



Santa Monica High School

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE SINCE 1891

Minutes of the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)

Date: January 23, 2023

6:30 p.m.

D100

Agenda Items

- I. **Welcome:** Ms. Komlos posted School Goals and an inspirational quote
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** there was not a quorum, so the minutes could not be approved.

- III. **ELAC Topic:** Attendance

Ms. Komlos distributed information about attendance for the school and analyzed the data for our English learners. The number of Samohi students (total) with Chronic and Severe attendance issues in 2021-2022 (last academic year) has increased from 10% to 21% since 2018-2019. Part of the attendance issues are related to students who contracted COVID and were required to stay at home. Twelfth graders have the worse attendance, and all students who have chronic absences are missing a significant amount of learning time. Spring semester saw more chronic absences than fall semester, beginning at about the time of the fall surge of the Omicron variant of COVID. For English learners, 14% of EL students in the district had chronic absence issues in 2021-2022 (slightly lower than the whole-school average). The inability to pivot to independent study for secondary school students with COVID affected academic achievement at high school.

Students at Samohi are only permitted a limited number of unexcused absences each year and can serve time (in tutoring, etc.) to clear those unexcused absences. Individual conferences with students who have chronic absences leads to roughly 36% improvement in attendance on average.

- IV. **DELAC Report:** The DELAC representative was not in attendance to give a report.

- V. **Discussion/ recommendations**

- a. Student Input: The student ELAC committee met during flex time and made recommendations for purchasing study materials to boost vocabulary and achievement so that more redesignation can happen with LTELs. They recommended purchasing a PSAT test prep book (more affordable) or a set of SAT/PSAT vocabulary flashcards (more expensive) to help.
- b. Winter Re-designation Cycle: Summative ELPAC testing begins in mid-February; the students asked if an incentive for senior test takers could be found (28 students total) since there is no reward for doing well and no consequences for doing poorly. Johanna said she'd pursue the idea of giving gift cards to senior test takers.



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VI. Discussion/ recommendations

- c. ACT v. SAT free exam for juniors in March: The student ELAC wanted to know why the school gives the SAT for free to juniors in March instead of the ACT. They felt the ACT was less biased towards students of color and better for English Learners.

VII. Announcements

Tristan presented information about the state seal of biliteracy; if students do well on the CAASPP and have fluency (as shown through coursework or through AP/SAT-II exams), they also make progress towards redesignation. The student ELAC asked that next year, the seal of biliteracy be promoted earlier in the year to EL students so that fee waivers could be requested and approved before the deadline to apply for SAT-II and AP tests passes.

Johanna talked about the resources provided through Margaret's Place (Hot Chocolate Wednesday) and the prom boutique that the school offers to all students. She updated the committee on upcoming meeting dates for Puente and DELAC as well as ELAC.

Legado Latino is the club with advisor Guadalupe Toumayan Mireles that combines all the different Latino activist groups on campus to pool their efforts. Puente is the parent group that supports them. Ms. Komlos urged the group to apply to have a special graduation regalia.

- VIII. **Public comments:** Members discussed developments in the Edison immersion program mean changes in the future; the program is not Title I anymore so funding is more of an issue. Enrollment is also an issue; the student body should be a mix of student proficiencies in English and Spanish, but Spanish-speakers are priced out of the area because Santa Monica is so expensive.

- IX. **Closure:** Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Next meetings: March 20, May 15

SCHOOL PERSONNEL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Ms. Johanna De La Rosa, Bilingual Community Liaison, jdelarosa@smmusd.org

Mrs. Tristan Komlos, H House Principal and ELAC Administrator, tkomlos@smmusd.org,

Mrs. Adrienne Karyadi, ELD Coordinator, akaryadi@smmusd.org