

SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 13, 6:30pm Via ZOOM

Minutes

Attendees:

Deanna Sinfield, Joseph Garcia, Gina Hope (Chair), Jennifer Glazer, Meredith Feldman, Laura Leib, Connie Gregory, Julie Ginsberg, Jon Kean, Hilda Salas, Denise O'Connor, Payal Maniar, DeAnne Ozaki, Grace Lanzetta, Gerald Seiner, Laura Hernandez, Jen Smith, Angela D. Scott

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:35 by Gina Hope, Chair.
2. Announcements: Members & Public were present.
 - ❖ Laura Leib announced:
 - DEI meeting on Friday September 23rd at Lincoln at 9:00 with Principal
 - The Special Needs Network is having Coffee and Bagels for parents on Friday September 30th at 9:00 AM
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: May 2022
 - ❖ Minutes approved by Jennifer Glazer and Payal Maniar (unanimous consent)
4. Special Education Chair update: Special Education Director Deanna Sinfield
 - ❖ Staffing update: The Special Education Department is almost finished with staffing. Hired many new teachers and over 60 agency paraprofessionals. Also, fully staffed with psychologists and four of them are bilingual. Many paraprofessionals went back to school for teaching, and have now returned to the district as special education teachers.
 - ❖ Parent Education on the role of Para-Educators – there is a new head behaviorist who will provide this training later in the school year.
 - ❖ Parent Education – Will be providing a “School Tour” of the programs across the district.
 - ❖ Covid Recovery funding – There are funds available through Covid Relief – and they fund additional services in the district:
 - The District provided learning recovery groups over the Summer.
 - Learning Ally is a program available to the whole school district – thousands of audiobooks.
 - Google Read and Write is available throughout the District.
 - i. Member Payal Maniar requested additional training on Google Read and Write for parents so it can be utilized to the maximum benefit.
 - Lexercise – available for students is available at a few schools.
 - I. Member Julie Ginsberg commented that it is important to ensure that this is shared widely. Response was that there has been some outreach re: e-mail and teachers, and this will continue.
 - ❖ Medi-cal funding: Additional Medi-Cal funding that is available to SMMUSD.
 - Medi-Cal funding can be used only for staffing, programs or equipment that Medi-Cal would fund. Current areas where funds are utilized: psychology interns, school nurses and medical equipment.
 - ❖ Crisis Prevention Intervention training: this is available for security guards districtwide and will be held on a Saturday. This is optional as staff cannot be required to attend training on Saturday per contract.

5. School Board Update: Board Liaison Jon Kean and Jennifer Smith shared update

- ❖ Board will approve the SEDAC charges tomorrow at the board meeting tomorrow – board meeting starts at 5:30.
- ❖ Data presentation on the CAST information from last year – lead (forward data) and Lag data (looks behind).
- ❖ No drop in student performance in ELA
- ❖ Math slight drop
- ❖ Board approved the contract for the repairs for Muir and SMASH.
- ❖ Member Meredith Feldman asked how lag/lead data impacted Special Education. Jon Kean and Jen Smith will review data and share this information to the next meeting.

6. Discussion

- ❖ Introduction of new SEDAC members: Connie Gregory introduced herself as a new member to SEDAC.
- ❖ Recommendations for parents and students to implement medical plans and accommodations at middle / high school level on day 1 of school
 - Particularly Important in secondary school, when parents are less involved/onsite that these plans be handled the day school starts. Also, more coordination is involved, since students change classes/teachers throughout the day.
 - In Aries there is a place for medical needs – **when completed** this can be very helpful.
 - Also, must be reviewed.
 - Best practice contact health office before the start of school. While the IEP may include health issues/accommodations, it is recommended that parents be in touch directly with the health office.
 - Deanna Sinfield – will follow up with the Head Nurse about improving these transitions between schools.
- ❖ Possible charges for 2022-23
 - Opportunities to improve elective inclusion across the district particularly in the music programs Discussion of how accessible they are to students with IEPs.
 - What ISPE access for special education looks like?
 - Recommendations for inclusion in extracurricular activities (eg. carnivals, picnics)
 - Recommendations for expanding Special Education PTSA representation at school and district level
 - PTSA should have representation from Special Education on every PTA board. Without a vote there is not truly representative of the district.
 - Opportunities to increase collaboration with SMMUSD DE&I
- ◆ Jon Kean raised issue that the draft charges from the end of the prior year are already being presented to the school board for approval. Chair Gina Hope commented that all of the above items can be part of the general charges discussed at the end of the 2021 – 2022 school year.
- ❖ Members tentatively discussed assignment to respective committees:
 - a. Transitions Julie Ginsberg, Jenn Glazer, Denise O'Connor, Angela Scott, Gerald Seiner, Meredith Feldman
 - b. Communications Julie Ginsberg, Gerald Seiner

- c. Social Justice Laura Leib, Payal Maniar, DeAnne Ozaki, Denise O'Connor, Gina Hope, Connie Gregory, Angela Scott,
- d. Human Development Grace Lanzetta

- 7. Motion to extend meeting made during discussion: Gina Hope Chair requested 10 additional minutes for discussion. All in attendance approved.
- 8. Comments from Members & Public: There were no members of the Public in attendance. There were no additional comments from Members.
- 9. Meeting adjourned: Meeting was adjourned by Gina Hope (Chair) at 8:10.