

SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENDA

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:30pm

Via ZOOM:

<https://smmk12.zoom.us/j/83290004846?pwd=TWVhVbUI0b3VEbGFvQmdFekRkNzNYdz09>

I. CALL TO ORDER & INITIAL COMMENTS

6:35 Quorum: 8 members Deanna Sinfield, Jennifer Smith, Jerry Seiner, Payal Maniar, Meredith Feldman, Laura Leib, Angela Scott, Denise, Jen Glazer, DeAnne Ozaki

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Members & Public: None

III. UPDATE: Special Education Director Deanna Sinfield

- Transition meetings for Malibu HS will take place in person!
- 2 social work interns starting free from UC LEND coming to work in the STEPS program
- Lexersize (online reading program): pilot program in Malibu and Lincoln (Candice Saunders); seeing great results; reading with fluency and comprehension; pinpoints what the students need to learn; want to see results and see if we should roll out
 - 15 mins a day computer and teacher taught, for dyslexic needs
- Learning ally: program that reads books to students; purchased for the whole district, teachers and students can use it, will read most textbooks, not a computer voice, all kids have access for it; summer reading- child could have it read to them and follow along
- Updates on hiring.
 - Director shared the continued need hire SLP and language aids (can do everything but testing) and having to use agencies; they have hired online person and SLP in Malibu. Muir has a SLP 4-5 days a week, another SLP hired but leaving in Jan, Lincoln and Grant: had 1.2 SLP and the person left so Deanna hiring SLPAs who were former leads in clinics to fill the gaps. Roosevelt: SLP starting Monday: 1 retired person coming in to do testing and working on line
 - Struggling to hire Paras; have a couple of companies we are working with to find them
 - Member asked if there is any retention bonus for paras? Director: it is a Consideration, trying to get the best paras to train others, how to attract and retain talent; salaries are much lower than they should be, same with SLP
- Govt funding for learning recovery: working on plans for each school: will schools use their own teachers and paras or hire out? Will begin in Jan or Feb
 - Lincoln piloting an am group now to see what is going to look like
- Data shows most of our kids did not lose their skills; didn't gain a ton but didn't lose; kids able to utilize online learning did ok, others did well and excelled in video format
- Co Chair asked about what testing was done to understand learning levels vendor?

- Director: Lower grades Fastbridge reading testing, upper grades is Star reading and math (have used for 10 years) aligned with curriculum
- Looking to pilot other online programs for spec ed kids
- “Do the math” program: our teachers are really liking it as well as “engage NY” supplemental programs for teachers who are willing to try them
- SAMOHI staff training today: specifically for spec ed teams focusing in restorative justice (between students and staff)
- *if an SLP does treatment it is billable, anything that can be considered medical: nurses, mental health, various codes that are billable, school psych interns get paid for, part of a nurse salary*
- Update on settlements/ due process:
 - Director: have only had a couple of lawyers taken into formal due process TY, most are ADR/ mediated without attorneys, prefer to help students than pay lawyers, “is that really worth fighting for” focus on getting what is right for the student, some attorneys sending clients direct to Deanna- building up good will and on the same page, less adversarial when you are creative on what we can do for students, proactive and looking big picture for what is good not for 1 kid but for all kids,
- Update on PRN update:
 - Director: some people came, more of an overview, PRN are those who will reach out to other families, have to understand the process to advise others, how to get best results, what to do if it doesn’t go the way you should go; did an overview will review programs/ services next;
- We are full in almost every Spec Ed program in the district; many people moving in from LAUSD to SMMUSD; we have quality programs going on; don’t need the same length of hours or services assigned in LAUSD bc our quality is better
- CoChair: Can we have a primer on understanding the spec ed budget:
 - Director: gets it monthly: shows salaries and spend, ABA costs are higher kids coming back from NPS or residential placements (there are none available and kids getting sent home if they are not fitting in) working with a company costing us a lot of \$ but seeing results, will transition back
- Consultant to help with CACE and CalPads; all state reporting is really hard, we had many errors, company doing clean up and teach us what they are doing 1.5 hours every Friday night review cases, transactions, tell us what needs to be fixed for the next week, Aries is difficult, this is a very hard year with data
- Member asked if can we get a cheat sheet for homework accommodations that crossover from IEPs and 504; difficulty in understanding time and half rules, what is the basis of time;
 - Director shared there are no set guideline for accommodations and modifications they are individualized time and a half is not the same as twice as much time but no standard menu

- *Accommodations: content is not changed but delivery might be*
- *Modification: modifying curriculum so it is not the same as it was*
- *504: gives access to gen ed: levels the playing field*
- Member expressed that there is a difficulty in understanding the underlying rule at SAMOHI for all students to know what we should get on top of that; what would a kid without an IEP or 504 get if they were out sick for 2 days? Member to follow up with house Principal at SAMOHI
 - Director shared if you miss days you arrange with your teacher how long you have to make it up, no set rule, every teacher/ grade/subject makes their own due dates

IV. UPDATE: Board Liaison Jon Kean or Jennifer Smith: Jen Smith

- Rules state teacher will tell you how much time to make up assignments after sick days
- Board meeting last Thursday; early childhood presentation on colab program
- NY Times article today: bonus for early childhood teachers
- What is to come for universal preschool: turns the program we have upside down TK-12 under one general budget, spacing needed, collab classrooms— all has to be worked out
- Presented a statewide dashboard in our 7 priorities: where we are, where we were, where we want to go and how to get there: facilities, materials, culture; Jen asking how do these categories fit into the spec ed world? Spec ed not broken down
- 12% of the district is special ed- how to measure: does data track special ed? No % on the ratings, all answers are subjective based on who measured and judged scale 1-5
- Cochair: strongly urge that spec ed is brought in from the beginning
- Board Member Smith: this is a 60k foot exercise, not specific to spec ed; doesn't exist in this format there are a lot of other sub groups that would find it interesting as well; LGBTQ, English language etc..
- Member asked 'Who is answering how we are doing?'
 - Board Member Smith shared Teachers, site leaders, Dr. Mora, Sue Samagre-Powell, exec leadership; outside of culture surveys by kids, top down answers, not data driven to get answers
- A couple of high points but we want to be very critical and hard on ourselves and make sure we are creating and implementing quality programs- don't want to be satisfied
- Director sits on exec board but still has a way to go; we are at the table but also need to be everywhere; being recognized but a piece still missing, continue to push the envelope, Director wants us to be part of the bigger conversation
- Board Member Smith on board, take what the state sends down to us and send it back with more value
- Board member Smith attended a lovely bagel event and thanked Laura Lieb for organizing

- Member Laura Lieb: another event in December for social coaching
- The Board passed resolution that accommodates all committees to hold meetings on zoom, there are accommodations that allow us to meet in person but the board resolution allows for us to meet via zoom

V. DISCUSSION:

A. 2021-22 SEDAC Charges Discussion

Charges approved;

follow up with interest from members for Ad Hoc committees

need a point person on each

Need deliverable for wording of the charge by the next meeting; Co-chair to send out process for the Ad Hoc committees and timing

Transition support: Jerry (Chair), DeAnn, Denise

Social justice (Dr. Satinder Hawkins): Angela, Meredith, Jerry, Laura (open to work on transition), Payal (chair if needed)

Sex Ed program roll out: Meredith, Jenn (Chair)(UC Lend seeking feedback and wants to continue), Payal, Grace

CoChair: would like an update on any academic or social funding \$ will be disseminated at December 7 meeting;

Director: has the \$ so no new approvals, knows what we need, meeting with groups as to how we are going to do it, personnel is strapped and many don't want to work after school, paras can work after school, 6 week increments, could be before or after school, support periods what do those look like, Jan or Feb roll out hope to roll out ; Learning Ally is one of the things we funded with that \$ via Ann MacDonald, Lexersize was a labor of love from another parent, the funding goes 2 years so we have some time, pilot program now at Lincoln with pre and post testing, will have additional learning recovery over the summer

VI. COMMENTS: Members & Public None

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, December 7th, 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.