

SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 11th, 2025, 9:30 am

Attendees: **Victoria Hurst** (Director of Special Ed), **Grace Lanzetta** (SEDAC Co-Chair), **Connie Gregory** (SEDAC Co-Chair), **Lily Ablon** (SEDAC Member), **Adriane Ransom** (SEDAC Member), **Denise O'Connor** (SEDAC Member), **Payal Maniar** (SEDAC Member), **Guy Barker** (interpreter), **Crystal Tapia** (community member)

SEDAC members absent: **Julie Ginsberg** (SEDAC Member), **Deanne Ozaki** (SEDAC Member), **Laura Hernandez** (SEDAC Member), **Jon Kean** (Board Member), **Alicia Mignano** (Board Member)

Guest Speakers: none

Minutes

- I. Call to Order and Initial Comments - **Grace Lanzetta** called the meeting to order at Meeting started at **9:43** am.
- II. Announcements (members and public) -
 - A. NTR
- III. Special Education Director Update -
 - A. Training
 1. Over the summer paras received 8 days of training. Dr Dussan talked about training, HR talked about salary stepping.
 2. Also Had co-teacher workshop: had more gen ed teachers than special ed teachers attending; this was exciting to see the interest from gen ed.
 3. Currently training all SPED teachers in SEIS (software program for IEPs).
 - B. Hiring
 1. Hired 24 new staff members; have 3 vacancies - though those should be staffed by end of next week. All of those positions are in Santa Monica. 2 new psychologists joined: Will Rogers and Grant.
 - C. Training, Workshops, and Meetings
 1. Parent Workshops: have first on 9/22 at 1:30pm. Meet and Greet for the team. Behaviorists, Coordinators, etc will be there.
 2. SELPA 9/16 at 9:30pm there is a training for all parents of Culver City, Beverly Hills, and Santa Monica: how to develop better relationships between parents and schools

3. PRN meeting 9/18 at Payal's house. Now have a Webster PRN member.

D. Legal:

1. have uptick in legal cases. That is normal for beginning of school year

E. Mental health treatment center

1. Dr Dussan and Victoria are working together to open a mental health treatment center. Will be at the Obama campus. Will help students who are in mental health crises. gradually transition back to general school. 1-1.5 hrs of academics, and the rest in therapy. 8 students for 8-10 weeks at a time. Duration will be length of normal school day.
2. Last year had 25 kids in middle or high school go to a partial hospitalization. The hope is that a treatment center will help that the kids don't have to do hospitalization.

IV. Board Liaison Update (Jon Kean or Alicia Mignano) -

A. NTR

V. Charges for 2025-2026 School year -

- A. These were all accepted by the School Board
- B. Understanding the role of Para-Educators in Special Education
 1. Members: Connie, Grace, Denise, Payal, Lily
 2. Create a template with Questions and Answers
 3. November will be a workshop about the role of the para educator
 - a) Para educators are assigned to the school site. Escalation path is: teacher of record, principal, school site coordinator, SMMUSD
- C. Discipline and Restorative Practices in Special Education
 1. Members: Deanne, Julie
- D. Communications: Examining the Alternative Diploma track and ensuring communications with all educational partners
 1. Members: Adriane, Payal

VI. Review Previous Action Items

A.

VII. Comments (members and public)

- A. **ACTION:** All members are asked to come next month with one name at your school (or especially elementary school) who would be good to recommend for SEDAC.
- B. SELPA Fair will be 1/31/26. Still deciding if it will be in Santa Monica or in Culver City. Last year there was low attendance at SaMoHi. So, might be in Culver City this year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 am

TEMPLATE

Minutes

- VIII. Call to Order and Initial Comments - Victoria Hurst called the meeting to order at 9:40am.
- IX. Announcements (members and public)
- X. Director Update -.
- XI. Board Update -
- XII. Charge Updates -
- Understanding the role of Para-Educators in Special Education -
 - Discipline and Restorative Practices in Special Education -
 - Study the new Alternative Pathway for Diploma -
- XIII. Approve minutes - September 2024
- XIV. Comments (members and public)
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Meeting adjourned at