

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

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

**Tuesday, March 12, 2019
9:00 AM TO 10:30 AM**

MEETING MINUTES

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

ABSENT: Marla Katzler, Dane Hansen

GUESTS: Karin Matray, Wes Grossman, Sara Smith, Michelle Kinner, Suzanne Adkins, Renee Kennedy

1. Call to Order

SELPA Chair Brad Mendenhall called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 February 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Richard Duvarney motioned to adopt the agenda and approve the February 12, 2019 meeting minutes. Todd Brose seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

3. Public Input

There was no public input.

4. Priorities Requests

There were no priorities requests.

5. LCI Requests

There were no LCI requests.

6. SELPA Goal Development

The SELPA Director led the Executive Committee through a goal setting process, specific to the needs of students in Tehama County SELPA. This activity and process is also parallel to each district LCAP stakeholder's meeting and could be counted as such, due to the interdependence and strong collaboration within our SELPA.

The Committee brought up the following areas of need:

- Lack of special education funding, staff shortage, staff retention
- Training needs for all staff in a multitude of areas
- Increasing social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health of our student population. The high percentage of students with high ACEs scores entering our school system.
- The need for professional development in the area of high quality special education assessments looking at disability eligibility. Specific areas of need for training and support: English language learners, Patterns of Strengths and Weakness and preschool identification rates.
- Increasing disputes and litigation with families.
- Preschool students with disabilities continuing to rise in numbers and intensity.

The Committee brought up the following possible solutions and goal areas:

- Continuing high quality Educationally Related Mental Health Services Program/model and looking at ways to expand this to address the ever growing mental health needs and challenges our students and families face.
- Robust professional development in many areas: Alternative dispute resolution, social/emotional/behavioral, trauma-informed practices, restorative justice, inclusive practices/models, high quality/best practice assessments, state/federal special education compliance and law.
- Looking at the continuum and finding ways to offer additional staffing in the areas of social-emotional/behavioral teachers/programs. Increased staffing of behaviorists/IBIs.
- Increased staffing at our smaller schools.
- Recruitment and retention efforts: CTE pathways for education, recruitment of specialty positions, pathways for classified professionals to become certificated special educators.
- Use more data informed practices at district, county and SELPA level: Engage in improvement science activity looking specifically at preschool special education identification.
- IEP compliance and behavior training for special education and general education.

Veronica indicated she will look at all the needs and possible solutions and bring draft goals for the SELPA Executive Committee to take action.

7. SELPA Finance Report: Second Interim

The Committee reviewed the Second Interim Report. Veronica advised there is additional revenue on our updated funding exhibits (approximately \$66,000 more than expected). The committee will need to take action on how to allocate that extra funding during the next SELPA Executive Committee. Options to consider were presented.

The federal preschool grant that was stand alone has been rolled into our bigger federal grant. The committee discussed continuing to separate out this amount to apply towards our preschool expenses/program (last year). The committee will need to act on a methodology on this (next month). Veronica will provide options and scenarios.

Non-public schools (NPS) billback was discussed. The NPS fund is currently at a deficit balance of \$97,534, shared among districts who have NPS placement.

8. Staffing Projections

Veronica provided regional services/program staffing projections for the 2019-20 school year. There are staffing increases for Special Education Teacher FTE, specifically for the charter LEAs.

Speech and Language Pathologists FTE discussed. An increase in staffing due to increased student needs is necessary. Additionally, the costs of an outside contract with a virtual provider is quite costly.

We continue to face a shortage in the area of DHH interpreters. Thinking creatively and out of the box we are creating a Deaf Mentor position, modeled after a position in another SELPA. This position would assist in the classroom as an instructional aide and mentor. Hiring of this position is expected to be cost neutral.

Veronica shared that Loreina Santana, a veteran teacher from Red Bluff Union Elementary School District, has been hired as the new administrator for TCDE special education programs, effective July 1, 2019. The ERMHS Consultant position has been filled by Aubrie Fulk, currently our lead preschool psychologist.

9. School Nursing Contracts for LEAs and Other Agencies

The Committee reviewed projections for school nursing services contracted out to districts and other partners. Due to unaccounted time and ever changing needs, it was recommended that the billing for this service be moved to a different methodology. The FTE allocation model is causing nursing time to be

unaccounted, unpaid, and it cannot be attributed to the SELPA expense model as these are general education costs.

TCDE special education programs, which is a part of the SELPA expense model, currently only requires 1.3 FTE. The remainder of 2.7 FTE is to provide school nurse staff requests at districts, LEAs, and other programs. There was a discussion regarding the appropriateness of the SELPA managing costs for general education nursing. There was a suggestion to track the nursing time by timecard versus FTE estimate as districts find it challenging to predict FTE in nursing.

The committee recommended that the SELPA Director and County Office Administration work together to discuss solutions and bring recommendations back to the SELPA Executive Committee for action next month. Veronica requested guidance on staffing commitments, now, to come up with adequate solutions.

Todd Brose motioned to direct the SELPA Director to work on recommendations on how to appropriately bill for nursing services for TCDE special education programs and general education contracts. The SELPA will continue with 4.0 FTE nurses for 2019-20. Jared Caylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

10. Director's Report

The State SELPA Finance Report was provided and summarized. Veronica thanked the committee for sending letters of support for AB 428.

Veronica provided information on a Performance Indicator Review (PIR) Training being offered at the Shasta County Office of Education on March 22, 2019. Veronica also offered to provide a PIR training to LEAs in the SELPA. The PIR letters from CDE should be going out to LEAs and released publicly soon.

Veronica provided an update on the ACSA Mental Wellness Task Force and shared articles relevant to this important issue. Alex Briscoe, former Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Director, spoke at the task force meeting and he has started the California Children's Trust. Veronica encouraged Committee members to go to the website as there is a wealth of materials and information. Mr. Briscoe's mission is to provide options for schools and other agencies to partner and have options for flexible funding, specifically in the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) federal Medicaid funding source. Veronica is working to collaborate with Alex and the California Children's Trust.

Veronica shared an opportunity for Rockets and Robots, which is a Science Club for Children on the Autism Spectrum, and they would like to utilize our Makerspace and offer this opportunity to our students with Autism. A pamphlet with further information was provided and Veronica will work on scheduling something in our Makerspace for this great opportunity.

11. District Reports

There were no district reports.

12. Adjournment

Cindy Haase motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m. Rick Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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