

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: January 20, 2026

Time: 5:30–7:00 PM

MDUSD Representatives Present:

Samantha Allen, Dr. Adam Clark, Linda Mayo, Debra Mason, Ruth Steele, Erin DeMartini, Christopher Clausen, Linda Pete, Melissa Brennan, Lauren Ashton, Susan Hartwig, Ivana Huthman, Jessica Pozos

1. Welcome & Purpose of the PAC

Presenter: Samantha Allen

- Samantha Allen welcomed families and committee members and invited attendees to introduce themselves.
- She reviewed the purpose of the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC): to support student success and well-being by sharing information, elevating parent voices, and partnering with the district on decision-making.
- LCAP goals were reviewed, highlighting MDUSD's commitment to:
 - High-quality learning in safe and welcoming schools
 - Skilled, culturally responsive staff
 - Strong family and community partnerships
 - Targeted support for focal student groups
 - Improved attendance and graduation outcomes at Crossroads and Olympic High Schools

2. District Updates: Dr. Adam Clark

- Dr. Clark shared a welcome back message and reflected on positive experiences visiting school sites and seeing student engagement across the district.
- Cell Phone Policy:
 - MDUSD is developing a districtwide cell phone policy by July.
 - Yondr pouches are currently being used at all comprehensive high schools and have contributed to increased classroom engagement, reduced disruptions, and positive trends in GPA and suspension rates.
 - The final policy will be broad, with site-specific guidelines. Parent feedback is encouraged and may be shared with district leadership.
- Student Board Member:

- We have a Student Board Member will lead the Student Advisory Committee, where students share successes and challenges from their schools.
- Facilities Bond Poll:
 - The Board approved a community poll to gauge support for a potential facilities bond. The poll will include the broader community, not just district families.
- District Commitment:
 - Dr. Clark emphasized LCAP Goal 1, that “all students” truly means every student, regardless of background or need.
 - Significant investments continue in curriculum, professional development, and staff training to ensure students receive high-quality instruction.
- District Focus Areas:
 - English Language Arts (reading across all grades)
 - Math proficiency
 - Reducing chronic absenteeism, with an emphasis on regular attendance as essential to student success

3. Student Services Department Update

Admin Team: Melissa Brennan, Wendi Aghily, Jessica Pozos, Ivana Huthman, Rosie Reid

- Student Services supports students and families by removing barriers to learning and addressing academic, behavioral, social-emotional, and mental health needs.
- 2024–2025 Highlights:
 - 140 Educationally Related Mental Health referrals
 - 155 outpatient therapy referrals
 - Over 11,000 Wellness Center visits
 - 160 students served through district mental health programs
- SOAR Program:
 - Provides additional support for students facing complex challenges, including housing instability, foster care, newcomer status, LGBTQIA+ support needs, and other significant barriers.
- Services are student-centered, culturally responsive, proactive, and built on strong family partnerships.

4. Educational Services Department Update

Presenters: Erin DeMartini, Ruth Steele, Lauren Ashton, Chris Clausen

- Elementary Learning & Assessments:
 - Beginning-, Middle-, and End-of-Year screeners help teachers understand student needs, monitor progress, and measure growth.

- Report cards are shared at the end of each trimester to show progress toward grade-level standards.
- Secondary Academic Monitoring:
 - Student progress is tracked through progress grades, STAR assessments, semester grades, and state assessments (CAASPP and CAST).
- Instructional Practices:
 - MDUSD classrooms focus on collaboration, student discussion, critical thinking, math problem-solving, and social-emotional learning.
 - Instruction is aligned to grade-level standards and district curriculum.

4. The PAC meeting concluded 7:00 PM with general announcement.

5. Future PAC Meetings

- February 17, 2026
- March 17, 2026
- April 28, 2026
- May 19, 2026