

**TEHAMA COUNTY SELPA
SELPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

Tehama County Department of Education, Board Room
1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

9:00 AM TO 10:30 AM

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Richard DuVarney, Jared Caylor, Jim Weber, Joey Adame, Rick Fitzpatrick, Brad Mendenhall, Todd Brose, Lane Bates, Jenny Montoya, Jerry Walker, Clifford Curry, Jeff Scheele, Cindy Haase, Veronica Coates

ABSENT: Marla Katzler, Dane Hansen

GUESTS: Karin Matray, Wes Grossman, James Southwick, Suzanne Adkins, Renee Kennedy

1. Call to Order

SELPA Chair Brad Mendenhall called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

2. Consent Agenda

This section is generally approved collectively; however, any item in this section may be considered individually upon request. All items in this section request council approval.

2.1. Adoption of Agenda

2.2. Approval of December 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Lane Bates motioned to adopt the Agenda and approve the December 18, 2018 meeting minutes. Jared Caylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote in Favor: Richard DuVarney, Jared Caylor, Jim Weber, Joey Adame, Rick Fitzpatrick, Brad Mendenhall, Todd Brose, Lane Bates, Jenny Montoya, Jerry Walker, Clifford Curry, Jeff Scheele, Cindy Haase
0 opposed; 0 abstained

3. Public Input

There was no public input.

4. Priorities Requests

There were no priorities requests. Veronica stated proposals can be submitted any time before the May meeting for this fund. Veronica offered to assist in

writing proposals for eligible items such as legal fees and instructional services that promote inclusion. Decisions on priorities requests will be made in May. Veronica encouraged any districts currently in litigation and/or using Alternative Dispute Resolution methods to apply for priorities funds to cover some of these costs.

5. LCI Requests

There were no LCI requests.

6. Special Education Accountability and State Data

Veronica indicated that most districts should have received their draft Annual Performance Reports (PIR) which came out in early December. This year is the first year the reports have all state wide special education compliance in one document. Veronica has worked with CDE on some data errors that could impact some districts. The Performance Indicator Reviews will be released to districts and on the CDE website soon. Veronica requested districts send their PIR notice to the SELPA and also their own Special Education Directors, if they have one, as the notice goes to each LEA Superintendent. This is the first year data from the Dashboard was included in PIR. There is an opportunity to bring in CDE to provide PIR training, however, Shasta is hosting a training and it may benefit us to attend as a region. Veronica can also provide direct support to districts in PIR.

The SELPA Assurances requirement that was put into the trailer bill last year is being moved up to 2020, providing more time to adjust to this new compliance requirement. Veronica is working with Karin Matray, Jim Southwick and Jackie Roach on how to interface with both district LCAP development and Differentiated Assistance, and also how to support districts with their students with disabilities population.

7. LEA to LEA Excess Cost: SELPA Agreed Rate

The SELPA Excess Cost Committee has met twice and calculated the average LEA excess costs to serving a student from another LEA. The committee recommends continuing with \$4,500.00 for the 2019-20 school year as the amounts have remained consistent over the last several years. The committee recommends adding the State adopted COLA to obtain next year's rate and forego the meeting.

Rick Fitzpatrick motioned to approve continuing with the \$4,500.00 LEA to LEA Excess Cost for 2019-20 and to add the COLA to obtain the next year rate. Todd Brose seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote in Favor: Richard DuVarney, Jared Caylor, Jim Weber, Joey Adame, Rick Fitzpatrick, Brad Mendenhall, Todd Brose, Lane Bates, Jenny Montoya, Jerry Walker, Clifford Curry, Jeff Scheele, Cindy Haase
0 opposed; 0 abstained

8. SELPA Committees

Veronica advised a facilities meeting will directly follow this SELPA Executive meeting to discuss facility needs.

The Transportation Committee met in the fall and are currently gathering data to bring recommendations back to the SELPA Executive Committee regarding routes, busing, vans and cost benefit analysis for leasing more vehicles for itinerant staff (leasing vs. mileage). The Transportation Committee will reconvene this spring to discuss and make recommendations.

Veronica advised that the SELPA will be purchasing two busses this spring. The SELPA was approved for one bus grant and have saved enough money to purchase a second bus. There was discussion regarding the possibility of vans replacing busses. Veronica stated there will always be a need for busses for multiple reasons, one being access for students with wheelchair needs. Our preschool population also requires transportation and this is where some of our van use comes in. There is a lot of current legislation and the Governor's budget is looking towards providing more access to preschool. If barriers are eliminated with some of our preschool programs in relation to licensing, we will have a huge opportunity to look at transportation as it relates to the preschool population. The Transportation Committee is looking to make multiyear projections, recommendations and decisions. Veronica stated that a Transportation Committee meeting will be scheduled in the spring and report back to the Executive Committee.

9. Inclusive Sports:

Veronica shared that the High Hoops event will take place on Friday, March 29, 2019. The staff who put on High Hoops found some funding and invited a class that was impacted by the CAMP fire to participate in the event. The Special Olympics will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at the Soccer Field. Veronica shared that three of our students with visual impairment attended the adaptive skiing program at Mt. Shasta this past week and they will go back two to three times this year.

10. Director's Report

Veronica shared that ACSA created a Mental Wellness Taskforce to focus on this growing need in our state. It was born out of the Safety and School Violence Committee that ACSA had last year, which our very own Rick Fitzpatrick was heavily involved in. Veronica was chosen to be on this taskforce. There were 250 applicants and 18 were chosen. The task force included administrators from across the state. Veronica is the only administrator for all of Region 1 and one of only a few special educators. The task force also includes some of ACSA's

legislative staff. The task force will meet monthly through May and Veronica will continue to bring updates.

Veronica provided some updates on the Governor's budget proposals and current legislation introduced in our new legislative cycle. There are some aligned themes in both the Governor's Proposed Budget and introduced legislation. The themes are mental health and early childhood intervention/prevention. There has not been a lot of special education legislation introduced, but there is still time. The Special Education Finance bill that our SELPA supported last year is being reintroduced and Veronica recommends supporting it again. It will again focus on SELPA equalization and funding. Assembly Member Weber introduced AB- 216 which is related to specific restraints for Special Education. It is currently a spot bill, but is raising concerns as it could look to outlaw certain kinds of restraints and would make it difficult for all Nonpublic schools. It seems to be related to cases where there were inappropriate restraints and students were hurt.

Senator Portantino introduced SB-217. This bill looks to provide some funding for preschool students with disabilities. It incentivizes inclusive opportunities but also has some language around TK enrollment and regulations. Executive Committee members shared concerns regarding being mandated to enroll without full funding (TK rate). As chair of the Legislative Committee for SELPA Administrators of California, Veronica is working with the author's office on some feedback and she will share that feedback.

Lassen View Superintendent, Jerry Walker, asked how to obtain Crisis Prevention Intervention training for his staff. Veronica relayed she can work with the SELPA certified trainer to schedule, however, it could take some time as we only have one trainer. Rick Fitzpatrick from Corning Union Elementary also relayed that he has a trainer that he would be willing to contract time for.

The proration factor loss over five years was reviewed. The data specific to our SELPA was presented. Todd Brose requested this data be presented to the committee at the last SELPA meeting in December. Veronica relayed that she is providing a snapshot of the last five years and there can be more in-depth data brought back if needed, adding the yearly COLA. She presented the data to show how much the SELPA lost due to the proration factor (deficit) compared over a five year period. Wes Grossman relayed that the proration factor / deficit is done as the state only allocates so much money to Prop 98. Deficits are applied to meet those thresholds and is then adjusted at first interim and throughout the year. As the rate can adjust at times we may get more money than originally planned for. Veronica always brings any extra revenue back to the committee to decide on how to allocate appropriately.

Veronica also reviewed the proration factor compared to COLA for our SELPA as well as statewide that Jack Lucas created. The data shows that even with an

applied COLA, we still lose money if a proration factor is applied to special education. This is all tied to Prop 98 funding. If special education is funded more the Prop 98 guarantee would also increase.

The Governor's budget proposal and subsequent trailer bill was shared with the committee. The Governor's budget proposal added both ongoing and one-time money to special education, however, there are concerns with the proposed application of this funding. The funding is proposed to go directly to LEAs for services unrelated to IEP services and appears to be focused more on MTSS and intervention. Many statewide organizations are providing feedback to the Governor's Office regarding concerns about the special education finance proposal. As written, the trailer bill indicates the money would not be applied towards high cost special education services on the IEPs of students, however, could still count towards MOE requirements, which could penalize and harm districts.

Veronica reviewed the State SELPA Finance Committee's January/February 2019 report from the State SELPA Finance Chair, Anjanette Pelletier, who took over for Mary Samples.

Litigation trends in the SELPA and north state were discussed with the group. Disputes are on the increase and Veronica heavily encouraged districts to engage in Alternative Dispute Resolution. Veronica has been working closely with attorney Paul Gant, who is coming to give a training to districts on developing legally defensible IEPs. The requests for IEEs is also increasing. SELPA Directors in the region are working together to create a local list of qualified examiners. Paul Gant will be providing a training for Legally Defensible IEPs on March 25, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tehama County Department of Education, and there are currently 80+ attendees.

The May SELPA Executive Committee meeting was rescheduled to **Thursday, May 30, 2019**.

Regional special education and SELPA projections for staff will be brought to the next SELPA Meeting. There have been fluctuations with incoming and outgoing students due to the fires in the north state. Numbers appear to be stabilizing. Additionally, the number of students with disabilities continues to increase at TeLA. They are currently at a rate of 30 percent special education and there is a need to allocate more special education time to this site. This will be included in the projections and will increase costs. Lincoln Street Charter has also increased. Administration from the charter schools and SELPA staff are engaging in some root cause analysis on why students are moving away from traditional education to charters that offer mostly a home based program. Engaging with districts where many of the students are leaving may be beneficial. Other trends were discussed. Currently our SELPA students with disabilities make up 11.8 percent of our total population. Other trends include increased eligibility under

Speech/Language and Other Health Impairment. Our larger two high school districts are also seeing a large 8th grade class entering, causing a large increase in their students with disabilities population for the next school year. Todd Brose discussed that his site is looking at these projections as they may have to add staff.

At the next SELPA meeting, the committee will begin work on developing SELPA wide goals. We continue to discuss trends, themes and common needs and it will be important to develop some goals around these big items.

11. District Reports

Jared Caylor relayed that Corning High School's baseball team has a great opportunity coming up.

There was a discussion and question about the federal government shutdown impacting OCR complaints.

Richard DuVarney shared that Los Molinos High School was named as a California Distinguished School.

12. Adjournment

Todd Brose motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 a.m. Rick Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote in Favor: Richard DuVarney, Jared Caylor, Jim Weber, Joey Adame, Rick Fitzpatrick, Brad Mendenhall, Todd Brose, Lane Bates, Jenny Montoya, Jerry Walker, Clifford Curry, Jeff Scheele, Cindy Haase
0 opposed; 0 abstained