

SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 6:30pm

- I. **CALL TO ORDER & INITIAL COMMENTS: 6:09 pm.** SEDAC members in attendance: Deanna Sinfield, Payal Maniar, Meredith Feldman, Gina Hope, Jen Glazer, Jamie Angus, Sarah Gardham-Thomas, Jon Kean
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Members & Public: None
- III. **UPDATE: Special Education Director Deanna Sinfield status of special Ed during Covid-19**

Agenda items: IEPs, Services, ESY, Programming updates

Virtual learning:

- Moving from live to virtual has been monumental. Everyone is under a ton of stress and doing their best to make it work. No IEPs have been cancelled)
- There has been lots of contact between teachers and students
- SAI kids having a harder time interacting with peers and with Zoom meetings in general. Minimum guidelines have been set.
- Devices given out to anyone who needs them, please contact your principal or the district if you need a device; District is trying to set up everyone with internet
- Deanna mailed a letter home at the beginning of the Covid crisis
- Parents requested more town halls, more transparency, more communication
- If you don't have the appropriate contact and assignments for your child: get in touch with Deanna dsinfield@smmusd.org or Victoria vhurst@smmusd.org

PWN: Prior Written Notice: every parent will get a notice in the mail for your child approved by a coordinator of exactly what their program minutes and services will be during homeschool. If parents feel they are not seeing their teachers enough contact Deanna directly. Expect PWN by Thursday 4/30 to each family. Will not be the same level of service in minute to minute services

Paras: Technically Paras have to be supervised by a teacher; law states doesn't have to be direct but the teacher has to plan the lesson and the Para has to tag on to that. Right now, Paras have been doing 10 hours of training per week with behaviorists; over 1700 hours of training in total.

- Some paras are sitting in gen ed zooms to help students, help teachers modify the work.
- Is there a Para that can work 1:1 with a child now if they need it? Yes, some can but we had to get teachers up and running first. Not all paras have equipment or the Internet.
- Go to the Teacher of Record about Paras ability to scaffold the assignments, utilize office hours with teachers

Services: Gina Kittle is working with kids individually School Psychologists, OT and speech are doing individual and group zooms (teletherapy vs educationally based guidelines are different for SLP credential teachers)

- **Zooms for parents: PRN 5/6 11:00 am, 5/8 9:30 am Zoom for all parents**

- Padlet on the website: all the letters that have been sent and all resources are listed on the district site For more info: <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/5708>
- SEDAC requested parent resources on web site: link for parents of things they can do at home, social skills, transition

IEPs: Initial IEPs stopped, triennials are happening: new protocols on having the meeting if testing hasn't been completed.

- SEDAC asked for a guideline of what parents can expect for remote IEP protocol.
- Need optimal conditions for testing (some kids are doing better distance learning) but need to see kids in person to do initial IEPs
- Using Observations, rating scales, teacher input where kids are moving from 1 site to the next, teachers doing rating scales to help with placement for the fall

ESY: have been talking about what happens if it's virtual; even if things are open how to make it safe social distancing; not sure what it will look like. District is going to put something out by early next week

- If you have said NO and now want your child to attend, the offer is always good. Send in info to Francis Costanzo ASAP fcostanzo@smmusd.org
- Deanna working on grouping kids together for ESY
- For more info/ updates: <https://www.smmusd.org/sped>

Fall/ back to school: No discussions on fall yet: no new guidelines yet have to see what the Governor puts out

Updates on programming and cuts:

Cuts:

- lost 1.6 school Psychologists so spread a little thinner, made some departmental cuts to match up with the amount of kids we have
- We can't sustain the levels with resolutions and lawsuits; hopeful that realigning the programs will meet more needs
- Deanna is reassigning roles for the SPED district office staff in a more efficient way

Programming:

- Grant and Franklin social skills programs will be shuffled. Those schools will be contacting families to tell what it will look like, Guidelines will be issued next week about the difference in the 2 classes. Grant teachers calling families next week.
- Too many levels of students in SAI classes: need classes aligned with needs, flow better so kids of different levels are grouped together, make it easier for teachers and students
- District is opening up a full collaborative kindergarten at Will Rogers: joint class with gen ed, all kids on the cusp of gen ed but who need more support; 1/3 special ed and 2/3 gen ed. Talking about what happens after that. If you are happy with your K at your home school you could stay at your school to not have to transition continually. Don't think it's fair for kids with transition issues to have to keep doing it. All but 2 preschools are collab so this is the next extension.
- Parents asked if this can extend into collaborative 1-2 over the long term? Deanna clarified that this collaborative Kindergarten is a Pilot program and we will learn how well it works. She added that there should be less need for Paras with this program.
- Parents asked about the Life skills classes at SAMOH and if there will be an extension to age 22+. Deanna shared that this is being looked at Statewide. Current determining factor is the birthdate for cut offs but don't have additional guidance yet.

- Deanna voiced the long term effects/ trauma of this crisis on kids.

IV. **UPDATE: Board Liaison Jon Kean**

- Planning for the Fall (reopening schools): need testing, training, tracing, can school be M-F 5 days a week? We don't know yet, kids can't follow the rules in the same way. Some kids have more need, there are physical prompts and how do you do that?
- City of SM has a \$70M deficit TY and \$150M deficit next year on a \$700 M budget. Priorities are health and public safety and economic development in our community; serious cuts to many departments. \$12M-16M TY from ES and YY, could be ½ next year.
- Presentations on Friday: CREST will not be the same: district will have to do a lot of pick up on programs that fall short and change. CREST offers homework club, after school athletics, enrichment programs at \$2m cost to the city for the total CREST programs, CREST staff is hired through the city.
- There will be changes to every program and we have to figure out a way to make it work: We are beyond saving individual programs:
- The hope is that we will work together with the city: crossing guards are paid by the city; could be a significant reduction.
- Looks like we will be able to do a good job of making reductions without losing too many people, changes in infrastructure
- School parks report trespassers: hopeful to open the tracks and fields but they are officially closed

DISCUSSION:

Open SEDAC positions: applications online: need membership at the HS level, there is room for anyone who wants to join to be a member. If you have applied before, please resubmit the form: new members will be approved by the Board in June to start when school reopens

<https://ca50000164.schoolwires.net/cms/lib/CA50000164/Centricity/Domain/304/DACappEngSP.pdf>

- submit to Sarah Wahrenbrock swahrenbrock@smmusd.org
- SEDAC presentation to the board: doubtful on presentation but have to submit end of year reports, can leave charges as work in progress for next year.
- Calendar for end of school year and Fall deliverables for BTS: push to May meeting
- discussion about having virtual and live classes for kids at risk of infection or compromised immune systems? Home school and or a combination program are all up for discussion; some teacher and paras are at risk, don't want to put anyone in harm's way, everything is on the table; planning for next year as if it is going to go back to sites
- Grant in UCs study will continue next year to do classroom pivotal response training, free and continuing; Lincoln classes are hybrid of gen ed and special ed, circle of friends

Meeting adjourned 7:32 pm

Next meeting scheduled for May 26th 5 pm