



Minutes for ELAC* Meeting

November 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in D100

*ELAC is a committee of parents, guardians, staff, and community members designated to advise the school officials on the services of the English Language Development (ELD) program. Parents and Guardians can meet with teachers and staff and participate in the education of their children.

Agenda

I. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 pm by Feifei Dai. Present were ELAC president Feifei Dai, Vice-President Claudia Selvas, Secretary Adrienne Karyadi, EL Administrator Tristan Komlos, Parent Liaison Johanna de la Rosa, Principal Marae Cruce, parent Mona Kaabinejadian, and DELAC representative Laura Hernandez; joining via conference call was LACOE community school specialist Carla Nunez. This constituted a quorum of the ELAC. Arriving later was DELAC alternate Lucy Prieto.

Feifei Dai led the introductions and was first to talk about a quote by Michelle Obama (the same one found on Samohi's Freedom Walk: "Success isn't about how much money you make; it's about the difference you make in people's lives..."). Johanna de la Rosa reminded the committee of Samohi's school goals, specifically Goal #2 about all English Learners.

II. Approval of Minutes

Copies of the Minutes from the September 18, 2023 meeting were distributed to ELAC members. Feifei Dai motioned to accept the minutes of the meeting as distributed. Claudia Selvas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. DELAC Report

Laura Hernandez reported that the discussion at the November 20th DELAC meeting revolved around who would replace the secretary. Board of Education member Alicia Mignano offered to work with Laura Hernandez. At the meeting, Adela Rodgers discussed making sure each school was represented.

IV. Reclassification

Adrienne Karyadi reported that 15 students reclassified at the 1st period. **Tristan Komlos** reported that CAASPP exam accounted for most of the reclassifications. Students have 12 opportunities to be reclassified using the STAR Reading test, but only 1 opportunity to be reclassified using the CAASPP; we need to discuss this more with students.

Claudia Selvas asked what the process was for notifying parents. A notice was sent home via email, and students who were candidates were invited to a Flex Time meeting and informed of their pending RFEP status. Parents were invited to give feedback; most met with RFEP committee via telephone. The completed paperwork will be sent home once approved by the district.

Laura Hernandez asked how students would be celebrated for being redesignated. She emphasized making the RFEP celebration a really positive thing, and that even being an EL is not a bad thing. It's also an opportunity to introduce the idea of the seal of biliteracy which is a positive thing. She said the DELAC meeting discussed how to improve parent participation and how to make the school's communication to parents more inviting and easier to understand.

Johanna de la Rosa asked about how students would be prepped for the STAR Reading test. One option is to call out the students to do a Flex Time meeting before the January test, explaining the importance and reviewing test-taking strategies.

Lucy Prieto asked how students with IEPs and other learning issues are supposed to be reclassified if they are bad test-takers. Tristan Komlos explained that there's a different process for Special Ed students; in addition, they have extra test accommodations (extra time on STAR Reading test, for example) and are measured on improved scores over 3 years even if the student hasn't reached level 4 on ELPAC. Lucy asked for clarification about students with 504 plans. Laura gave an example of how her son reclassified to explain the process. Adrienne clarified that the 504 plan students need to hit the benchmarks; they do not reclassify with a special process. Laura suggested that parents talk to their child's school advisor about the process.

Johanna de la Rosa asked if parents could "opt out" of STAR Reading. Marae Cruce responded that the district test (STAR Reading) does not have an "opt out" process, but the state test does have a way to "opt out" (CAASPP). Johanna suggested posting on the ELAC page the EL symposium that was presented to parents 2 or 3 years ago.

V. ELAC Discussion/ recommendations

- A.** Please post the symposium online.
- B.** Please send to parents of EL students some kind of update. (Ellevation can send a report to parents but this message is usually 2-3 pages in length. Last spring email sent to 2/3 of EL parents updating parents on student's status for redesignation. EL parents are reminded their students are ELs when they receive dialer message inviting parents to the ELAC meeting—5 times a year.) DELAC has requested the school add a note on the report cards of EL students (103 students).
- C.** Please have personal phone calls to parents by ELAC members since there are only 103 EL students. Each committee member can make 15+ calls and if this happened in early January, before STAR Reading test (16th January is when test window opens and our next meeting is January 29th), parents could encourage their student(s) to do well on the STAR Reading test, would be aware of its importance, and more likely to come to the January ELAC meeting.

Johanna de la Rosa suggested that a subcommittee work on organizing this via email.

VI. Other business

1. *School Improvement Plan*

Marae Cruce presented information about the School Improvement Plan, which was drafted by teacher leaders, department chairs, program leads like Adrienne, and the admin team. It lays out what the teacher professional development is so that we can meet the school's 3 goals. This year the outcome Samohi would like to see is an increase in the percentage of BIPOC students scoring "meet" or "exceeds" standards by at least 5% as measured by the Math CAASPP by the end of the school year. To make this happen, the instructional and training plan is to increase college and career readiness by focusing on engagement, specifically problem solving with graphical data, informational text, timelines, etc. in all disciplines. Marae showed a table that laid out steps the school will take in more detail. She related this plan to how ELs would benefit from this school-wide goal in terms of gaining academic fluency. ***A copy of this plan is attached to the minutes.***

Johanna de la Rosa asked how the instructional aides are being used in the classroom to help kids in core subject area classes meet these goals. A student told her that he had difficulty in math classes because there was no aide to help him. Tristan responded that there are 2 positions allocated to Samohi, but both are vacant now. Being in a cohort is supposed to help as well, since they will have a classmate from English classes that are also in math, science and social studies classes. Hiring for these positions are a huge challenge because of the labor shortage. Feifei asked what the process would be for parents who wanted the job. Tristan responded with general process.

2. *SAMOHI EL Student Advisory Committee*

Adrienne Karyadi presented a recommendation from the student ELAC Advisory Club meeting, held on November 9th during Flex Time. ***A copy of this Recommendation form is attached to the minutes.*** Students on this year's committee volunteered to work on a newcomers' handbook and vocabulary lists to front-load words for all core subjects. They commended the quality of the Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced ELD teachers; they also said that the span of skill levels made it difficult for teachers to differentiate instruction. Marae said that the site leadership team would discuss creating these lists. Johanna de la Rosa and Tristan discussed giving some sign of recognition for the seniors (at graduation) for their work, even if it's just Starbucks gift cards.

3. *WASC*

Tristan Komlos reported that a group of professionals review the school, make sure the school is complying with laws, and certifies that the school's grades should be accepted by colleges and universities. The minutes of meetings from parent groups

like ELAC are part of the documents that the visiting WASC team looks at before their visit. After WASC's visit, the visiting team will issue a report with recommendations. (One recommendation was that the school add intervention during the school day; in response, Flex Time was added to our schedule.)

The WASC team will be visiting from Super Bowl Sunday to Valentine's Day.

Parent groups will be invited to give honest feedback on Monday, February 12th.

(School officials are not allowed to be at the meeting.) All parent groups are invited to attend.

VI. Announcements

Don't forget: The online presentation for the ELAC meeting gives a list of different possible topics for future meetings. Anyone can suggest a topic.

Listed: different resources for parents that are available on the Samohi web page.

Giving Tuesday: If you know someone who needs holiday gifts, let the school know. This Tuesday is "Giving Tuesday," so encourage people to donate gift cards to Samohi.

Google Calendar: If the ELAC meeting is posted on the school-wide calendar, you can copy it to your personal google calendar and set a reminder it.

VII. Closure

Feifei Dai made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Laura Hernandez** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Future meetings (Mondays at 6:30 in D100):

- January 29
Parent feedback to WASC committee: February 12
- March 18
- May 20

Please visit the school website for information about our school, important dates, activities and more at www.smmusd.org/samohi

SCHOOL PERSONNEL:

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