



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Early Care and Development District Advisory Committee  
MINUTES

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

6:00pm – 7:30pm

- I. Call to Order – made by Lao Katagiri at 6:04pm  
**In attendance** – Lao Katagiri, Jon Kean, Natasha Kingscote, Raven Kras, Laurie Lieberman, Kristina Lizama, Laura Manson, Susan Samarge-Powell, Ben Swett  
**Absent** – Gary Huff,
- II. Public Comments – None
- III. General/Old Business – Approval of Minutes from the 9/9/2020 meeting as amended with the correction of Board member Lieberman's last name.
- IV. Board Liaison report – Both Board members were present; Board member Lieberman shared that right now the district is really focusing on the Reopening plan for SMMUSD. The focus is on safety protocols and procedures. There continue to be staffing concerns about returning to work in person. There will need to be conversations about how to support staff both at home and work. Board member Lieberman also noted the district is considering purchasing the office building that is on the same property at the Doubletree near Samohi to relocate the district offices and ancillary locations (such as CDS!) to the 4<sup>th</sup> Street location. This will be a board discussion at the Thursday board meeting. The major part that needs to be conveyed is no general fund monies will be used for this purchase, and in the long term this may actually bring in revenue to the district because there will no longer be rent in multiple locations.
- V. SMMUSD Staff Reports
  - a. Program Updates – Dr. Susan Samarge-Powell shared that CDS is working with the district to potentially open up In-School Work Hubs. Although this is not a function of CDS, they were tasked with the work from the superintendent. The goal is to open these locations for children of SMMUSD staff and EL students first. Then in priority order adding in Foster/Homeless youth as well as students on Free/Reduced lunch and/or on subsidized care for childcare. The staff will be CDS teachers brought back on a temporary basis. We are waiting for waiver approvals from the state and cannot move forward until they are approved.
  - b. CDS is working hard to try and bring back students on to campus. The current update is we have students on Distance Learning – 3 for ITC, 106 for PK, 70 for SAP. We have sent out surveys this week to find out about parents' interest regarding returning to campus in January. Of the 12 ITC families, 9 have replied and 5 want to return; 2 are uncertain and 2 do not want to return this year (prior commitments were made). For PK we sent out 212 emails and as of the meeting have had 96 responses. 76 want to return to campus in some capacity, 10 want to remain on DL and 10 want to be dropped. Of the 10 who want to be dropped 5 want to return next year.
  - c. DAC members asked about the potential capacity for CDS for the school year if classrooms are required to remain at 12 only. A discussion was also had about local early learning locations regarding diminished capacity. Local private sites still have spaces available because families are not returning as quickly post-COVID as had been anticipated. It was noted that while people feel it important for early learning to be back on campus, we don't want anyone uncomfortable. Families will not be pressured to return to campus until they are ready. And, part of the state subsidy requirement is that any



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family on state subsidy who chooses to remain on DL will be able to do so through the close of the school year in June.

- VI. New Business
  - a. Dr. Samarge-Powell brought up the potential of needing to move the November 4<sup>th</sup> DAC meeting to later in November (because it will be only one day post-election). However, the consensus of the group is that this is a good think-tank group and we should be fine to meet.
- VII. Announcements – Member Kras asked if we could review the preschool curriculum at some point in the near future to see what is being taught in classes and so discussions could be had around what best serves as supports for students. Members agreed we don't need to review everything at one sitting, but we might be able to discuss components during parts of each meeting. This will be considered for future meetings.
- VIII. Adjournment was at 7:04pm