

**District Advisory Committee
Board of Education Annual End-of-Year Written Report
2018-19**

CHILDCARE AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Administrator Co-chairperson: Susan Samarge-Powell, Ed.D

Co-chairperson: Iao Katagiri

Charges:

Charge 1 - The DAC will work to determine how SMMUSD can provide preschool opportunities to all Santa Monica residents, including those who would pay full fee, and those who would qualify for partial or full subsidy. We will continue to study the types of challenges that may impede attendance, as well as the resources needed to support all families so children can successfully attend preschool; and whether SMMUSD can make those resources available (or work with those who can) and accessible to children who wish to attend our preschools.

Charge 2 - The DAC will consider the types of data to gather from preschool, Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten. This data will be used to help SMMUSD maintain quality programs that best prepare our youngest students and their families to be successful in elementary school and beyond.

Accomplishments for the Year:

Charge 1 – The DAC provided support as SMMUSD made the recommendation to ultimately move away from LACOE Head Start services to a district and state supported preschool. The DAC made recommendations that should SMMUSD choose to discontinue the partnership with LACOE Head Start, many of the same services should be emulated. Services such as health and nutrition support; community liaison and family support; academic opportunities are important and the goal would be to expand to more than just students in one particular program. The school board agreed the time was appropriate to move to a district supported program.

Charge 2 – The DAC made recommendations to staff to work together and further develop a transition document for both families and teachers. Staff took this in to consideration and utilized the vertical alignment professional development day to have a review of possible documents for transition. In addition, there is now discussion at the staff level among ways to include some of the information in a database to provide holistic understanding of how students come in to our programs, and how they transition in to TK or Kindergarten.

Highlight(s) of particular note:

- The SMMUSD Board of Education voted on January 17, 2019 to support the Early Learning programs in SMMUSD with a financial commitment of \$1 million per year for five years so the district can pursue universal services for all students in preschool.
- The SMMUSD intends to work with Early Learning staff to create both a parent and teacher transition document to support gathering data regarding our preschool students as well as students transitioning in to TK or Kindergarten.
- It is the intent of the SMMUSD Early Learning programs to ensure transparency in the process of transitioning to district supported programs. The staff, along with the DAC will work to ensure the vision is clearly articulated and standard operating procedures include keeping the community and all stakeholders well informed.

Possible Charges for 2019-20 (to be reviewed by co-chairs & board liaison(s) prior to coming to board for approval in the fall):

Charge 1 - The DAC will monitor and review the way SMMUSD's universal preschool services are providing support to students in all preschool classrooms. We will study the results (intended and unintended) that occur when broadening, rather than targeting services.

Charge 2 - The DAC will consider the data being gathered from preschool, Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten. The DAC will review the data to offer suggestions on how to provide smooth and seamless transitions from each level to the next.

Charge 3 - The DAC will assist in the process of identifying opportunities for continuously improving the early learning programs and the delivery of services within the programs in SMMUSD

Budgetary Implications:

- The district has committed \$1 million per year for five years beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. This is a large financial commitment. The goal of our early learning programs is to also bring in revenue from the state and fee paying families to offset the cost of running the program that serves our families with the highest need.