staff of this. Return to school will not be business as usual.*

Public Comment: ***We decided to keep our child at home. Everyday there is a new child added to the DL learning group. We began with 14 and now we are at 21. We have a new teacher who is new to the school. This is a lot of pressure for the teacher and the kids.***

Board: *We are really trying to address the class size. We have been in school only two days. Main variable is parents are not committing to the program, and changing their decisions. We have to continue to monitor.*

Dept: *At some point we did consider cross-pollinating with two different schools. Many parents said they didn't want that. It's been important to the District to find someone very qualified. Hopefully after this week we can have some fine tuning.*

Public: ***The concern is having too many kids in this class.***

I. FOR DISCUSSION/ PROGRESS UPDATES:

- Transition Planning

Member: ***This charge is about the transition from elementary to middle school. Looking for suggestions from our department. Member's daughter is transitioning and she has some suggestions, such as more communication from SpEd resource team from the old school to the new team. To make it a more efficient use of the single 20-minute transition meeting that we only have.***

Dept: *The hard part is the sheer number they must get through. The teachers must also teach the classes.*

Member: *It may have been harder this year as she had a pre-meeting before her transition meeting.*

Member: *Elementary staff should confer with middle school staff before transition meeting with parents. Expectations and tensions between both staffs are palpable and shouldn't be witnessed by parents. It adds to parents' nervousness about children beginning middle school.*

Member: *We have had an excellent transition meeting for Middle school transition from Muir to Lincoln. However, going to SAMOHI has been a different story.*

Member: *She was able to tour Lincoln during her transition and that helped. COVID may have disrupted this. Good knowledge sharing back and forth.*

Public: *Child also coming from Muir. Parent felt the meeting was "fine." Biggest question was, "what are we trying to do in this meeting?" Wish this was better expressed to parent.*

Member: *Her child was able to attend this meeting.*

Member: *Can we please get kids on the school campus to tour before Get Your Stuff Day?*

Dept: *This year that cannot happen due to safety and Health Department regulations. We are not supposed to be mixing and we are pushing it. We may add some time to Get Your Stuff Day.*

- **2020-2021 SEDAC Charge Updates:**
 1. Distance Learning Communication, Support and Feedback Loop
 2. Website architecture
- Staff/ Teacher Training on unconscious bias re/disabilities
- Parent Resource Network
- Parent and Student Sex Education

Board: May 12 is the day for SexEd Launch.

I. COMMENTS: Members & Public

Public Comment: ***Can you explain what PRN is?***

Member: *We will go into detail after meeting is adjourned.*

Member: ***Are IEP students included in transition meetings into high school?***

Dept: *They can if they want to.*

Public: ***Where is the application for this DAC?***

Member: *Online.*

Public comment: *It is very important for kids who are anxious about changes to know what is coming. I have been asking since last week about school hour times. Before it was 8:30 and we left at 1pm. Now it is changed. I need to organize my time better to plan my life and therapies.*

Something else very important is knowing what is coming up with IEPs. This process is unknown to her. Some parents don't have the level of education to understand, if there are some terms that are not understood they need help. Can there be any training for parents? This is a barrier that has strong limitations. Another thing is Spanish fliers on what Special Ed is doing, such as the Sibshop.

Dept: Regular information is sent out. As well as a glossary of terms. As she explained, the teacher we had quit Sunday night and district worked hard to find a qualified replacement. It's not perfect but doing the best we can. At this time, we decided to have an early "out" day. We apologize, we are building it as we are flying it. As negotiations go on, we will send communications. Materials are also sent out prior to IEP's. We are really working very hard.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 P.M. Next meeting Tuesday May 25th on the earlier side.

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