



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Early Care and Development District Advisory Committee MINUTES
Wednesday, September 8, 2023 at 5:30pm at CDS

- I. Call to Order made by Susan Samarge-Powell at 5:38pm
 - a. Present: Ivy Chang, Gary Huff, Raven Kras, Stacy Rouse, Ben Swett, Susan Samarge-Powell
 - b. Absent: Jon Kean, Laurie Lieberman, Laura Manson
- II. Public Comments – None
- III. General/Old Business – None as this was the first meeting of the school year
- IV. Board Liaison report – Board Member Stacy Rouse shared that we are just in the start of the school year and the board meetings have been really about starting up. She noted that the FOC met on 9/7 and that the Facilities DACs are looking for applicants/members and she said if we have anyone interested we should have them apply. No update on unification at this time
- V. SMMUSD Staff Reports –
 - a. Susan Samarge-Powell shared the regular charts on enrollment by program type. She discussed ITC, Preschool, School Age, and TK programs.
 - i. Members discussed how the chart was helpful, but doesn't necessarily provide the 'full picture' of early learning. The discussion became centered around "how we prove the value of preschool" and also all early learning experiences.
 - ii. In addition the conversation around Project Based Learning (PBL) came up specifically with regard to early learning. The questions again became, "how do we show where PBL experiences are in early learning and make the connection to students as they move through the school system?".
 - iii. The idea of "storytelling" arose and conversation occurred about how to ensure our stories are told so others are intrigued and interested in early learning. The communications team was discussed as a group that might be able to assist us with messaging.
- VI. New Business
 - a. Ben Swett graciously accepted the role of Co-Chair of the DAC for the 2023-2024 school year
 - b. DAC goals were briefly discussed and it was noted that the board members were going to approve them at the upcoming school board meeting.
- VII. Announcements – Susan shared that Dr. Shelton would be coming to the next DAC meeting on 10/4 for about 30 minutes. Ben noted that it would be good to also have Erika Bell join that meeting as well if she was able to do so.
- VIII. Adjournment – Susan Samarge-Powell closed the meeting at 7:16pm