



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of the District English Language Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC)

Thursday, May 14, 2026

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions and Expressions of Appreciation (5 min) Meeting started at 9:03am

- Veronica Ramirez, DELAC Vice President

Attendees: DELAC Representatives: see roll call item #3

District Staff: Alex Aspron-BCL Malibu, Nallely Gutierrez-BCL Lincoln/Olympic, Florencia Rams-BCL Franklin/Grant, Elena Uliantzeff-BCL Roosevelt/SMASH, Andrea Padilla-BCL McKinley, Maria Leon-Vazquez-SMMUSD Board Liaison, Deborah Lukic-Family Engagement, Dr. Alyssa O'Grady-Director of Assessment, Research, and Evaluation, Dr. Ashley Benjamin-Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Stacy Williamson-Asst. Superintendent, Patty Hernandez-Admin Asst/Ed Services, Monica Limon-Interpreter.

Parents: Maricela Guevara, Xiomara Siguenza, Sonia Morales, Francisco Curiel-"ELAC Watch Party" Roosevelt

Absent: Maria Salazar-BCL JAMS, Alicia Mignano-SMMUSD Board Liaison, Guy Barker-Interpreter

1A. Comments:

- Deborah Lukic - Shared that Vice President Veronica Ramirez would be presiding over the DELAC meeting in the absence of President Stefanie Serrato

2. Review of Norms and Expectations for DELAC Meetings (5 min)

- Veronica Ramirez, DELAC Vice-President
 - Punctuality
 - Respect for person who is presenting or speaking
 - Raise your zoom hand and be aware of the speaking order
 - Be brief with questions or comments
 - Provide opportunity for others to participate
 - Ask specific student or site-based questions after the meeting

3. Roll Call (5 min)

- Laura Hernandez, DELAC Secretary
 - DELAC Representatives:
 - Edison: Veronica Ramirez
 - Franklin: Dr. Kazuaki Okamoto
 - Grant: Veronica Bernardino, Yheisi Alfaro
 - John Adams: Maria Guzman
 - Lincoln:
 - McKinley:
 - Samohi: Laura Hernandez
 - *Will Rogers: Griselda Morales*
 - Roosevelt: Sonia Morales
 - Absent: Rubicely Lomeli (Edison), Chiaki Okamoto (Franklin), Elizabeth Pineda Espinosa (John Adams), Ainoa Edney (Lincoln), Olga Zemkova, Daniele Trussardi, (McKinley), Stefanie Serrato (Roosevelt)

4. Approve Minutes of DELAC meeting from April 30, 2026 (10 min)

- Veronica Ramirez, DELAC Vice President
 - Dr. Williamson stated that the Minutes from April 30, 2026, will be approved later in the fall after Laura Hernandez shared that she did not feel comfortable approving the minutes without having had the opportunity to review them. Deborah confirmed that the April 30, 2026, meeting minutes, along with the presentation and agenda in both English and Spanish, had been sent to all members prior to today's meeting.
5. Elections of New DELAC Representative (Griselda Morales - Will Rogers) (5 min)
- Veronica Ramirez, DELAC Vice President
 - Maria Guzman moved to approve, Sonia Morales seconded the motion, all site representatives in attendance approved the elections.
6. ELAC Reports (20 min)
- Laura Hernandez, DELAC Secretary
 - Edison: Veronica Ramirez reported that the ELAC meeting was held yesterday. The principal presented the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for the 2026–2027 school year. Discussed support for English Learners, including after-school tutoring opportunities. Tutoring will help strengthen the support already being provided by teachers and parents at home.
 - Franklin: Dr. Kazuaki Okomoto reported that the ELAC meeting was held on April 24. The principal shared SPSA and English Learner information. Winter assessment results were reviewed. Another ELAC meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.
 - Grant: Veronica Bernardino reported that the ELAC meeting was held on May 6. The principal presented the School Plan for Student Success. Discussed the importance of attendance and the impact of tardiness on student learning. The school shared ways to support students in arriving to school on time.
 - John Adams: Maria Guzman stated that the last ELAC meeting was held with PTSA and Principal. The principal discussed the SPSA and available summer programs. Expenses for next year were presented. Upcoming activities, including Open House, were discussed. Final ELAC meeting will be held on May 28 at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate reclassified students.
 - Lincoln: No representatives present.
 - McKinley: No representatives present.
 - Samohi: Laura Hernandez reported that no ELAC meetings have been held at this time.
 - Will Rogers: Griselda Morales reported that the parents discussed ways to support students in reaching their academic goals.
 - Roosevelt: Sonia Morales reported that input was provided regarding the SPSA during the last ELAC meeting. Currently awaiting feedback from SSC. Next ELAC meeting topic will focus on supporting English Learners in biliteracy with Coach Liz Crochen.
7. Guest Presentations (50 min)
- Districtwide Needs Assessment Report
 - Dr. Alyssa O'Grady, Director of Assessment, Research, and Evaluation
 - Dr. Alyssa O'Grady presented the 2025–2026 Needs Assessment Results, including the Sogolytics Climate and Culture Survey for parents/guardians, staff, and students, participation data, years in the English Language Development Program, satisfaction with support for English Language Learners and their families, school climate and culture, instruction and identification of English Language Learners, reclassification of English Language Learners, communication and involvement, perceptions of belonging, interpreter services, and needed supports.
 - Suggestions and Comments (10 min)
 - Laura Hernandez - Thanked the presenter for the information shared and stated that a great job was done in presenting the data. She also noted that participation numbers had increased and asked whether the data would be available online.
 - Dr. O'Grady - Asked whether the meeting information and data would be posted for public viewing.

- Deborah Lukic - Shared that all data presented during the meeting had already been included in the email sent to members.
 - Dr. O'Grady - Emphasized that the information should be accessible for everyone to review.
 - Dr. Williamson - Suggested adding the data to the LCAP website by creating an additional section dedicated to the information presented.
 - Dr. O'Grady - Encouraged DELAC representatives to share the information with their school principals and school communities.
 - Laura Hernandez - Stated that the information provided great ideas for future workshops and opportunities to better support families by understanding their needs.
 - Marisela Guevara - Referred to Slide 14 and the survey results shown on Page 16, asking for clarification because the slide referenced results from the 2024–2025 school year.
 - Dr. O'Grady - Clarified that the survey data presented was from the 2025–2026 school year. She explained that the reference to 2024–2025 was included to compare participation rates and highlight that this year's survey received more than three times the number of responses compared to last year.
 - Deborah Lukic- Announced a five-minute pause in the meeting to allow the interpreter a short break.
 - Laura Hernandez - Noted that Maria Leon-Vasquez had joined the meeting and asked whether she would like to share any comments.
 - Patty Hernandez - Asked Laura Hernandez to wait until the interpreter returned from break so interpretation services could be provided.
- Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Report
 - Dr. Ashley Benjamin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
 - Dr. Ashley Benjamin presented the 2026–2027 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), including Educational Partner input, an introduction and overview of the LCAP, LCAP components, State priorities, the LCAP development process, the three-year LCAP cycle, SMMUSD values and priorities, Superintendent priorities, SMMUSD LCAP goals, the LCAP structure, and summaries of actions and metrics for LCAP Goals 1, 2, and 3.
- Share your thoughts (10 Min)
 - Laura Hernandez - Thanked Dr. Benjamin for the presentation and shared that workshops for parents on how to meet and communicate with teachers would be beneficial. She stated that, in the past, she did not know who her child's teacher was until she met with them. She also shared that some parents are unaware that their students are identified as English Learners, and she often guides families to connect with teachers to learn how they can support their students. Laura added that this information is now included on report cards, which she noted was an accomplishment supported through ELAC efforts.
 - Veronica Ramirez - Thanked Dr. Benjamin for the information shared and stated that the presentation was very important. She added that it would be beneficial for all parents to receive the presentation.
 - Marisela Guevara - Asked about courses that help students develop vocabulary skills, noting that some schools do not have that type of support available. She asked how schools could obtain those development classes.
 - Dr. Benjamin - Responded that parents may speak with their school principal to determine whether those supplemental support classes can be offered at their school site.
 - Sonia Morales - Shared that sometimes there are not enough teachers available to provide support after school hours and asked whether substitute teachers or staff from other schools could help provide support.

- Dr. Benjamin - explained that programs such as CREST, Boys & Girls Club programs, and other partner-supported programs may offer classes, sports, or homework assistance. She added that there are community partnerships that provide additional instructional support.
- Sonia Morales - Asked whether the programs mentioned are funded through the district budget and whether support from other schools could be utilized.
- Dr. Benjamin - Explained that funding sources vary, but that district funding does support after-school programs for grades K–6. She added that many of the programs are developed through community partnerships.
- Laura Hernandez - Asked if there were any additional questions and thanked Dr. Benjamin for her presentation. She also noted that 19 participants were present at the meeting.
- Dr. Benjamin - Shared that if members had any additional questions, they were welcome to email her directly.

8. Public Comments (2 minutes each person)

- Laura Hernandez, DELAC Secretary
 - Maria Leon-Vazquez - Thanked everyone for being present and shared that it is very important for parents to have opportunities to ask questions. She noted that parent conferences review much of the same information shared during the meeting and suggested that DELAC representatives consider attending school site ELAC meetings to share basic information with other parents. She added that this may help parents feel more comfortable participating in these types of events in the future. Maria also shared that Alicia and she would be available to provide support and assistance if needed.
 - Laura Hernandez - Acknowledged the importance of continuing to provide families with information and support.
 - Sonia Morales - Invited Maria Leon-Vazquez to attend the Roosevelt meeting scheduled for May 26.
 - Maria Leon-Vazquez - Confirmed that she would attend.
 - Maria Leon-Vazquez - Asked when the breakfast event would take place.
 - Laura Hernandez - Shared that additional information regarding the breakfast would be mentioned later in the meeting.
 - Veronica Ramirez - Clarified that the event would take place on June 2.
 - Laura Hernandez - Shared that invitations for the Reclassification Celebration had already been sent and encouraged everyone to attend the celebration.
 - Maria Leon-Vazquez - Requested that the invitation also be sent to her.

9. Topics for Next Meeting (5 min)

- Veronica Ramirez, DELAC Vice-President
 - End of the Year DELAC Celebration Breakfast

10. Meeting Adjourned (5 min) at 10:27 am

- Veronica Ramirez, DELAC Vice President
 - Laura Hernandez moved to approve. Maria Guzman seconded the motion.

Next Meeting:

Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Time: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Topic: *End of the Year DELAC Celebration Breakfast - Live and in Person*