



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Early Care and Development District Advisory Committee MINUTES

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 6:00pm via Zoom

- I. Call to Order made by Susan Samarge-Powell at 6:12pm
  - a. Present: Ivy Chang, Gary Huff, Jon Kean, Raven Kras, Laura Manson, Jennifer Smith, Ben Swett, Susan Samarge-Powell
  - b. Absent: Laurie Lieberman
- II. Public Comments – None
- III. General/Old Business - Action Item – All in attendance approved the 5/22/22 minutes by acclimation.
- IV. Board Liaison report – Board Members Jon Kean and Jennifer Smith shared that the opening of school went well. There weren't too many summer meetings, so not too much to discuss. They noted that Board Member Keith Coleman had sadly resigned effective immediately. No replacement will occur because school board elections will take place in November. Continuing to deal with facilities issues, especially with the current excessive heat wave.
- V. SMMUSD Staff Reports –
  - a. Susan Samarge-Powell provided District updates around ITC, Preschool and School Age programs. Susan shared that the opening of school had generally gone smoothly.
  - b. Covid-19 remains a focus, though there are quite a few adjustments from last year. No more mandatory weekly testing, though the district is encouraging all students and staff to test with home antigen tests the Sunday night before school starts each week; the district is providing those tests to families. Masking remains optional for all; however, during an exposure students and staff are required to wear masks indoors for 10 days. In ITC and preschool, we have kept it at indoors AND outdoors for the full 10 days. The first weekend after school started we had 3 preschool exposures; however, the number remains relatively low considering previous rates.
  - c. An update regarding programming was provided; specifically, around ITC, Preschool and School age programs. Susan provided charts of enrollment for all. There are enough students to open more school age classrooms. Susan explained that unfortunately, we still have long-term subs in place for two of the current 18 classrooms and no prospects to open new classrooms at this time. She explained CDS appreciates that the SMBGC has opened Playground Club to hopefully alleviate some of the need for families.
- VI. New Business
  - a. UPK update – Susan shared that we have opened 2 new TK classrooms for the 22-23 school year. One classroom has opened at Franklin, and a second classroom has opened at Grant. There are 151 students currently enrolled in TK



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- across the district, with some space available at every site except Rogers. This is helpful in case we have additional TK students enrolling throughout the year.
- b. Susan will need to submit the UPK report to the state by September 30<sup>th</sup>. It is just a written reflection of what she presented to the school board in May, 2022. It is a requirement to submit to the state.
  - c. The DAC approved member Ben Swett as the new Co-Chair for the DAC by acclamation. All members thanked Ben for his willingness to take on this role.
  - d. Susan noted that she is going to be recruiting families from Preschool and School Age programs to join our DAC. All members agreed it would be helpful to have parents' perspectives on our DAC.
  - e. DAC Goals were reviewed. The school board discussed them at the last board meeting, and will approve them at the next board meeting. All members were able to discuss the impact of the goals and what we would like to see take place as a result of our work.
  - f. A discussion occurred around the first goal with uniform services for all. This took place because the funding for the Pinwheel project has ended and the funding for the EDI has also ended. We discussed how SMMUSD/PSJ would likely be applying for a Human Services Grant Program (HSGP) grant to see if we can have consistent funding for mental health services for preschool. In addition, we discussed that there is a "We Are Santa Monica" grant of small amounts up to \$25,000 available for programs. We determined this might be something we apply for to continue the EDI. Meanwhile, board members Kean and Smith said these were critical components to the work we do so they would be willing to talk with the board about what they might do to support the programs until/unless extra funding becomes available.
  - g. The DAC agreed Zoom is appropriate for now, but that we also believe in-person meetings are important, especially if/when we have new members coming on board. Susan will go through the recruitment process and when we have potential members on board we believe an in-person meeting will be helpful, with then possibly switching between in-person and zoom to support everyone's needs.
- VII. Announcements – Shout out to Laura Manson on her retirement with extra big congratulations from member Kras. We are all grateful she is remaining on our DAC even amidst the start of her retirement!
- VIII. Adjournment – Susan Samarge-Powell closed the meeting at 7:26pm.