

SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee

December 13, 2022, 6:30pm Via ZOOM

Minutes

Attendees:

Deanna Sinfield, Gina Hope (Chair), Jennifer Glazer, Meredith Feldman, Jon Kean, Gerald Seiner, Jennifer Smith, Payal Manier, Connie Gregory, DeAnne Ozaki, Angela D. Scott, Marae Cruce (Principal SAMO High School)

Absent: Grace Lanzetta, Denise O'Connor

Member of Public: Alicia Mignano (School Board Member - New)

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:32 by Gina Hope, Chair.
2. Initial Comment: Gina Hope –announced that Laura Leib has resigned from Sedac.
 - a. Starting in March 2023, we will be required either to meet in person or if remote, the members' address will need to be published in the minutes (per Brown Act).
 - b. Jon Kean said there is a possibility this may change, and we will revisit in the beginning of 2023.
3. Announcements: Members & Public
Announcement from SEDAC member Meredith Feldman: She highly recommends Adrian's Place, a local community resource offering special needs programming.
4. Approval of November Minutes: Will review and approve November Minutes in January 2023.
5. Change of Schedule at Santa Monica High School – Principal Marae Cruce presented an exploratory plan to adjust schedule. They have surveyed staff, now surveying students. If changes are made, they will begin Spring 2024. The principal is also actively seeking feedback from special education teachers and students. Shared process of exploring this change and members asked clarifying questions.
6. Special Education Chair update: Special Education Director Deanna Sinfield
 - a. Deanna Sinfield and Victoria Hurst (special Education coordinator) have been training advisors and school psychologists.
 - b. Deanna is continuing to offer inclusion training to elective providers and is now providing an additional training for the music teachers.
 - c. Malibu speech pathologist – Challenging situation but have made some progress: just hired a part time person from an agency for Webster and Malibu elementary
 - d. Staff retention strategies: Victoria and Deanna are providing a lot of support and training.
 - e. Sex education curriculum – shared with the respective ad hoc committee for feedback.
 - f. Looked in to accessing Touch math for the district but too expensive, looking at other options including "do the math."
 - g. New team member: Carmen Durant has joined the Special Education team as a coordinator, and she is fluent in both sign language and Spanish.
7. School Board Update: Board Liaison Jon Kean and Jennifer Smith

- a. The current Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati is leaving SMMUSD. There will be a subcommittee to select the next superintendent. There will be community engagement opportunities in the search. There will be the appointment of an interim superintendent while the search is underway.
- b. Shared appreciation with the Samo High Principal for taking the time to come to our meeting explain the potential change in the high school schedule as well as the exploratory process.
- c. Prop 28 provides art for all schools in California. The funds have to be used for new programming/opportunities. Perhaps these funds can be used to increase participation.

8. Discussion

- a. Special Education Response Time: Discussed when a parent or community members should expect a response when sending an e-mail or leaving a voicemail. Deanna Sinfield discussed this issue, and the expectation for a response, even if there is no definitive answer, is generally within 2 days.
- b. Special Education Speakers at SEDAC meetings: Some ideas were shared, will move forward with reaching out to Lupe Ibarra is an active community member in this space connected with the Joy Foundation and she can speak about community outreach. Also possibly someone to speak on the Fentanyl issue.
- c. Updates for Charges
 - Communications Structure Review- Sent out a survey to let everyone know it is short with two primary questions.
 - Transitions Support – research mode, overall emphasis, anchoring around the Selpa, and how does that inform us as we move forward.
 - Social Justice (3 subcommittees)
 - *Electives* – Learning what is currently available, and Deanna has initiated a number of trainings for elective providers.
 - *PTSA counsel/DEI* - last meeting was concurrent with last SEDAC meeting, so we were not represented. Concept of the town hall, still moving forward. People signed up for committees.
 - *SMMUSD Diversity Equity and Support* – No update at this time.
 - Human Development Education – Deanna Sinfield shared curriculum options The subcommittee reviewed them, and their feedback was that the second one is the better option (Circles). They believe it will be more manageable for teachers and offers more consistency and repetition.

9. Comments Members & Public - there were no public comments.

10. Meeting was adjourned by Gina Hope (Chair) at 8:00.

