BOARD MEETING REPORT

November 4, 2026



STEAM+ provides robust experience across all five disciplines

Following the success of DMUSD's incredible STEAM+ family nights, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Nelson showcased the impact of STEAM+ on DMUSD students as well as shared highlights from district-wide campus events.

STEAM+ programs offer consistent weekly experiences in innovation technology, PE, science, music, and art across nine schools for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. "By having these kinds of consistent offerings for our students, we are able to really put our time and energy into a cohesive scope and sequence, so we can really work on developing skills and supporting our Portrait of a Learner attributes," Nelson said.

In addition to the engaging STEAM+ opportunities for students in classrooms, families had the chance to experience the program first hand at each school's STEAM+ Family Night. The events featured more than 15 hands-on activities where families built, designed, and created alongside their child. For the first time, parents and guardians will receive a STEAM+ spotlight during parent-teacher conferences, highlighting what their child has been learning this school year, along with a preview of the exciting things to come in the second trimester.

DMSEF
DEL MAR SCHOOLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

STEAM+ education would not be possible without the support of the Del Mar Schools Education Foundation (DMSEF).

Creating conditions for student and teacher success

Executive Director of Student Services Leslie Montoro and Behavior Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) Leah Engbrecht shared information about the behavior supports offered in DMUSD, specifically how Engbrecht supports teachers across the district. The Behavior TOSA supports and coaches teachers of general education students with behavioral challenges with a focus on whole-class behavior management and support tailored to individual students.

For teachers, the support has been invaluable. "This was a great experience," one teacher shared. "I am so grateful for all of the brainstorming and in class help. If anything, the feedback is for myself or other teachers and that's to reach out [for support] sooner."

Del Mar Union School District Governing Board of Trustees

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Board Actions

- The Board voted to hold its annual organizational meeting on December 16, where it will elect its officers, including President and Clerk.
- The Board approved the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for the 2026-2027 school year. The purpose of this plan is to outline goals, strategies, and related expenditures for student achievement towards mastering the common core state standards.
- The Board held a public hearing and approved the District's initial proposal for contract negotiations for 2026-2027 with the Del Mar California Teachers Association (DMCTA). The Board also voted to receive the initial proposal from DMCTA.
- The Board approved the use of the California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS) program to purchase HVAC Systems for the Ashley Falls School Modernization project.

School Report

Six students from Sage Canyon School's "Safe School Ambassadors" program shared the impact the program has made on their campus. Safe School Ambassadors is a program that harnesses the power of students to prevent and stop bullying and mistreatment with a goal of helping students feel safe at school. Overall, 48 students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grade take part in the program at Sage Canyon.

The group explained the process, saying: *"First, an ambassador's job is to 'notice.' We need to understand the four types of mistreatment people use to mistreat each other. These four types include: exclusion, intimidation, put downs, and unwanted physical contact. After we notice someone being mistreated, we stop and think. We ask ourselves important questions about the mistreatment like 'How well do I know the people involved?' or 'What do I understand about what I just saw?' After we notice and think, an ambassadors job is to act. We use our ambassador actions to help others. Ambassadors have different ways to respond: balancing, reasoning, supporting, or distracting."*

A Sage Canyon fourth grader, added: *"I have been able to use the skills I have learned both in and outside of school, including in sports practices and games, to encourage and support my teammates."*

The students used several creative approaches to share their information with the Board, including a powerpoint and a role-play activity.

Next Regular Meeting: December 16, 2026