



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Early Care and Development District Advisory Committee
MINUTES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020
6:00pm – 7:30pm

- I. Call to Order – made by Iao Katagiri at 6:06pm
In attendance – Gary Huff, Iao Katagiri, Jon Kean, Natasha Kingscote, Raven Kras, Laurie Lieberman, Susan Samarge-Powell, Ben Swett
Absent – Nicole Jain, Kristina Lizama, Laura Manson,
- II. Public Comments – Member Kras shared that the Middle East concerns were affecting families in the community and she wondered if something might be done to show support to these families; Members Lieberman and Kean shared that a formal letter and statement from the school board had already been planned and was going to be forthcoming to the community; Member Kras also reiterated a deep interest in Nature Schools Curriculum and sustainability opportunities.
- III. General/Old Business – Approval of Minutes from the 12/11/19 meeting
- IV. Board Liaison report – Board Members Liberman and Kean shared that since we had gone on break after our last meeting there wasn't a lot of new information to share. They did note that the dates that Jane Golden, a renowned artist, will come lead discussions and activities around public art. The conversations will be on 1/30, 1/31 and 2/1 in various formats – regarding the John Muir mural at the Lincoln/Ocean Park location.
- V. SMMUSD Staff Reports
 - a. Program Updates – Dr. Susan Samarge-Powell also shared that with the break between our last meeting and this one there weren't too many changes
 - b. Susan reminded the board that Early Learning and Care Division (ECLD) Contract Monitoring Review will occur in the spring; there is a new state consultant and Susan will meet her in January. The review will then occur after that.
- VI. New Business
 - a. The DAC had a deeper discussion around Kindergarten age eligibility and what the SMMUSD guidelines are regarding entering TK and Kindergarten;
 - i. The discussion around district processes occurred; the DAC was made aware that the district follows state recommended guidelines regarding TK age eligibility as well as K age eligibility and mandated ages for entering Kindergarten.
 - ii. There was a discussion around kids who are too old to enter Kinder, and what families do who want to bring in a child who is 'older'. Families are currently required to enter first grade and can request an SST (Student Success Team), which can be held up to 4-6 weeks after the start of school (so students have time to be in class to see how they are adjusting). If it is determined that the student is not appropriately placed, they can be 'retained' into Kindergarten
 - iii. The DAC noted that while the process is not one that all families will be happy with, there is a process to follow and the district follows it
 - b. The DAC determined that we would switch our 2/12 meeting to 2/5 so that members can attend the State of the City address by the Mayor of Santa Monica on 2/12
- VII. Adjournment was at 6:58pm