

SMASH Site Council Minutes
Wednesday, January 7, 2026 3:15 PM on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://smmk12.zoom.us/j/84627439205?pwd=c0dDdkRPWXpRWTlrUIFYYWZXN21wZz09>

Meeting ID: 846 2743 9205

Passcode: 755366

In attendance: Jeff Rubin, Jessica Rishe, Sarah Daunis, Rohan Sellers, Jen Gardner, Ezra Mooney, Christian Carter, Ania Kubicz-Preis, Alissa Bizzul

Absent: Cecilia Cox, Mike Oliver, Jen Mack, Kai Richardson

Adopted Agenda - Motioned by Rohan Sellers Seconded by Ezra Mooney

Approved minutes of last meeting - Motioned by Ezra Mooney Seconded by Rohan Sellers

Community participation: No one

Reports and Announcements (regular agenda items)

PTSA

Exec. Board meeting tonight

Student Reports:

In Core 4, 8th graders took their STAR math test and they took a different one yesterday because the District is trying to adopt a new curriculum. In projects, there is a mid-way presentation coming up. For science, they learned about different cell processes and heredity. Now they are doing presentations of different cell processes. They'll be presenting shortly. For Humanities, they're learning about China and different forms of government. They'll be reading Red Scarf Girl and No Red Ink to work on their spelling. Today was the launch for the Art project with Marni. It's participatory art through QR codes. The students will make art pieces and then connect them to QR codes that will be posted online. In Music, some students were given new pieces. They're learning "Sweet Caroline" and "Lord of the Rings." The orchestra students are rehearsing pieces they learned last semester.

Core 3 is wrapping up our units and we'll have our share next Thursday. Then we'll be launching our new units on the 21st.

Core 2 is working on a personal narrative unit. In reading, they're about to launch a character study. Also, UFLY has started happening during reading. In Math, they're launching division. In PBL, they're doing force and emotion. In SEL, they wrapped up some work around stress and worry: What do we do with it? What causes it?

Office Update from Ania: 2 6/7 grade students came in to make a phone call and they did a great job with their phone etiquette.

UCLA Thrive curriculum: Jeff is interested in seeing it in action. Jen thinks some of the art projects will be fun and interesting. There will be five art projects from each of the elements. Christian thinks it is an interesting approach. He is curious to see how it will go in terms of the time commitment - what is lost and what is gained with that.

Student Council - Trying best to have more frequent meetings, mentorship (how to leverage that and make it meaningful), brainstorming Spirit Days.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Used protocol to review the California Healthy Kids Survey Data from
15 staff members,
49 parents
11 7th graders who participated.
(Not enough 5th grade parents gave consent to have 5th grade results.)

Celebrations shared: Lots of 100% on the staff responses, most students think that teachers care about them, No weapons or substance abuse concerns, staff agreed about SEL

Problems of practice:

- 30% of student respondents said race or gender harassment was an issue
- 30% of student respondents had issues with meaningful participation and academic motivation
- Desire for more conflict resolution instruction
- 30% of staff respondents noted need to focus on disruptive student behavior
- Only 49 parents took the survey & not many students

Action plan:

- How do you make a difference? Maybe surveys, questions, and create a space to make them matter more.
- Suggestions would be to give students purpose, ways to apply it, and connect it.
- Revisiting Responsive Classroom
- If students have a say in the way things work would they work harder, maybe send survey through Konstella and email
- Need a bigger pool
- Questions that need to be asked going forward where students can communicate what they're needing.
- How would you like to impact the way things go here?
- Asking them "What are you interested in?" Then asking follow-up questions that are student-centered.
- The willingness to change needs to be there.
- Noticing what the students are interested in and capitalizing on it.
- Maybe what is being taught is not as interesting as we think it is.

Community participation: None

Motion to adjourn

Motioned by Ezra Mooney

Seconded by Rohan Sellers

Meeting notes taken by Recording Secretary Sarah Daunis

Meeting Adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Next meeting dates for 2025-26: 2/11/26, 3/4/26, 4/15/26, 5/6/26