



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

DELAC Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom

January 11, 2021

9:00 am

Laura Hernández, DELAC President - Welcome everyone.

**DELAC members present:** Alicia Mignano, Grant; Daisy Vega, Will Rogers; Edgar Meinhardt, Malibu Elementary, Josy Fajardo, Malibu MS, Laura Hernández, SAMOHI; Imelda Rueda, McKinley; Lolis Barranco, LMS; Lucy Prieto, and Alejandra Pérez from JAMS; Margarita Torres, Muir; Verónica Ramírez, WR.

**DELAC members not present:** Guicela Alvarado, Elga Yoque, Verónica Bravo, Andrés González, Edison; Yheisi Alfaro, Urszula Jones, Daisy Mercado

**Parents present:** Claudia, Diana Maruri, Ninfa Hernández

**SMMUSD Staff:** María León Vázquez, SMMUSD Council Member; Dr. Jacqueline Mora, SMMUSD assistant superintendent; Dr. Freda Rossi, coordinator of family participation; Nancy Gutiérrez, BCL JAMS; Elena Uliantzeff, BCL Muir; Florence Rams, BCL Grant; Erika Diaz, BCL McKinley; Johanna de la Rosa, BCL SAMOHI; Flory Vila, BCL Will Rogers; Lupita Dixon, BCL Malibu; Vanina Zalazar, SMMUSD interpreter;

María León Vázquez, SMMUSD Board Member - Good morning and happy new year to all and happy birthday to Dr. Mora, thank you very much for everything you have done this last year. Let's hope all this virus goes away so that we can restore our lives normally. I want to communicate with you that we as part of the school board, on Thursday we will elect the new member who will take the place of Oscar de la Torre, we have 25 candidates. We are here to support you, it is necessary to communicate with your children's teachers, with the school principal if you have any pending issues. Let's hope for a great year, for improvements and let's have a good meeting today.

Laura Hernández - review the rules and the agenda for now:

Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services:

- Reclassification reports by school and district (summary and questions)
- Summary of Budgets for English Learners
- Information and status of inclusion of English Language Development (ELD) scores on report cards

Daisy Vega, DELAC Vice President - Welcome and Happy New Year everyone - Review Article V: Limitations and Article VII: Decorum

Alicia Mignano, DELAC Secretary - Review the list:

Edison - Guicela Alvarado - no, Elga Yoque - no, Verónica Bravo - no

Grant - Yheisi Alfaro - no; Alicia Mignano -yes

JAMS - Lucy Prieto - yes, Alejandra Pérez - yes, Daisy Mercado - no

Muir - Margarita Torres - yes, Kenia Ruiz - no, Andres Glz - no

LMS - Maria Barraco - yes

Malibu Elementary - Edgar Meinhardt -si; Urszula Jones - no

Malibu MS - Josie Fajardo -yes

McKinley - Imelda Rueda - yes

SAMOHI - Laura Hernández - yes

Will Rogers - Verónica Ramírez - yes

We have quorum

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**Board of Education:** Keith Coleman • Craig Foster • Jon Kean • Maria Leon-Vazquez

Laurie Lieberman • Jennifer Smith • Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

**Superintendent:** Dr. Ben Drati

We will approve the minutes of December 7, 2020. 1st motion to approve: Verónica Ramírez from WR, 2nd motion to approve: Daisy Vega from WR, the minutes from December 7, 2020 are approved.

Laura Hernández - introduces Dr. Jacqueline Mora

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - Thank you very much for acknowledging my birthday today, happy new year and I wish you all the best. Shares her screen (see PP)

We are going to continue with the presentation pending from November 18 meeting, there are four specific issues to give an update, we were able to review the issues of the reopening of the schools and the request for permission to open the schools in grades TK-2 we are still awaiting a resolution from the Los Angeles County Health Department regarding these requests which were submitted in late November, early December. We still have no resolution on their behalf. Also, at our last meeting we reviewed: reclassification data 2018-20.

Questions about the reclassification data? Following this, a summary of budget and expenditures for English learners and then an update of the inclusion of English development on report cards.

We looked at reclassification data for different schools starting with elementary schools (2017-2020) for middle and high schools and then compared this with data from the district, across LA County, and finally from the state. Then we shared some strategies on how to help your children at home. Questions?

Alicia Mignano, Grant - At Grant and Muir elementary, why is there such a difference between one school and another in student reclassifications?

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - the reclassification criteria is the same for all students in all schools but they are assessed in different ways according to grade level, for elementary there is a different criteria than in middle school and for high school. Test results are taken into account at the end of the school year. All children learn at different stages in the time it takes them to be able to develop the English language, and to be able to demonstrate proficiency. Students receive specific instruction for English development in academics development and designated English development, it is a specific time that our English learners need to focus in order to master the language and to be reclassified. This is different from the integrated English development that occurs during the school day in all subjects. This year this technique has been given greater focus for English learners in this distance learning format.

Alicia Mignano - SPSA: There are different levels for ELs, is there something specific the district is doing for kids that are stuck? For example, a percentage of students at SAMOHI remain stuck at level 4.

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - for elementary students grades 3-5 they receive additional support from the English developmental interventionist teachers in order for them to advance and in order to be reclassified; for students in middle school and high school, the coordinating teachers who support English development work with the teachers of these students to help with instruction and therefore have these students advance and to reclassify. We should not only focus on the ELPAC test criteria for reclassification but in other tests, grades, etc. and see how the student is performing on grade level in their academics demonstrating mastery of the standards in different subjects, and on the recommendation of teachers to see if they are ready for reclassification and also the opinion of their parents. You as parents should talk to your children's teachers about this topic. It is very important that you get involved in ELAC and go to the school council meetings in reference to how to improve the process of reclassification so that they are included in the school plan and your suggestions can be implemented, the principal is the one who takes note of all this. There are four criteria for reclassification.

Dr. Jacqueline Mora – (shares her screen) Expenses and funding sources for English learners for 2020-21, and other expenses for family involvement and participation. Dr. Mora reviews and explains each item of actions and services totaling \$ 2,260,973. (please see the PowerPoint presentation)

Laura Hernández - if we continue in this current situation, will distance learning also be for the summer?

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - Right now we are in the planning stage, we have to develop two plans: first if we are going to be able to be inside our buildings and second, if we will continue with distance learning. The governor has asked that we develop plans for whatever situation is going to happen to be prepared. Currently, with the vaccines that are being given, the idea is to be back in our schools but it all depends on how the situation develops, right now we are in a very difficult situation, the cases are increasing and at this moment we cannot see what will happen. We can only plan for tomorrow, for June to see if it is possible to open our schools either in small groups and see what adjustments I have to make, see the budget we have to be able to provide the support in person if that is possible.

Laura Hernández - please explain to me about differentiated level reading materials.

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - I was asked to have academic support after school, which is what we have now with the academic support program, also differentiated and digital materials for students. We are working with MyOn providing literature and digital books so that students can have access to their reading level and can read independently and can also continue to use the Clever app on their Chromebook. In MyOn students will have access to books, you can see the books they have read and how much they have read, they will be able to read at their level or higher. Talk to your teachers to find out how you can see this, the board is going to approve the contract this week. This platform will be implemented at the district level. All middle and high school teachers will be trained in how to use Newsela.

Laura Hernández - How to let parents know about this new program that students will use?

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - this is not a program it is an application of digital books available. A program is different from digital materials, students will have access to books. It is important to have this distinction, I do not want to see confusion. The MyOn and Newsela platforms have different videos for parents to see how this is used, what is the purpose, we are working with Naz Riquelme, coordinator of literacy and language, to communicate to parents also about these platforms so that they are informed.

Laura Hernández - in my son's class they use Google reading or writing or something like that to advance in writing and reading, would this be something similar to what you are explaining? Maybe I should ask the teacher.

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - I wouldn't know exactly what you mean if I don't have the correct name of the application. I suggest you ask your child's teachers about Google Classroom as there are different applications that can be added.

Daisy Vega - How do they monitor students? Are parents notified when the student is not paying attention?

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - are you referring to the new MyOn or Newsela platforms or in general?

Daisy Vega - in general, are they being monitored?

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - the literacy and language interventionists work with our students and monitor the progress of the students based on the reading program that is given to them, in addition a report is developed along with the grades and this information is given to parents this will be in February we are monitoring to see the progress of students based on the instruction that the interventionists are giving them, these students are identified in their development in their reading, in phonology and in their English development. The instructional coordinators who are the ones in the elementary and middle schools, they support the teachers in the development of their instruction during distance learning, this year we made an adjustment for being in distance instruction, it focuses on academic progress, the training coordinators have a meeting once a month to talk about how they are working and also these trainers support the teachers in their instruction to the English learners. We do have a way to monitor students especially now in distance learning.

The academic support programs, is something new that we started this year and we are working with two different agencies and the way we can communicate with parents every week and also with us to see the results of this progress that is being developed and if this support gives us a positive result in academic progress, we will have to determine if we will continue after this year.

Daisy Vega - Covid-19 is in the air, the approval of having meetings in schools requires many measures because my children only go to class and after class to the car and then home. I am worried about the break time children have, the virus has mutated and is in the air, you must always wear the mask. The danger zone is outside of Santa Monica and beyond Los Angeles, we must be very careful when we go to supermarkets. Emphasis should be placed once the children return to school that they always wear their masks.

Diana Maruri – In regards to literacy and language, the person at Muir is there for third to fifth grade students only and there is no one to monitor the lower grade students. Who is going to monitor these children learning English? Goal two is important and there should be monitoring but there isn't. What can we parents do to make this monitoring of English Learners at Muir happen?

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - Thank you for your comments and for sharing, what I suggest, you are already doing by coming to these DELAC and ELAC meetings and talking to let me know and I can review and talk with the school principal to see what is happening, it is good to continue and to advocate and ask what is happening, it is also good to talk with the teachers and ask the teachers “How is my child progressing in the development of English? What is the reclassification criteria that he / she has achieved, what does he need? How can we help my child advance? How

can we work as a team so that my child reclassifies? " Remember the principal is not in the class, it is the teacher who has the information on the student's progress, my recommendation is to have these conversations with the teacher, principal, with the SSC, with ELAC and at these meetings ask to have this information presented from the raskids (sp?) data for English learners and ask what is the progress, review this data and see what has been the benefit of this instruction and see if it has been implemented and what support you need to give to school for progress.

Diana Maruri - the problem is that who is going to ask for these results if teachers are not going to take charge of this because it is a lot of work for them, if they implement it, but who is going to follow up the lower grade students? The person who handles grades 3-5 only handles those grades and is not responsible for the lower grades. Who do I ask for this information?

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - then it would be the principal or the teacher of your child's class to see how student is progressing, but also the principal could get that data about a student's progress.

Diana Maruri - There is no lower grade interventionist and it is necessary to have a person at all grade levels, especially in these lower grades which is when children are very young.

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - I understand the school may not yet have identified a person to monitor those grades but the principal can bring that data to the school council or ELAC so they can review it with you, parents need to have access to that information, they have to share in one way or another with you the academic data of the students.

Margarita Torres - I have two comments: a lot of money is being invested at John Muir but there is still a lot of help needed. My second comment is: I agree with Diana Maruri, we have asked for many things, in writing, verbally and the answers given to us is that there was not enough budget, we did not find the right person, this is a process, we are asking since my child was in second grade and he is now in fifth grade and we continue the same.

Alicia Mignano - Are new Chromebooks going to be bought for students since they are in distance education?

Dr. Jacqueline Mora- Yes, Chromebooks have been ordered we are waiting for them to arrive, this has been approved by the school board.

Alicia Mignano - do you have a date for when the Chromebooks arrive? Parents have struggled with technology and some of these are either bad, missing letters keys in the keyboard or very old.

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - I do not have the date yet for when they arrive, I will ask the director of technology, Berta Román.

Ninfa Hernández: I agree with what Margarita and Diana said, I am frustrated, my son is already in the tenth grade at SAMOHI and he has not reclassified yet and I have been to many ELAC and DELAC meetings, to see how I can help my son and nothing ... this is one of the reasons I left DELAC because I feel that we have not been given the attention, we have presented our recommendations to the district, I do not know where these are, because I think that we are going with responsible people but I I do not see that the principal take responsibility ... the pandemic has only come to highlight what was already wrong and now we are with distance learning and they tell me do this or contact a certain person ... I have done it but who is responsible, who to pay attention to? I am very disappointed indeed and sometimes I have not attended DELAC meetings, I do not like to sound like this but I am the mother of an English learner and to hear that only one student has reclassified in SAMOHI.. I try to seek help and I have seen some principals, perhaps they have done their job or is it that there are not many English learners? so they are not given the same support or perhaps we are a minority? I would like to know, is our voice not heard? Many parents come to these meetings to help their children, this is my comment.

Dr. Freda Rossi - I see they asked for a copy of Dr. Mora's presentation in Spanish, I'm putting it on the chat.

Margarita Torres - I support Mrs. Ninfa's words, thanks to Mrs. Elena, she supports me a lot and she is who encourages me to come to these meetings to inform myself and to support my son's education, but for five years that I have come to these meetings, the truth is, I have not seen much help from all the petitions we have requested.

Maria León Vazquez - Very good questions/comments from the mothers. Regarding the presentation and what has happened in past years. Regarding the SPSA which is the school plan information for each school, there are different levels and in reference to why some EL students have not yet been reclassified and stuck at level 4. Who is

responsible for when an EL has not been reclassified? English learners at level 4, they are already very close to reclassification, we have to find out why those students haven't reclassified yet. We already have a new person in the district since November and we will have another, we are going to review all the programs that the district has to see how everything has been carried out and that it is in accordance with the budget we have, it is important to have each school's plans and see what they have accomplished whether right or wrong at the end of the year and hold principals accountable for English learners being reclassified. It is good to hear your comments because the other members of the board do not know your comments. It is important English learners reclassify because this district's score goes up. I am going to make a request for the workshop they give us to include the SPSA on the board of directors so that they understand how the principals should carry out their plans. Tablets, they are good up to a point the problem is that they are not strong enough for families with more students. Wi-Fi has to be extended in the city and they have not done it in residential areas, Oscar de la Torre is supporting us at this point to make the signal stronger in residential areas. We need this. Our goal is for our EL students to reclassify the intentions are good but the important thing is how this purpose is to be carried out. I have been taking note of everything and I am going to discuss all of this with superintendent Dr. Drati.

Alicia Mignano - I want to request a training from Dr. Rossi to carry out these SPSA plans and how these requests are made to the principals, to the district in order to help our students achieve reclassification and do well our role.

Dr. Freda Rossi I am going to organize a workshop for DELAC and ELAC, we had one on Oct 5th, but I can do another.

Lucy Prieto, JAMS - Mrs. Lieberman, vice president of the school board may be invited to listen to the needs of the schools. We need additional support for them to listen and be aware of questions from moms at these DELAC meetings, it could take more into account our needs.

Dr. Freda Rossi - I will extend an invitation to Mr. Jon Kean, school board president, on behalf of DELAC for the February 1st meeting.

Margarita Torres - it would be good if the principals could give more attention to what is being asked of them. Oscar de la Torre has listened to us but we have not seen results from him. It would be good if some members of the school board would come to see the need that there is in Muir, of the students that don't advance.

Daisy Vega - good comment from Maria Leon Vazquez about wifi, since this is related to education, how is it that they are recruiting the person who will replace Mr. Oscar de la Torre. It is important the new person to be a Latino / Afro-American who understands different cultures and mixed and / or low-income families, it has been seen that low-income students are the most affected / behind in their academic progress or for them to reclassify.

María León Vázquez: everyone has access to see the candidates on the SMMUSD page, everything has been very public.

Dr. Jacqueline Mora - I have not finished my presentation, because I took a lot of questions, maybe we will have another special meeting, I will do the presentation and then ask questions so I will be able to finish.

Dr. Freda Rossi - ELAC reports from schools.

Alicia Mignano, DELAC Secretary:

Edison, Giselle Alvarado - not present

Alicia Mignano, Grant - I want to thank Florencia Rams, BCL, she has been physically at Grant as she is there to help families. This year it has been very difficult for parents to attend zoom, we have only had two meetings this school year, on January 6 was our second ELAC meeting and the topic about SPSA was presented, our group did not have the opportunity, to advise or to give give recommendations to the school board before the plan is presented to the board, one of our concerns is that the SPSA needs to be in multiple languages representing our community as we have 14 different languages at Grant.

Lucy Prieto, JAMS - Information on reclassified and EL students has been sent to teachers for support in English development depending on grade level.

Margarita Torres, Muir – I am very grateful to Elena Uliantzeff, BCL, she has helped a lot, we will have a meeting on January 25, vocabulary class will be offered to 3rd graders very early 7:45am and many parents are not okay with the schedule.

María Barranco, LMS - there is nothing to report

Edgir Meinhart, Malibu Elementary - there is nothing to report, a survey will be done about waivers and for more support for EL students in the coming weeks we will have the results.

Josie Fajardo, Malibu MS - we don't have a report, we haven't had a meeting this month

Imelda Rueda, McKinley - I have nothing to report the meeting will be this Friday 1/18

Laura Hernández, SAMOHI - comment- the school is not following the protocols on what is going to be discussed in the meetings on December 7 they called me for a meeting and the rules are not followed. I think moms are not making a good effort. If we continue like this, I don't think we will advance much, SAMOHI principal does not appear. I thank Nancy Gutierrez, BCL from JAMS who offers us so much support.

Veronica Ramirez, Will Rogers - nothing to report we haven't had ELAC meeting yet this month.

### **Public comments**

Liz Cruz, Community Services Manager of the Santa Monica Family Services agency - We will have programs for parents the flyer is in Peach Jar about our program it begins on January 18 running for ten weeks, these sessions are free and the purpose is to improve the relationship with your children, there are different strategies and we offer support for families who need help with their children.

Dr. Freda Rossi - shares screen to view the SMMUSD page and explains how to navigate to view information on candidate applications for membership for Oscar's seat on the board.

María León Vázquez - here you can see in detail the applicants for the board of directors.

Dr. Freda Rossi - you can enter the meeting that will be at 4:30 pm and there you see the zoom link if you want to speak at the board of directors you have to fill out a written request before the meeting, it's there online so you can be present at the meeting of the school board. I can assist you if you need more help.

Johanna de la Rosa, SAMOHI - With reference to the December 7 meeting, it was an urgent special meeting, the principal contacted the president to have this meeting and apologized for having this meeting on such short notice, in the DELAC or ELAC protocols there is room to have these special meetings but there are no protocols, we must all work together.

Diana Maruri - with reference to the SPSA, all parents can have printed SPSA information of each school.

Dr. Freda Rossi - I can arrange a time for you to have this.

Laura Hernández - Thank you Johanna for that comment, there were many comments today, thank you all for your support, many thanks to the BCL's for all your support, thank you Dr. Mora for your presentations.

Closure: 11:07 am

*Meeting Minutes approved by DELAC on February 1, 2021.*

*Minutes transcribed by Florinda Vila*