

Health and Safety District Advisory Committee - Regular Meeting

Monday, May 22, 2023

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

IN-PERSON

Assembly Bill 361 (9/2021) added section 54953(e) to the Government Code, authorizing a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act during a declared state of emergency under specific scenarios. The law remains in effect until January 1, 2024. Due to the state of emergency proclaimed by Governor Newsom in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its highly contagious variants, and as authorized by per AB 361 and SMMUSD Board of Education Resolution No. 21-08, the November Health and Safety District Advisory Committee meeting will be held virtually.

Meeting Location:

This meeting location has been updated from Zoom to in person in compliance with reinstated Brown Act requirements.

Health & Safety DAC Meeting

New Location: SMMUSD District Office

1717 4th Street

Santa Monica, CA 90401

Room: #118

Parking: Civic Center Structure

333 Civic Center Drive

Santa Monica, 90401

Mon-Fri Parking Rates:

30 Mins - Free

1 Hour - \$0.50

90 Mins - \$1.00

2 Hours - \$2.00

2.5 Hours - \$3.00

3 Hours - \$4.00

Members of the public can observe the DAC meeting and give public comment virtually by submitting a Google survey sign up: [Health and Safety DAC Public Comment Sign-Up Sheet](#)

Members: Rachel Bressler, RN | Pat Nolan, RN | Cecilia Soto-Loftus, MPH | Laila Taslimi | Shuli Lotan, LCSW, PPSC | Deborah Rothman | Debbie Bernstein, Alicia Mignano, Board Liaison, Tara Brown, Director

Absent: Pat Nolan

Board Liaisons: Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein | Laurie Lieberman | Alicia Mignano

Admin Co-Chair: Tara Brown / Dr. Mark Kelly

Student Representatives: Jacob Gonzalez (SAMOHI), Jasmine Gonzalez (SAMOHI), Sharlene Diaz (MHS)

AGENDA

I. Call to Order / Approval of Minutes (5 Minutes)

Called to order at 7:05 p.m..

Ø Approval of Minutes from 2/27/23

Approved 7:08 p.m. Unanimous.

II. Discussion Items (60 Minutes)

· Special Guest Speaker: Richard Marchini, SMMUSD Director of Food Services presenting on wellness policy compliance

- Wellness Policy postponed during Covid.
- At present, wellness policy needs to be assessed.
- One of the pieces that is missing is the school garden aspect. Do we want to keep it in the policy, or adapt policy to a “nice to have” versus “need to have.”
- Funding that covered gardens (\$20K) was stopped. Still thinking about Malibu schools.
- RM indicated gardens cannot be used for food to serve students – health department regulations.
- Need to show food is not contaminated.
- Still working on options for serving food grown on campus.
- Continued to discuss the benefits of serving food grown on campus.
- LT – Could the wording of the wellness policy show that the DAC supports the concept of on-site gardens. Funding covered the employees that would come to teach the students.
- SL asked schools. RM - Grant, McKinley, Rogers and JAMS.
- LT – Funding never covered the cost of what was needed – volunteers were a “labor of love.”
- Members commented on the benefits of school gardens.
- Have we gone to the Ed Foundation? RM – schools are picking up on their own; relying on volunteers. Should the policy be “strongly encouraged” versus “must have.” DB - What is the leverage of not complying with the policy (must have). Members supported stronger language.
- CL - Program is doable – needs effort.
- TB - Does wellness policy extend to vending machines? RM – Yes. Had some issues. All have been modernized and updated. There is one issue at MHS/MMS – sign needs to be changed out.
- CL – What is allowed. RM described acceptable beverages (water, 100% juice, non-fried snacks, etc... – attempts at vegetables did not work).
- Wellness policy is continuous of USDA requirements. RM explained federal funding.
- AM - At Samohi – are the foods in the cafeteria free? RM explained that many food options are free for students - salads, hot foods, yogurt grab-and-goes; some items cost students.
- Members raised concerns that schools make bottled water for students – plastic bottles. Encouraged more access to water-filling stations.

- CL – Asked RM if solicits feedback about the menus. RM – yes, do so when considering menus and to know what to continue – e.g. several trial runs of different burritos.
- RB – Are we going to put carb counts. RM – looking to try to bring this back. Explained how helpful for students, e.g. diabetics.
- LT - Pretend retiring from the role. What wish or wishes do you have for improvements? RM - Changes to direct certification – free and reduced lunch data system – difficult to navigate (dates require manual monitoring).
- LT – Any wish – dream vision. RT - bring back the salad bars from the farmer’s market. Prices are the problem.
- RT – On average 8 - 10 students state that they are vegetarian. CL – do you differentiate vegetarian v. vegans. RM – not really, the vegan meals come back. Various trials have not been successful. DB - Veganaise is fantastic.
- CL – Do you have a choice about clean labels? RM – have some wiggle room – the issue is shelf-life. RM elaborated further.
- TB – Thank you. Reviewed the wellness policy. Appears that RM addressed most of the policy. TB – What about food incentives? RM – not allowed. Class parties need to comply.
- CL – When you return in September, please bring back food samples. RM – at high school (especially MHS) the students prefer to enjoy the quads so they bring their own food.
- TB – Thank you RM. We look forward to having you back in September.

III. Public Comments (5 Minutes)

- None

IV. Report from Board Liaisons (15 Minutes)

- Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein - Not present
- Laurie Lieberman - Not present
- Alicia Mignano
 - Updated the DAC on superintendent search. Will announce on June 1st.
 - Lots of celebrations. Saturday reclassified 120 (without spring) – most ever.
 - LT – Explain reclassification. CL - students learning English. AM – explained reclassification further and that celebration was to acknowledge students who reclassified. Being bilingual is a gift. Encourage students to seek certification of biliteracy.
 - MK - Explained the budget approval process to take place in June.
 - AM – We have Proposition 28 funds to enhance arts programs. Working on the process to plan expenditures.

- CL – Asked to clarify that the Board has identified a candidate for the Superintendent appointment. AM explained the hiring process. Will be sharing as the contract is finalized.

VI. Report and Updates from SMMUSD Staff (15 Minutes)

- Rachel Bressler / Shuli Lotan / Tara Brown / Mark Kelly
 - RB:
 - Covid is not over, but we are doing well.
 - Continue to track cases at sites and DO.
 - Same procedures to isolate.
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 - Test kits available; not requiring weekly testing.
 - People know what to do and how to access tests.
 - One nurse is moving to another district. Will hire.
 - HOS – one every site; have to address absences. RB moves personnel daily.
 - Summer School - four sites that are open. HOS at every site. Asked to have nurses. Summer School is harder to staff; work year is 10-month contracts. Nurses can work if they want to.
 - CL – How disruptive has been Covid this school year? RB – Is disruptive. Still need to isolate when a person tests positive. Explained return policies. Responded to questions about protocols in practice. CL – How many cases per day? RB – not having outbreaks; have individual cases. RB – exposed persons can stay in and, since April, do not have to mask.
 - LT – returning after test positive – do they have to mask? RB – yes. RB may have five cases within a week (districtwide). Manageable, but still difficult for parents who have to have their children home for five days.
 - SL
 - Mental health time of turn-over. Interns graduating. Will take 10 interns next year.
 - Two agencies have gotten expanded funding: FSSM, Socially-Emotional Wellness Initiatives (SEWI).
 - Kim Marshall continuing to do good work on SEL
 - Narcan program at Samohi next week.
 - CLARE is leaving; did not apply for grant funding for next year.
 - Will need to work with partners to train therapists for students who violate the control substance policy. Hopefully move toward restorative responses.
 - SL, TB and MK met with legal counsel about LGBTQ+ policy. Current policy (anti-discrimination policy) is aligned with law. Move forward with developing practices and training staff. (Anti-discrimination policy). Support will be there for students.

- DB – Is there any teacher training. SL - yes, have done level one and working with an agency for level 2 – how to be an ally.
- Growth and development program has been modernized – thanks to nursing staff (fifth graders).
- Putting contracts in place for next year; will have services in Santa Monica during the summer.
- CL – Any proposition to support mental health in schools? Any updates on the Narcan program? TB will give an update.
- TB:
 - Student Services busy – permit season.
 - Busy planning for next year. Lots going on. Want to have a Narcan policy in place for the fall. Working with legal counsel on board policy. Want to bring to the board.
 - Training is going on. Nurses are training staff – nurses, campus security. Have over 2100 kits at DO. They have been distributed to school sites.
 - PTAs doing presentations.
 - Planning campus security officer training. Had an outside assessment. One recommendation is to have training, that will occur to have training. DB – appears to be a conflict of interest. TB approached the company. Will do search and rescue and an active shooter trainer for administrators and CSOs. Want to also do training for teachers during early out and late starts.
 - Robert Tisherman (Director, Risk Management) wants to bring CERT training to schools in the fall.
 - TB working with staff on training for staff on enrollment
 - TB working on Olweaus training. May have grant funding to help to have up to two trainers at each site.
 - Working on level 1, 2 and 3 restorative justice training.
 - SARB – Want to return to regular monthly meetings in the fall. Resumed some this year. Have a supportive SARB. We have supportive, case conferencing meetings.
 - Shuli and Rachel are planning job-alike meetings.
 - Trying to get 101 LGBTQ+ training. We have online training and want to move to a second level training (more intensive).
 - Shuli and Kim Marshall provide two day SEL workshops (two cohorts). ‘
 - CL – Will law enforcement be attending. SMPD will. Will work on Sherriff.
- TB – As part of her staff report, wants to share a draft end-of-year report. - See draft
 - DAC recommended the report be submitted.

VI. Report from Student Representatives (10 Minutes)

- Jacob Gonzalez (SAMOHI), Jasmine Gonzalez (SAMOHI), Sharlene Diaz (MHS) - No report

VII. New Business (10 min)

- [Review of charges - Postponed](#)
- Review: [Health and Safety DAC End of the Year Report 2022 - See TB's staff report](#)
- Member input
- Future agenda items: Review/Edit [Wellness policy final draft 2016](#)

Thank you for your commitment to promote nutrition and wellness in your school community!

VIII. Adjournment

Adjournment at 9:02 p.m.

If you will require accommodation to participate in this activity, please notify us at least five days before the event. Si usted necesita que se hagan arreglos para que participe en esta reunion, por favor, comuniquese con las escuela de su hijo/a or el distrito 5 dias antes de la reunion.