



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Early Care and Development District Advisory Committee MINUTES
Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 6:00pm via Zoom

- I. Call to Order made by Susan Samarge-Powell at 6:07pm
 - a. Present: Ivy Chang, Gary Huff, Iao Katagiri, Raven Kras, Laura Manson, Board Member Laurie Lieberman, Ben Swett, Susan Samarge-Powell
 - b. Absent: Iao Katagiri, Jon Kean, Kristina Lizama, Jennifer Smith
- II. Public Comments – None
- III. General/Old Business - Action Item – Ben Swett made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2/9/22 meeting. Seconded by Ivy Chang. All in attendance approved.
- IV. Board Liaison report – Board Member Laurie Lieberman shared that we have been on spring break for two weeks, so nothing too pressing was occurring. She noted that the district has followed LACDPH guidelines and has made masking indoors and outdoors strongly recommended, but optional. She shared that there was continued concern about community spread, but our schools seemed to be doing well. More to discuss after upcoming board meetings
- V. SMMUSD Staff Reports –
 - a. Susan Samarge-Powell provided District Covid-19 Updates, specifically around ITC, Preschool and School Age programs. Susan shared that while masking has moved to optional for School Age programs, ITC and PK kept masking in place through the first week back (and will continue through the second week return as well). Susan also shared that weekly testing will continue through the end of the school year.
 - b. An update regarding programming was provided; specifically, that student reenrollment and new enrollment has opened for all programs. While we are having staffing issues, we are trying to grow back towards pre-pandemic levels when/where possible. Staffing concerns remain throughout.
 - c. DAC member Swett asked about any particular concerns our program has or may have; Susan noted that fiscal issues are always at the forefront of our minds. We are trying to envision our programs without the current additional funding support the district provides. The discussion evolved into talking through what financial stability would look like, and how the district can potentially play a consistent part in this stability.
- VI. New Business
 - a. UPK update – Susan shared that she has spoken at the ECTF, ELT, LCAP PAC, and PTSA meetings about the rollout of UPK and specifically the full year Transitional Kindergarten in SMMUSD. She has requested to meet with the BAAPAC and DELAC as well. Deanna Sinfield has already met with SEDAC, but Susan will see if she can meet with them as well. Susan shared that SMMUSD



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will likely be partnering with LACOE to apply for the Early Education Teacher Grant, so we have more pathways for people to qualify to teach preschool and Transitional Kindergarten. DAC member Manson shared that she is on a group called PEACH and they are working as advocates for early childhood, and that there is a lot that CTC needs to hear in order to be as helpful as possible to staff in the field. DAC member Swett said we should be thinking of branding TK so people understand who we are and what we are providing for the community.

Next meeting dates are: 5/11, 6/15 (if needed)

- VII. Announcements- DAC member Kras shared that a lot of Early Childhood conferences really are not supportive of early learning, and we need to be considering the types of PD that we can be doing to best support those in early childhood.

Susan shared that DAC Co-Chair Iao Katagiri has regrettably submitted her letter of resignation from the DAC due to health needs. She shared that she fully supports our DAC and will be with us in spirit. Our DAC expressed the deepest of regret that we are losing her as a DAC member, but send our gratitude and best wishes.

- VIII. Adjournment – Susan Samarge-Powell closed the meeting at 7:14pm.