



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Early Care and Development District Advisory Committee MINUTES

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 6:00pm via Zoom

- I. Call to Order made by Susan Samarge-Powell at 6:05pm
 - a. Present: Ivy Chang, Gary Huff, Raven Kras, Laura Manson, Jennifer Smith, Ben Swett, Susan Samarge-Powell
 - b. Absent: Jon Kean, Laurie Lieberman
- II. Public Comments – None
- III. General/Old Business - Action Item – All in attendance approved the 10/12/22 minutes by acclimation.
- IV. Board Liaison report – Board Member Jennifer Smith shared
 - ~Dr. Drati has submitted his resignation as of December, 2022. He will be moving to Bellflower USD. The board is committed to the mission we have pursued with Dr. Drati. They feel continuity is important and feel we are in a good position. There will be a community process for sharing about next superintendent plans.
 - ~The state is challenging because they have said we're in a huge surplus, but now we seem to be at a deficit and it's unclear why. This will need to be looked into
 - ~The new school board members will start on 12/9
 - ~The President/VP for the board will be elected on 12/15
 - ~The interim superintendent will be announced on 12/15
 - ~Jennifer has asked that all DAC minutes be shared with the Friday memos so board members can know what is happening elsewhere
- V. SMMUSD Staff Reports –
 - a. Susan Samarge-Powell noted:
 - ~Covid-19, RSV and flu cases are all up across the district and in CDS.
 - ~She shared that CDS made the decision to be closed for one week due to a Covid-19 outbreak. While we could have stayed open, LACDPH agreed that for infants, the decision we made was the safest (though understanding it can be challenging for working families).
 - ~CDS will be open during winter break; we will have one preschool site open at Washington West and one School Age site (with 3 classrooms) open at Rogers. We will be open 4 days each of the break weeks
- VI. New Business
 - a. Discussion occurred about how to ensure new board members (and new staff) are provided with essential early learning information so they are well versed when early learning comes up in meetings and with decision-making.
 - b. DAC member Swett shared about his time at NAEYC and noted that labor challenges are felt everywhere, but Washington DC and Mississippi seem to



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- have a handle on it; he suggests we start looking at other places to consider how to support our programs that have such staffing challenges.
- c. Member Swett also noted that there was a small organization called Teach Peace of Mind that is working on ways to have Peace Educators and support mindfulness based social emotional learning and conflict resolution for PK-8th.
 - d. DAC Member Kras noted that we need more support for boys in childcare and that there should be specific curriculum we are utilizing to assist childcare centers and providers in supporting young boys
- VII. Announcements – Short on time but Ivy sent an updated request for readers for the City of Santa Monica’s Human Services Grant proposals that will be submitted in January, 2023/.
- VIII. Adjournment – Susan Samarge-Powell closed the meeting at 7:26pm and noted the next meeting would not be until January 11, 2023. She wished all a happy holiday.