

NOTES

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
Health and Safety District Advisory Committee
SMMUSD District Office | 1651 16th St. | Santa Monica, CA | 90404

June 1, 2021 | 6:30 pm
Virtual meeting due to COVID-19

Present

Mark Kelly | Pat Nolan, RN | Cecilia Soto-Loftus, MPH | Laila Taslimi | | Shuli Lotan, LCSW, PPSC | Deborah Novak, MS, RDN | Jane Schmitz, PhD | Debbie Bernstein | Linda Morazan (Malibu), Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

Not present: Rita Kachru, MD | Maya Lindemann, RN | Elizabeth Scharetg, MSW, MPH | Erin Behan | Araceli Aronin (SAMOHI)

Item

Speaker

1 - General Business: Approval of Minutes

Shuli moved to approved minutes, Jane seconded – minutes from last meeting approved.

2 - Public Comments - None

3 - Report from SMFD / SMPD – no one present

4 - Report from Board Liaison – not present at time of report but shared later - looking forward to in-person graduations

Richard T-J

5 - Reports and updates from SMMUSD Staff

Mark/ Shuli / Rachel

Mark – school has reopened, pleased on how well its gone. Biggest challenge we face is keeping kids separate at recess and lunch. In instructional spaces they have been fine. Saw an uptick in enrollment from January to May. Planning for a robust summer school program, Intensive Intervention, Credit Recovery, and a few Get Ahead summer school classes. Most happening in person – sites will be McKinley and MES for elementary, JAMS, Samohi and Malibu HS. Board working on budget for next school year. Special board meeting earlier today to discuss Extended Learning Opportunities Plan (part of Covid funding). Thursday regular board meeting will be about the preliminary budget for 21-22 school year and LCAP – both have to be approved by the end of June. Mark shared district enrollment numbers over past 5 years as well as projections for next year. Laila asked whether one-time money from Covid relief are being used to keep staffing at ratios to have smaller class sizes, Mark replied yes – class sizes are being aligned with board recommendations. No layoffs

Item**Speaker**

this year, about 23 teachers above what the staffing formula says what we should have according to enrollment.

Rachel – nurses working really hard to keep campuses safe. Have avoided outbreaks by contact tracing per health dept guidelines. Instituted antigen testing at every school site, partnering with an outside agency. PCR testing continues at JAMS Mon/Thurs and MES Tuesdays, by nurses and Health Office Specialists (HOS's). 200 plus kids want to go to Samohi prom so all will be tested at lunch tomorrow. Hiring: goal to get 2 HOS's at every school site for elementary, one HOS at every secondary school, LVN at Samohi – good support for nurses who have often been solo. Lots of burnout in the nursing department – resignations and vacancies, trying to fill positions. May have to catch up next year on mandated vision and hearing testing that didn't happen this past year – LACOE said that many districts are in the same situation.

Lots of health education happening for staff on Covid protocols, how to use PPE, etc. – especially an issue for the Special Education staff.

HOS's are open to covering summer school at their sites, RN's will be moving around.

Laila wondered about partnership with SMC nursing program (can't use them bc they have to have a Bachelor's degree to get hired by district) and any potential UCLA research on the effects of distance learning / zoom screens all day on children's vision. Rachel not aware of any of this research but knows that vision testing will be happening in 2nd grade next year, but with Covid protocols might take longer – middle school might have to do it twice.

Shuli – MSW interns are wrapping up with current caseloads of students in therapy, many families still reaching out to get kids connected, some being triaged to community agencies because capacity within partner agencies and interns are now more limited. Shuli will be coordinating supports for summer school – 2 workshops by Family Service of SM at each level in SM, support groups for JAMS and Samohi by Social Emotional Wellness Initiative and MES and MHS by Malibu Boys and Girls Club, individual therapy available by Insight Psychotherapy Group and volunteers that Shuli will supervise. Expanding MSW intern program next year, already have 8 interns coming in August.

Linda (Student rep for Malibu)– At least at MHS in 11th grade, students seem burned out and ready for summer vacation. AP's are happening and finals coming soon. Planning to continue on this DAC next year. Would like to know more about how students at her school

Item**Speaker**

in general feel about mental health, improvements that can be made, etc.

New Business**Mark**

1. End of Year Report – Tara sent out a template. We are past the deadline but wondering if we still need to submit it – Mark suggested we forgo our opportunity to do the report this year since we are in a re-group mode. Start of the year was so difficult for the whole district, and this committee, due to the moving target of return to school.

Broader question / discussion about the purpose of this DAC at this moment (Jane/Cici) - but when *is* the right time to bring it up considering everyone's fatigue (Richard)? Debbie B. does not feel we should question whether we are needed. Pat noticed that we DO have some specific things to report from subcommittees re: wellness policy, and feels that we should try to have a bigger presence. Mark acknowledges mis-step of not utilizing this DAC's expertise throughout pandemic, in hindsight might have done things differently. Acknowledging Rita K's appreciated contributions to the larger district committee. Pat wondered if mental health is now perhaps more of a focus or district priority due to Covid. We have made suggestions in past but people felt our suggestions were not prioritized (timing wasn't great with our ask for more \$ for district MH staffing). Mark stated its not a question of values – board *does* value mental health but we need revenue to fund more services if that is what we want to do. Shuli added that there are many ways to wellness – would love to have funding for a social worker at every site but also need a focus on prevention in the classroom – new TOSA position for Social Emotional Learning may go a long way to help with that.

Decision that Mark and Tara will start a shared google doc for the report so that we can all contribute to it with whatever we know and can add, to be completed by 6/10 so it can be added to the board packet for the 6/24 meeting.

2. Review/Update Goals - postpone until 6/14 meeting

Adjourned at 8:26

Next Meeting: June 14, 2021
