

SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 08, 2020 6:30pm

Via ZOOM: <https://smmk12.zoom.us/j/7316602466?pwd=RIQ4Y1l4aVluaThjd1IROGltNldMz09>

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

Meeting called to order at 6:42pm. In attendance: Payal Maniar, Meredith Feldman, Gina Hope, Jenn Glazer, Grace Lanzetta, Jamie Angus, Angela Scott, Jon Kean, Deanna Sinfield.

- I. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Members & Public - none
- II. UPDATE: Special Education Director Deanna Sinfield
 - A. Back to School Plan Options and Timeline

Opened preschool special ed programs. McKinley, Muir and LCDC will open after break. Also opened up the Transition Program at SaMOHI, Grant is next week then Franklin and Malibu. Covid numbers high and LAUSD just closed their campuses. Timing of future campus openings on the District is on the website. The Department of Public Health has walked through and approved open campuses. PPE stocked, transportation is running, custodial staff well trained.

It's been hard to find families to come back. Every staff member trained by nurses for safety. All returning families must attend reopening zoom meetings. Approximately 28-32 children have returned. 1 special education Hub has opened. A lot of logistical problems.

Q: Push-In for SAI/Gen Ed cannot happen due to difficult logistics. Focus is on bringing on main programs. Then may work on piloting SAI/GenEd options. SLP/OT difficulty must be seen individually. We will not come back in hybrid unless we are in the red zone but we are far from it. Moving at a steady pace bringing kids back.

Q; What about kids that do not choose to come back? What does online learning look like? Teacher's take their laptops and can do 1:1 student work and Zoom at the same time. Grant has been successful to master both in-person and online instruction and can serve as a model to other SAI classrooms. Grant teachers have felt successful.

A member suggested that the occasional 1:1 flex time is very beneficial for middle school students.

At SaMOHI Hilda the coordinator has gathered para-educators and proposed one day student work days where students can catch up on missed school work.

A. Other Updates

Litigation Update: There is still plenty of litigation activity. Good thing is that IEPs are being tightened up and resolution more frequently at the IEP level. Using ADR process - have done 2 successfully. Alternative dispute resolution. Thus far very few issues due to Covid and current educational status. Many cases are from before the new Director had taken the position.

I. UPDATE: Board Liaison Jon Kean or Oscar De La Torre

Meeting tomorrow Dec 9th and will review facilities assessment. Will not be discussing re-openings. Survey data will be released on Dec 17th. Preview of data is what is expected: Teachers seem to be on one side and parents on the other: students in the middle. 860 high school students took the survey. Dec 17th will be Jenn Smith's first day as a new member and she may also participate in SEDAC. The concept of Distance Plus will be discussed. Dec 14th will be the appointment for Oscar De La Torre's seat. He never tendered a resignation so the board has been waiting for the due process. Dec 21st will be a review of facilities. With the new administration a bill was submitted looking for full funding for IDEA. Washington showing interest in this, this is encouraging. With LAUSD campuses closed until the end of the semester. Jon has heard that no K-2 waivers will be approved in the near future. School fields remain open as public parks although playgrounds are closed. Permission given for fields reopen Dec 2nd.

I. FOR DISCUSSION:

A. 2020-2021 SEDAC Charges:

1. Distance Learning Communication, Support and Feedback Loop
 - a. Plan for BTS for students receiving push in/ pull out SAI services
2. Website architecture

Deanna has posted "opening protocol" and "who is coming back" on the website.

1. Other...

B. Staff and Teacher Training: Addressing unconscious bias and special education

A SEDAC member brought up the concept of unconscious bias. Stereotyping and microaggressions throwing parents and students over the edge. Could this be on the agenda for future teacher and admin planning. There has been some bias training at Grant. Dept. is not sure how to fit this in during Covid but agrees it would be a great charge if we could find a legitimate program. Bias awareness training. School Board member comment: mentions bias education at the Holocaust Museum that his wife operates. Another member mentioned the National SEED Program.

A. Parent Resource Network: Updates

Deanna is giving parents information to be used with other parents. She finds parent to parent communication to be the most powerful.

A. Parent and Student Sex Education: update

No response from CABA or Grace's contact at Family Behavior Network. Will seek contacts at private doctor's offices.

I. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No members of the public attended today's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09.