

La Jolla Cluster Association DRAFT Minutes
Thursday, April 20th, 4:15 p.m.
Muirlands Library

Attendees: Attached.

Meeting brought to order – by Megan DeMott at 4:18 pm

February Minutes - Reviewed with no changes.

Area Superintendent Update - Mitzi Merino shared that the Principal position is open for Bird Rock Elementary until 5/10. They are offering an in person session and a zoom one for parents to share input about what they are looking for. She went to the Principal Institute and they are continuing their work on equity with a focus on more meaningful data.

Principal Updates - Jamie Jorgensen (BRE), a parent has organized volunteers to come in shifts to walk around the school and patrol throughout the day. They carry walkie talkies and are just trying to be a presence on campus. Seeds committee is continuing beautification, hosted STEAM Fest, auction items with teachers/staff from Gala are being redeemed, GATE testing coming up. Keith Keiper (TPES), Science Discovery Day had 51 presenters, they have a credentialed person from district working with their Gardening enrichment class, GATE and other testing windows approaching. Megan DeMott (for LJES), working on traffic flow in front of school because now they only have one drop off spot (the second space should open up next year), Science Night coming up, successful Gala, new office building is amazing. Megan DeMott (for MMS), shared support for Mitzi, district math still has not been adopted, Muirlands Rocks on May 6th. Chuck Podhorsky (LJHS), hosted United Basketball game for special needs group, kids hosted their first clothing swap event and it has been a huge success, 4 students attended RYLA retreat and presented to the Rotary group, WASC process is complete and they will hear later about the terms, testing season is beginning.

Board Member Report - Cody Petterson shared that he is hopeful that there will not be a complete turnover of the Area Superintendents so that we have some continuity, he met with SDEA members and heard consistently that teachers are feeling overwhelmed, unsupported, seeing behavior issues more frequently, and would like to revisit the district's policies on discipline. He met with the Teacher Residency Program (partnered with UCSD, SDSU, USD) and they are hoping to have around 20 prospective teachers in it.

Parent Meeting Report - Asha Bleier is excited about the principal search for Bird Rock and is really hoping that they will find the right fit that will work well within their community. Megan shared that parents are expressing their support for Mitzi to return, elementary schools have a goal to fundraise enough to lower class sizes, Keith Keiper is "Rookie of the Year." Enrichment programs and the hiring process was brought up again. Lots of people are working on this issues to make it consistent across the district. The solution for the end of winter and spring sports practice space is to have the middle school students practice at the La Jolla Elementary field which should be opened around November. Info about Cluster Day at Petco Park will be coming out soon. Last year they sold out of 200 tickets, this year they are going to order 300.

Cluster Events:

Teacher of the Year celebration is still happening, just needs to be planned out. Will likely take place later in May. Teachers of the year are: Martha Bagaporo (TPES), Amy Hunt (MMS), Ali Nieblas (BRE), Cantrell Hatch (LJHS), and ?? (LJES)

Approved the meeting schedule for the 23-24 school year: October 19th, December 7th, February 8th, April 18th.

Cluster voted in favor of writing a support letter for Mitzi Merino for her application.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:27 pm.

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Thursday, April 20, 2023
4:15 - 5:30 PM
Muirlands Library

Please initial

Chair		LJHS	
Megan DeMott	X	Chuck Podhorsky	X
		Mokyou Hyun	
Area Superintendent		Neha Bahadur	X
Mitzi Merino	X	Kerry Dill	X
BRE Reps			
Principal (Jennifer Jorgensen)	X		
Asha Bleier	X		
Mollie McDonald	X	Extras	
Peggy Wilkinson	X	Elisabeth Frausto	X
Bailey Gripenstraw	X	Katia Graham	X
LJES Reps		Brandon Noyes	
Stephanie Hasselbrink		Laura Preisman	
Andrea Russel	X	Cody Petterson	X
Megan DeMott	X	Joe Cavaiola	X
Aimee Lansky			
Heather Polen			
TPES Reps			
Keith Keiper	X		
Jennifer Burney	X		
Eren Efe			
Oriana Yarid	X		
Erika Saldivar			
Muirlands			
Jeff Luna			
Katherine Williams			
Judith Lihosit	X		
Rob Tindall			
Lori Trombley	X		