

Sequoia Middle School - School Site Council

Minutes for Meeting on May 17, 2023

7:30 a.m. Library

Members in Attendance:

Karla DiDomizio, Martin Nichols, Kelly Welch, Susan Schulte, Karla Stevenson, Kim Skellenger, Keith Jones, Lisa Barron, Lisa Soury, Ed Shatzen, Christine Wells, Tammi Taggart, Elly Ruelas, Jamie Taylor, Amy Hamaker

7:30 a.m.

1.0 Call to order - 7:33

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 Approval of Agenda - Lisa Soury moves, Keith Jones seconds

4.0 Approval of Minutes - Tammi Taggart moves, Lisa Soury seconds

5.0 Public Comments - no comments

7:40 a.m.

6.0 Administrator Report (Karla DiDomizio, Kelly Welch, Martin Nichols):

Karla D - 6th grade awards night last night, 7th and 8th grade next week.

- Q4 progress reports turned in.
- 8th grade end of the year activities will be coming up soon.
- SPSA planning next Wed.

Marty - Marquee is up and running.

- BEARS recognition is going well.
- Mrs. D has been doing materials checks with classes for rewards.
- Principal's challenge rewards will be the last day of school, toward the end of the day.
- Yearbooks are still for sale.
- ELD testing still happening
- Locker clean out will happen soon.

Kelly - State testing completed except for a few make-up tests.

- 96% of Sequoia students took the state test, and reports will be out by July 1st.

6.1 Bylaws Committee - Tammi Taggart moves to approve updated by-laws. Lisa Soury seconds. School site council approves.

6.2 SPSA Progress Monitoring - Meeting next Wed. to go over goals.

7:50 a.m.

7.0 Representative reports

7.1 Student Report - no students today

7.2 DAC (Ed Shatzen) - Attached report below

7.3 DELAC (Marty) -

7.4 GATE DAC (Tammi T) - Attached report below

7.5 SEDAC (Karla D) - NPHS special olympics on May 20th.

7.6 PTA (Tammi T) - New leadership voted in for next year.

7.7 LGBTQ+ (Elizabeth Hill-Nishimura) -

7.8 AADAC (Arisha Ali) -

7.9 Boys and Girls Club (Lisa Barron) - Summer camp will be 8 weeks.

- Closed the week before school starts.
- Looking for volunteers (ages 15+)

8:10a.m.

8.0 Student successes and concerns -

9.0 Teacher/Staff successes and concerns - Thank you to all parents for Teacher Appreciation Week.

10.0 Parent successes and concerns - Nice 6th grade awards night program.

- Get info out to parents about PTA and School Site council, and how to get involved.
- Parent volunteers to possibly help 6th graders on the first day of school, with their lockers and finding classrooms.

8:30 a.m.

11.0 Adjournment - 8:41

GATE DAC Information:

2023-2024 GATE-DAC rep – The selection process for Advisory Council members for the 2023-2024 school year is underway. Please contact your site administrator and/or your site principal if you are interested in being a GATE-DAC rep for your school and to learn if your school anticipates an opening for this role.

GATE-DAC Executive Board Elections – Tammi Taggart – Chair, Christine Wells – Vice-Chair, Hun Kaplowitz – Secretary, Rachael Brusseau – Parliamentarian, Heather Silverman-Nordahl – Member-at-Large, and Santinderpal Singh – Member-at-Large.

GATE screening – Rising 3rd graders are currently being screened and will wrap up by the end of the school year. Notification letters will be sent via US mail in June.

Course Pathways: Shauna Ashmore, Director of Student Support Services, gave a brief overview of the Course Pathways, which can be found at this [link](#).

2022-2023 Takeaways & 2023-2024 Endeavors - GATE-DAC reps broke into groups to reflect the past year and the upcoming year. The transition of GATE screening to include rising 3rd graders was a key achievement for GATE. This transition allows for early identification and more equity. Endeavors for the upcoming school year include pushing for more differentiation into the classroom, consistency across school sites, and access to higher lexile-level books in both the curriculum and the school site libraries for younger students.

DAC Report:

Report to the SMS SSC re the DAC meeting of 4-4-23

*See below for the report delivered to the DAC from SMS

*DAC nominations were revealed. Ed Shatzen was proposed as a DAC Executive Committee Member at Large.

*Committee reports

#Board of Education: There were many recognitions at the April meeting. #78 Booster Clubs (70 at the high schools) were re-authorized. #SpecialEd: the District is moving some programs around to increase opportunities for inclusion. #New literature titles were presented for the first time.

#Legislation Committee: lots of bills are passed in Sacramento each spring in advance of the next school year. Bills are monitored by CVUSD School Board, various unions, and monitoring groups, all of which alert the District to upcoming changes.

#Measure I: a comment from Drew Pletcher addressing misinformation: extra money was NOT allocated to WHS to finish their STEM building. They just

happened to get approved and built first. The STEM buildings are scheduled for TOHS and NPHS. Stand by.

#DELAC: there is a program that stresses “Parents teaching parents”: Project Insight. The idea is to get immigrant parents “out of their shells” and on-board with what is happening in their children’s schools.

*Crossing Guards: Hot button issue.

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Report to the SMS SSC re the DAC meeting of 5-9-23

*See below for the report delivered to the DAC from SMS

*DAC elections were held. Ed Shatzen was elected to the DAC Executive Committee as a Member at Large. NOTE: SMS needs an Alternative DAC Rep. Said person may attend all DAC meetings as the alternative or full rep for SMS, but may not substitute on the Executive Committee.

*Committee reports

#Board of Education: their site has presentations on WASC accreditation, the Science of Reading, and Ethnic Studies (req’d for seniors by SY2029-30).

#Budget Committee: There are going to be cuts with the end of Learning Loss Funding. Will affect our SPSA.

#School Security and Safety: Fire alarms and PA systems (linked), access controls, fencing, and increased web presence achieved at District and many individual schools. Thank you, Measure II!

*Presentation by former Police Chief Tim Hagel re Safe Passage. If you aren’t up on the latest, check out their website. OF NOTE: there are about 30 students in CVUSD that are being closely monitored as having the highest potential for being recruited for gangs in TO/NP. The prime recruiting ages correlate with Middle School.

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Sequoia MS Event/Progress Report to the DAC meeting of 4-4-2023

“It’s all about prepping for, having, and then recovering from Spring Break”

*Safety Items: #A shelter-in-place/duck-and-cover EQ drill was held 3/29; #Two more drills will be held by the May DAC; #Ms. Stevenson’s Digital Production Class finalized the safety video that highlights all the different types of evacuation drills. I am

requesting this video be presented to the DAC at the May meeting (7 minutes plus introduction and questions).

*Academics: #First week of May begins CAASP testing. #3Q22-23 finished 3/31, notice to check Q-portal went home to parents.

*Field trips: # 6th grade Outdoor School groups 1 & 2 attended camp.

*Activities: #The Spring Neon dance was held Friday, 3/31; #Tues, May 16 is the Sequoia 5K. This IS a fundraiser and District Challenges are invited including Teams á la the SF Bay to Breakers; #More running (non-District): Sequoia has a 29-member-strong Staff Team running in the Autism Awareness Event April 30.

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Sequoia MS Event/Progress Report to the DAC meeting of 5-9-2023

*Safety Items: #Only one more emergency drill for '22-'23 to go!

*Academics: #CAASP testing finishes 5/11; #The Science Lab has been “occupied” and is in use for classes and clubs.

*Field trips: # 8th grade heading to Magic Mountain 6/12; 6th grade to Getty Villa

*LOADS of Activities: #PTA elections were 5/3 (Amy Zobel, Pres); #Staff Appreciation Week—NOW!; #5/8 Discover Synthesis: 8th Graders present posters on controversial subjects. Parent views in the Gym 1:30 pm today (5/9); #5/26 Sequoia Luau after school; #5/30: Battle of the Books—student trivia contest based on books they have free-read over the year; #Awards ceremonies for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades (by invite only) occur throughout the month of May; #8th grade science rocket launches occur thru May and June; #SMS will have a booth at the Special Olympics on 5/20; #CONCERTS at SMS: 5/11 Choir, 5/18 Band, 6/1 Strings

*Accomplishments: On April 30, SMS had a team for the 5K Aut2Run event as part of Autism Awareness. Dr. Wilson, running as a SMS Bear, took 1st place, as did one of our student runners; #All District Music concerts (band, choir, and strings) happened at the Kavli Theater. They were awesome and brought in lots of \$ for the CSF which will go right back into CVUSD for next year; # SMS Advanced Band and Advanced Choir each took 1st place in the Middle School Division for “Music in the Parks” held at Herbert Hoover High School in Glendale. The awards ceremony and a day of fun were held at Universal Studios.