

SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 4, 2025, 9:30 am

Attendees: **Victoria Hurst** (Director of Special Ed), **Connie Gregory** (SEDAC Co-Chair), **Lily Ablon** (SEDAC Member), **Denise O'Connor** (SEDAC Member), **Payal Maniar** (SEDAC Member), **Crystal Tapia** (SEDAC Member)

SEDAC members absent: **Jon Kean** (Board Member), **Alicia Mignano** (Board Member), **Grace Lanzetta** (SEDAC Co-Chair), **Adriane Ransom** (SEDAC Member), **Deanne Ozaki** (SEDAC Member), **Laura Hernandez** (SEDAC Member), **Julie Ginsberg** (SEDAC Member).

Guest Speakers: none

Minutes

- I. Call to Order and Initial Comments - **Connie Gregory** called the meeting to order at Meeting started at **9:48** am.
- II. Announcements (members and public) -
 - A. Welcome new SEDAC members: Crystal and Payal
 - B. SELPA:
 1. SELPA Fair will be 1/31/26 at Culver City Middle School. Reaching out to vendors.
 2. (From November 2025) IDEA Act: a letter has been sent out to all congress members of SMMUSD, BH, Culver City regarding two recently introduced US Congress bills (H.R. 2598 and H.R. 2333) which support IDEA; and encouraging those congress members to pass these bills
 - a) Discussion: Can we create an online petition to share through the community and SMMUSD to share our support and send it to Congress. (**ACTION:** Victoria to look up the process to send this)
 - C. Upcoming Events
 1. Tuesday 12/9/25: Talk on Executive Functioning
 2. Friday 12/12/25: Holiday Event for Santa Monica Special Needs Network
 3. Tuesday 12/16/25: Talk on Behavior
 - D. How do we get more parent involvement?
 1. Idea: have PRN reps join a SPED Staff meeting and talk about PRN and what talks and meetings are all about
 2. Idea: create an Instagram Profile and post things there
- III. Special Education Director Update -
 - A. Training
 1. Secondary paras (middle and high) will get training on next pupil free day (1/5/26)

- B. Hiring
 - 1. NTR
 - C. Community Workshops and Meetings
 - 1. Parent Workshops: This week had talk by SMMUSD Behaviorist team on the Role of the Paraeducator
 - 2. Next Parent Workshop talk is January 28th on Diploma Options
 - 3. Next PRN meeting on 12/???? at 9:30am
 - D. Programming
 - 1. Have been doing a talk at every school site based on the school's needs. So far have done presentations at: Roosevelt, Rogers, Edison. Next week is McKinley and SMASH. Franklin and Grant is in January. Malibu is in February.
 - 2. Currently working on summer school programming
 - E. Other
 - 1. Andrew Lee, JAMS student, won an award from ACSA (Association of California School Administrators) for overcoming challenges.
- IV. Board Liaison Update (Jon Kean or Alicia Mignano) -
- A. Update from Jon (read by Victoria): re: Malibu separation. Santa Monica School board voted unanimously to agree on the agreements. The next step is for Malibu school board to vote.
- V. Approval of November Minutes
- A. Motion passes
- VI. Charges for 2025-2026 School year -
- A. Understanding the role of Para-Educators in Special Education
 - 1. Members: Connie, Grace, Denise, Payal, Lily
 - 2. Update: Charge completed in December 2025. Two products created: 1-page "at a glance" and full FAQ document. Both will be put on the website.
 - 3. Next steps: Victoria will look to include member of Personnel Committee to a future SEDAC sub-committee meeting. Possibly ask other school districts what their pay is like, and do they have separate pay scales for paraeducators and special ed. **ACTION:** SELPA rep (**Crystal**) can look into getting this data. **ACTION: Payal** to share some data with Crystal.
 - B. Discipline and Restorative Practices in Special Education
 - 1. Members: Deanne, Julie
 - 2. Update: Team will be receiving data from Dr Williamson in January 2026
 - C. Communications: Examining the Alternative Diploma track and ensuring communications with all educational partners
 - 1. Members: Adriane, Payal

2. Update: Recommend to check in with Victoria to see if anything else is pressing on this charge for now; and then suggest this charge be retired.

VII. Review Previous Action Items

A. NTR

VIII. Comments (members and public)

A. NTR

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 am

TEMPLATE

Minutes

IX. Call to Order and Initial Comments - Victoria Hurst called the meeting to order at 9:40am.

X. Announcements (members and public)

XI. Director Update -.

XII. Board Update -

XIII. 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 -

XIV. Approve minutes - September 2024

XV. Comments (members and public)

-

Meeting adjourned at