

**SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee Meeting**

**AGENDA**

**Monday, September 13, 2021 6:30pm**

**Via ZOOM:**

Members: Jenn Glazer, Payal Maniar, Grace Lanzetta, Julie Ginsberg, Jamie Angus, Gerry Seiner, Deanne Ozaki, Angela Scott, Gina Hope, Denise O'Connor, Meredith Feldman.  
Board: Jon Kean, Jennifer Smith, Dept: Deanna Sinfield

**I. CALL TO ORDER & INITIAL COMMENTS**

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Members & Public**

Parents Coffee and Bagels September 20th after school drop off.

**III. UPDATE: New Member Welcome and Introductions**

Welcome to new members this year! Laura Leib, Gerry Seiner, Deanne Ozaki, Denise O'Connor, Julie Ginsberg

**IV. UPDATE: Special Education Director Deanna Sinfield**

Good news: The Federal Govt is giving the District more money. Several funding pots: An increase in Per Pupil Spending, Covid relief funds, funds for alternative dispute resolution (ADR). During the Pandemic we continued providing services while other Districts stopped. District also has funding for Learning Recovery Fees - this addresses regression or lost academics during the Pandemic. After or before school tutoring for example. This should span over two years - we expect to receive quite a bit of money.

A manual went out to all District Teachers and providers. There will also be one for parents. Over 100 links put together with District explanations

New programming information: District began new Collaborative Kindergarten programs. Also began the SEED program at JAMS. Socio-emotional program at JAMS with Amy Peters a great success. District began Circle of Friends at different sites. Also a new program called Lexercise - already being used in Malibu and SAMOHI, this is for reading. A lot of data comes with this and tracks student progress.

There is Litigation already starting this year. Two trials coming up but mostly settling things in a productive and fair manner.

District is having a shortage of Speech Language pathologists. Many have quit or not shown

up on the first day and it has been a real problem. We have many vacancies and will do make-up sessions.

Change in programming at Malibu Elementary. Changed a Social Skills program to a Life Skills program.

We did not lose as many teachers this year. In fact we expanded District staff. Also most Para's have not been moved around this year - most have stayed at the site they have been at. The new Discovery Building at SAMOHI is cutting edge for kids with Life Skills needs. New refrigerators, washing machines, learning tools for life skills etc.

Member: Is the Circle of Friends at SAMOHI in-person or virtual? Many other campuses want this program such as Muir, etc.

Member: Learning loss and the extra funding. Many kids do not have the additional Para support that they need.

District: Finding staff has been difficult. District is even using an Agency. One solution is building after-school support using existing Resource teachers. Muir already gave their program. Lexercise is one solution for reading that the kids can do at home. Everyone was also given a lesson in how to measure learning loss. Did the kids make progress to their goals? Parent input? Teacher input?

We also did Learning Institutes this summer. Of all invited, only 30-40 showed up. It was very valuable and teachers really connected with kids.

Member: What is the timing of the 'Illuminate' transition?

District: Illuminate was not easy to switch over. For our kids with IEPs it translated to Aries? Our Data person for SpEd quit in August. Deanna has been fixing data and contracting with an outside company. Passwords do not always work. 'Illuminate' is not efficient. There has been wrong data for SASE.

Member: Have you seen pushback for some of the classrooms that may be going into quarantine for SpEd students?

District: For small SpEd classes, teachers have been able to jump online when they need. Self-contained classrooms have been easy.

Member: Kids that are in Gen Ed are struggling. Difficult to get assignments and feel a part of school for ten whole days. There is no prescriptive state or guidelines by the Gov't for this. Independent Study is really designed for Independent kids. But this does not always work for kids who need an IEP. Three teachers providing SAI type services. SLP seeing kids online, also OT's and Adaptive PE teachers all going online. How do we support these ten day kids?

Trying to figure out a way that is equitable and easy. Its been a logistical nightmare. If only one child is out is it fair to give a global lesson? How can you give an individual lesson?

Public: Having some sort of livestream or recording that allows kids to listen in can be extremely helpful.

District: That technology is all in negotiation right now.

Public: In some of the software there is an option to do a lesson live and also record it.

Member: It's great to hear the 101 of How SPED Financials work, what keyline items are, where the sources of Funding come from. Also data on how we track League Settlements. This would be beneficial for new members and all of us when we discuss spending on technology etc. Making this an agenda for a meeting would be wonderful. The Budget fluctuates year to year. Cuts that are made, kids coming back from certain programs.

Member: Piggybacking on others comments. Other accommodations such as 504 Kids. Any idea of when the time period extends.

District: IEPs and 504s are individualized. It's really different for every child. The teachers are providing accommodations as necessary based on the students' individual needs..

V. UPDATE: Board Liaison Jon Kean or Jennifer Smith  
Great positive energy kicking off this meeting! Board very concerned about Staff and Principals as the work loads are never ending. All Members' questions are all being addressed and everyone is running on limited capacity.

Making Vaccines mandatory is not formalized yet.

Board agenda: mandates are top of mind right now. The Testing mandate is smoothing out. A small segment of the community displeased, but very small. LAUSD fully expecting lawsuits.

Looking forward to October to talk about the District moving forward. As opposed to constantly troubleshooting Covid issues.

Member: Any feedback on kids and testing? And struggle with the testing or daily health screenings and masks?

District: Most kids have adapted well, especially when they see their peers doing it. We have set up an indoor-outdoor classroom for kids that cannot wear masks. Kids seem really happy to be back.

The District employees have not had a break. There was no summer. Often feel like punching bags. District employees are all exhausted. We fear for Staff and Staff retention.

Member: Do the kids have to test before returning back from quarantine?

Board: CDC Guidelines/LA County Guidelines which do we follow? We need to figure out how all kids have access to testing.

Member: The testing company has done a great job collecting tests, especially for Kindergarten and First graders.

Board: Everyone is working hard. We are speaking with Dr. Drati to find more help. We are really trying to hire more.

## VI. DISCUSSION:

### A. 2021-22 SEDAC Co-Chair and Secretary Roles

Payal Maniar has been Co-Chair for over two years. She is looking for someone to transition into this role. Gina Hope states that she would like to Chair. She will transition in November. Meredith Feldman willing to take over as Secretary.

### B. 2021-22 SEDAC Charge Planning

District had UC-Lend to take over the Sex-Ed Program. District would not have to pay for it. There could be a sub-committee to take over this department. There is an interest to continue with UC-Lend. Julie Ginsberg, Grace Lanzetta, Jen Glazer volunteered to be on Sex-Ed Sub-Committee.

Creation of parent Support groups to help with Transitional Years. Gerry Seiner and Grace Lanzetta volunteer.

We need to create a group for Social Justice - working with Dr. Satinder. Julie Ginsberg, Gina Hope, Meredith Feldman, Gerry Seiner, Payal Maniar all volunteered.

Discussion for another idea for charge: Collaborating with SpEd and Gen Ed. Mostly at Middle and High school level. Between 1-5th grade there is no model. It is all push-in. Can we take recommendations from existing Collaborative classrooms to create tipsheets. Any tips that can come from Maureen? We do have experts in the field? Some programs at JAMS and Lincoln can show best practices. Even hearing from these instructors as a Panel could help.

## VII. COMMENTS: Members & Public

Member: Discussing Integration of Data systems is beyond a SEDAC issue.

Board: We should ask IT and Tech people to come and talk to us about communications. Not all families are getting emails.

District: We are not aware of who is not getting communications. Please forward to all parent groups that you know to help make sure no one is missed.

Effective Strategies to build trust and Community: Transparency concerns. Does this need to have a Charge built up around it?

Member: The district is working on building representation at each Site via PRN. The Purpose of SEDAC, for disseminating information both ways. We do not need to make a Charge around this.

Member: Would like to get Malibu more involved in this group.

Member: Would like to place in Agenda having a speaker series.

Close of Discussion: Members agreed to meet and finalize charges at the next SEDAC meeting.

This school year, meetings will be the first Tuesdays of each Month. 6:30pm unless posted otherwise.

Meeting Dismissed at 8:18pm.

For the 2021-2022 school year, SEDAC meetings will be scheduled on the first Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 pm via Zoom and/or at the District's Office Board Room.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 5th, 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.