

**Irvine Unified School District**

**Education Advisory Committee Minutes**

**February 27, 2020**

**Thursday, 6:03 p.m.**

Administrative Center

5050 Barranca Parkway

Irvine, CA 92604

- Call to Order:** Cassie Parham called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.
- Roll Call:** Attendance taken via sign-in sheet
- Members Present:** Benjamin Kim, Cassie Parham, Courtney Belzano, Harshita Dabir, Jim Leung, Kathy Overman, Kelly Montplaisir, Kevork Abazajian, Mike Genest, Sandi Lester, Terry Walker
- Members Absent:** Cathryn Mah, Diane Kim, Iman Syed, Jahnvi Mehta, Janelle Cranch, Jenna Makarem, Mary Kelly, Mikey Dickson, Naveed Siddiqui, Phoebe Lo-Wang, Teri Sorey
- Staff Present:** Alan Schlichting, Catherine Holmes, Chris Weber, Heather Phillips, Stan Machesky
- Next Meeting Date:** To be determined
- Check-in:** Committee and staff members introduced themselves.
- Approval of Minutes:** Approve the minutes of the December 5, 2019 meeting as presented. Passed with a motion by Sandi Lester, and seconded by Kristi Smemoe.
- Adoption of the Agenda:** Adopt agenda as presented. Passed with a motion by Kevork Abazajian and seconded by Jim Leung.

**Education Advisory Committee Business**

- **Calm Classroom Activity** - Stan Machesky led the committee through a calming and centering activity used in our elementary schools.
- **Presentation / GradeSlam - 24/7 Online Tutoring Support**

The GradeSlam team presented an overview of what GradeSlam is and how our students, teachers, and administrators can utilize this new tool.

  - Students access their tutor through a chat format with access to a whiteboard tool for math problems and photo upload to share an assignment or rubric
  - Annotated essay review within 24 hours

- Review essay and provide feedback
    - Check essay for plagiarism
    - Ability to upload the rubric for the tutor
  - Insight for teachers
    - Daily feedback shared with teachers about usage
    - Information shared about what questions students are asking
  - Tutors are GradeSlam employees - not freelance tutors
    - GradeSlam provides training
  - Full transparency
    - Every session and essay on the platform is available to the administrator
    - Dedicated support team for IUSD
  - Demonstration provided for Math and Essay tutoring session
  - Opportunity for students to practice their digital citizenship
  - Common Barriers for students
    - Confidence in their own ability
    - Not knowing how to articulate their question
    - Time
    - Remembering how to access GradeSlam
  - IUSD student experience feedback shared
- Following the presentation, committee members broke into small groups to discuss the following three questions:
    - Of the information presented, what would be most valuable for our parent community to know to encourage use of the program?
    - How might we encourage parents to support and donate toward the program?
    - What would be the best way to communicate this information?
  - Responses will be compiled and shared with committee members: [Feedback](#)
  - **Roundtable Discussion:** EAC member S. Lester shared her appreciation for the GradeSlam presentation and the opportunity to close the inequality gap regarding tutoring. T. Walker shared recent updates on COVID-19 and assured everyone that the District is working closely with local agencies and will continue to send updated communication to the IUSD community as we receive it. EAC member M. Genest expressed concern about students in 7th grade taking the California Healthy Youth Survey. He also asked for clarification on notification to parents prior to students taking the survey.
  - **Adjournment**
    - Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m. on a motion made by Mike Genest and seconded by Kevork Abazajian.