

SMMUSD Special Education District Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 16th, 2026, 9:30 am

Attendees: **Victoria Hurst** (Director of Special Ed), **Connie Gregory** (SEDAC Co-Chair), **Julie Ginsberg** (SEDAC Member), **Crystal Tapia** (SEDAC Member), **Denise O'Connor** (SEDAC Member), **Payal Maniar** (SEDAC Member), **Dr. Eric Medrano**, Assistant Superintendent of SELPA

SEDAC members absent: **Jennifer Smith** (Board Member), **Grace Lanzetta** (SEDAC Co-Chair), (SEDAC Member), **DeAnne Ozaki** (SEDAC Member),

Minutes

- I. Call to Order and Initial Comments - **Connie Gregory** called the meeting to order at 9:41am
- II. Announcements (members and public) -
 - A. Upcoming Coffee and Bagels, May 29th.
- III. Special Education Director Update -
 - A. **Summer school:** forms were sent out via SMMUSD's new system. No gen ed middle or elementary summer school. Summer school is at Edison, Malibu, SaMo. Victoria's office will run all of the summer schools.
 - B. **Hiring:** 14 vacancies for certificated staff. Had jobs posted before spring break, so principals can get interviews started, etc. Have been able to add some new programs and staffing for next school year: 2 new TK programs - social skills, co-taught (undecided which schools they will be at); plus adding a 4th social skills class at Grant; plus BCBA interns at school sites (credit to Liz Sciutto for spearheading this) - starting with 3 interns across 6 school sites, in order to provide behavior support for kids in gen ed before they have to get to special ed, and then that can help reduce paras; and adding another BCBA
 - C. **Parent Workshop:** May 14th at 8:45, on Anxiety and School Refusal
 - D. **Training:** NTR
 - E. **Under state review:** SPED drop out rate (may be a coding error); amount of preschool inclusion (ensuring that SPED preschoolers have experience in gen ed); LRE (students being in too many special ed classes) with the largest concentration in secondary classes.
 - F. **Terminology:** in order to be in SAI, kids in SPED need to be in general ed classes 80% or more of the time; and to be in compliance, 60% of kids in SPED need to be in gen ed classes 80% or more of the time.
- IV. Board Liaison Update (Jennifer Smith) -

- A. NTR
- V. Guest Speaker: Dr. Eric Medrano, Assistant Superintendent of SELPA
 - A. Really appreciates SMMUSD and thinks SMMUSD SPED is doing a great job
 - B. SELPA administrative unit will be moving from Culver City to Beverly Hills next year
 - C. Will be going up to Sacramento for "Legislation Day" on May 6th to discuss bills and proposals that support SPED: HR 2598 - IDEA full funding act; HR 2333 - Protecting students with disabilities act
- VI. Charges for 2025-2026 School year -
 - A. Paraeducator- FAQ page is currently being translated; that will be posted
 - B. Discipline- have all of the data. Next steps: have a meeting with Dr Dussan and Victoria to see how to create interventions to prevent students from getting suspended or expelled
 - C. Communications- Met with Jillian and created a small set of slides that Jillian can use in all sorts of situations (e.g., back to school nights, presentations) - on alternative paths to diploma or completion. Next step: will do FAQ sheet from parent and administrative pov.
- VII. Approval March Minutes
 - A. Julie motioned and Payal seconded. Minutes were approved with no abstentions.
- VIII. Comments (members and public)
 - A. Denise: WRC will be coming to Malibu HS to talk about SDP. Have Liz scheduled on May 13 to come and talk
 - B. Payal: SMMUSD PTA is hosting "sticks and stones" panel on how to build resilience in the face of uncertainty. April 23rd, 5:30-8pm.
 - C. Lily: Workshop on transitions, April 30th, Zoom, 6:30pm
 - D. Victoria: Booking all dates for next SEDAC
 - E. Next meeting is May 7th

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 am