



## EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS COUNCIL

Friday, September 18, 2020 | 10:00AM – 12:00PM

[WebEx](#)

**Dr. Milisav Ilic, Council President**

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### Agenda

- I. **Call to Order** (10:05am - Dr. Milisav Ilic)
  
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Dr. Milisav Ilic
  - a. Introductions of new and returning members
  - b. Dr. Milisav Ilic, Carlton Stice, Darrell Amerine, David Diehl, Don English, Dr. Elsie Briseno Simonovski, Erik Taylor, Dr. Erin Simon, Greg Wohlman, Ivan Carrillo, Jamie, Alarcon, Jennifer Fairbanks, Maria Munguia, Meg Ervias, Michael Ridgeway, Robin Geissler, Simone Charles, Christine Feher, Dallas Plaa, Dr. Stephen Pietrolungo, Edison Kelly
  
- III. **Identifying Best Practices** – Council Discussion
  - a. Attendance – Elsie Briseno Simonovski, Ph.D.
    - i. Engaged in dialogue and discussion about the requirements of AB98 and how the tracking of engagement requirements are going. The group shared anecdotal data.
    - ii. Dr. Simonovski has noticed an uptick in students qualifying for McKinney Vento due to economic stress. What are other strategies for re-engagement for our most vulnerable youth.
    - iii. Simone Charles reported that students are more engaged online than they were before. Students with anxiety are thriving in the virtual setting. Attendance counts if they engage synchronously or asynchronously.
    - iv. Carlton Stice noted the difference between students who do well in independent study vs the traditional environment. Directing self-directed students to independent study can be an option.
    - v. Robin Geissler commented on the importance of relationships with students. After the relationship is solidified, you can create a plan that works for the student.
    - vi. Maria Munguia commented on “no tech” options for students in her small community. With the fire crisis in her area, the packet option was a good fit and attendance is good.

- vii. Dr. Simon commented that her district is doing “safe home visits” to reengage students and families in her district. She noted the importance of trainings and empathy in conducting the visits.
  - viii. Erik Taylor reported his district’s Independent Study is full and can’t accommodate the requests for students who would prefer this learning plan.
- b. Student Learning & Engagement – Stephen Pietrolungo
- i. Stephen Pietrolungo mentioned the use of clubs and their student center to get students to engage. Use of Canvas or LMS to facilitate group discussions.
  - ii. Carlton Stice reported his teachers use various tech tools to get the students’ attention (kahoot, apps, etc). Also connecting and reaching out to students through social media. Virtual Lunch Bunch to virtually connect with each other.
  - iii. Simone Charles reports Nearpod as an interactive tool. She plans to use virtual field trips to engage students.
  - iv. Erik Taylor reports a teacher who did a virtual field trip through their community to discuss local artwork and murals in the community. Also using research based practices that are engaging in order to improve quality of instruction. Looking at the leading edge certification for teachers. Also the Online Learning Playbook.
  - v. Christine Feher mentioned the use of video introductions to facilitate student/teacher interaction and relationship building.
  - vi. Meg Ervais reports her site doing socially distance introduction meetings to engage students up front. Her school set up individual meetings with all families the first few weeks of school (outdoor/socially distanced). Ensuring that families can see the whole team available to each student.
- c. Social Emotional – Dr. Erin Simon
- i. We are grappling with unprecedented circumstances for our students and staff. Health, isolation, grief, stress, economic crises are all escalated due to our current times. There’s also the issue of racial inequities who have come to a forefront during these times.
  - ii. Dr. Simon reports that her district is getting SEL components each day. There’s daily checkin opportunities. There’s mindfulness and movement breaks embedded in the day. Space for teachers and staff to also practice mindfulness as well.
  - iii. Stephen Pietrolungo notes the importance of taking care of staff in order to translate the care of students. He reports buying teachers lunch to show his appreciation. He also sends a form as a check in to get quick feedback on their current welfare.
  - iv. Maria Munguia provides one on one check ins weekly via zoom.

- v. Christine Feher reported that her school is providing a monthly staff support group to discuss the impacts of COVID.
- vi. Don English reported the importance of leaders stepping up to meet the needs of the staff.
- vii. Robin Geissler reported that staff misses the lunch opportunity to connect with staff so they provide a weekly lunch zoom meeting for teachers to have that time together. The district is also providing yoga and breathing techniques for stress.
- d. Staff Engagement – Dr. Milisav Ilic
  - i. Dr. Ilic reported
  - ii. Greg Wohlman reported that his staff is feeling the weight of the pandemic on their shoulders. Their district is getting positive messages out about what they're doing to support. Reinforcing the teachers' efforts to do the best they can.
  - iii. Michael Ridgeway has gotten in the habit of one to one time with new teachers to support them. He also holds open ended zoom rooms for questions or just to chat.
  - iv. Robin Geissler asked how districts are accommodating employees with small children in the home.
    - 1. Simone Charles reports that LAUSD will be doing child care starting in the next few weeks.
    - 2. Dallas Plaa reports childcare in his district as well.
    - 3. Greg Wohlma reports childcare in his district for TK-5
    - 4. Jamie Alarcon reports technology pods of 10 students in Glendale.

**IV. Goals for the Year – Dr. Milisav Ilic**

- a. Provide a resource for the year in the area of Alternative Education.
- b. Dr. Milisav requests the committee to read the Report and Recommendations of the California Advisory Task Force on Alternative Schools prior to the November meeting (particularly Appendix 3).
- c. Have the subcommittee meet at least once before the November meeting for the “Resource Manual.”

**V. Additional Items**

- a. Ivan Carrillo mentioned the series for Supporting Site Leaders. Next week, 2 members from CASEL will be presenting on how to support SEL work in our current environment.

**VI. Wrap Up: Actions & Takeaways**

- a. Takeaways
  - i. Dr. Simon reported the importance of relationship building with our students and prioritizing adult SEL.

- ii. Carlton Stice was encouraged that the problems and solutions are similar and seem to be coordinated in a lot of ways.
- iii. Maria mentioned meeting the needs of students with various platforms, whether it's virtual or not.
- b. Action Item: read the Report and Recommendations of the California Advisory Task Force on Alternative Schools prior to the November meeting.

VII. **Adjourn** (11:47am)

**Meeting Dates**

Date	Meeting   <i>Location</i>	Time
September 18, 2020	Educational Options Council Meeting <i>WebEx</i>	10:00AM - 12:00PM
November 4, 2020	Educational Options Council Meeting <i>WebEx</i>	10:00AM - 12:00PM
March 26, 2021	Educational Options Council Meeting <i>WebEx</i>	10:00AM - 12:00PM