

**District Advisory Committee  
Board of Education Annual Mid-Year Written Report  
2017-18**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEDAC)**

**Administrator Co-chairperson: Pam Kazee**

**Co-chairperson: Payal Sanghrajka Maniar**

### Introduction

Several new members joined the Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) in spring 2017 with the hope to collaborate with our District to make real, positive changes for our special education students.

I recently took on the Co-chair role and look forward to the impact we hope to make together. I'm happy to say I've found an amazing group of experts and friends in my fellow SEDAC members – District staff, parents and Santa Monica residents who bring intelligent perspectives and a positive, 'Can Do' approach to SEDAC discussions!

We also greatly value the regular updates received from the Director of Special Education\* and input from the School Board Representative provided at these meetings.

SEDAC meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the District Board Room. These monthly meetings are open to all members of the community.

### Our Charges

For the 2017-18 school year, SEDAC has 4 charges related to improving communication, community building, transition plans and social/ emotional justice.

In addition to these charges, we continue to build our knowledge base to better understand our District's Special Education Services, key challenges and new areas of progress.

<b>Charge 1: Community</b>	SEDAC will support the development of an effective special needs parental community to assist parents in familiarizing themselves with District supports, parent networking opportunities, parent education sessions and Community resources.
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<b>Charge 2: Communications</b>	The District and SEDAC will develop a plan to communicate to parents about resources and programming that is available.
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<b>Charge 3: Transition Plans</b>	A SEDAC task force will update the Parent to Parent Transition Plan Guidelines document that includes supports and guidance for high school students including eighth grade transitioning students.
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<b>Charge 4: Social Emotional Justice</b>	Continue to build upon the work done in the area of social emotional justice, focusing on inclusion and empathy.
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### KEY SEDAC Updates

- We have formed smaller ad-hoc committees to address each charge in detail
- In addition to working on our charges, we continue to develop our understanding of initiatives and Special Education Services in our District.

\*Not all updates from the Director of Special Ed included in this report e.g., Ongoing trainings, Collaborative Teaching Pilot etc.

Area	Updates
<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ad-hoc committee setting measurable goals for June 2018</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Events</b> (all not SEDAC organized):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several community activities were well attended by Special Ed families in the district e.g., Activity Center Playdate (Oct), Dance Party at Church on Ocean Park (Nov), Movie Night (planned for Feb)</li> <li><b>JOY: jewels of youth foundation:</b> My Kid Too monthly workshops taking place the 1st Tuesday of every month to discuss relevant topics in our special needs community</li> <li><b>Public Library</b> interested in partnering: space for training/ parent ed events and building a book collection for kids with or parents of kids with special needs</li> <li><b>Church on Ocean Park</b> looking to provide neutral space to hold community building events</li> </ul>
<b>Communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ad-hoc committee setting measurable goals for June 2018</li> <li>Discussions underway on how we can knowledge share across sites on communication plans</li> <li><b>Collaborating with Parent Resource Network (PRN):</b> Support PRN led effort to have at least 1 parent volunteer at each site to act as positive connector for parents and to improve information exchange between Department and our parents</li> <li><b>PTA Council representation:</b> Discussions underway to have Sp. Ed. parent representation at PTA council. Effort to improve top down communication across all sites. Invited to present at the Council meeting on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>
<b>Transition Plans</b>	<p>Ad-hoc committee goals for refreshing High School Transition Plan (handbook)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update contacts and expand list of resources/ links to documents</li> <li>Incorporate perspectives from current high school parents</li> <li>Consider providing as resource on middle school websites</li> </ul> <p>Ad-hoc committee goal to begin the process of gathering information for a Middle School Transition handbook</p>
<b>Social Emotional Justice</b>	<p>Ad-hoc committee goals below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview District staff to understand <u>any</u> curriculum/ programming currently in place that addresses Social/ Emotional Justice, Inclusion and Empathy</li> <li>Assess further to identify (a) relevant programs (e.g. Olweus, Cool Tools, Responsive Classroom etc.), (b) level of adoption (c) staff roles/processes in place to implement</li> <li>Develop an initial set of recommendations based on findings</li> </ul>
<b>SEDAC Guest Speakers</b>	<p>Guest speakers/ district staff presentations to SEDAC help us better understand Special Education services, initiatives and processes</p> <p>Example speakers at SEDAC meetings this year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victoria Hurst (coordinator): overview of Special Ed K-12 Program offerings</li> <li>Chelsea Martino, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist and Whitney Sankovsky, Early Start Pine Street on Skills for Success (0-3 yrs early start program)</li> </ul> <p>Additional potential speakers to present to SEDAC this spring:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction</li><li>• TBD, Collaborative Teaching Model Teaching Pair (Pilots at the high school and middle school levels)</li></ul>
<b>Parent Ed Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supporting PRN led efforts to organize parent education events and build awareness on relevant topics</li></ul> <p><b>Parent Ed Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tips and Tools for IEP Meetings Santa Monica 11/30, Malibu: 2/1</li><li>• Assistive Technology Trainings - Santa Monica 2/28, Malibu 3/7</li></ul> <p>Additional potential topics for this school year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literacy</li><li>• Anti-Bullying with Danielle Matthew (tentative)</li></ul>

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