

**CALAVERAS COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA**

Calaveras County Office of Education  
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Calaveras County Special Education Executive Council  
Meeting held at Calaveras Medical Therapy Unit/San Andreas Elementary  
**MINUTES**  
**February 5, 2007**

**I. Call Public Session to Order 9:03 a.m.**

Establishment of Quorum  
Attendance by Roll Sheet

**Executive Council Members:**

Rick Brewer, Superintendent  
John Brophy, Superintendent  
Glen Sewell, Superintendent  
James Frost, Superintendent  
Mike Chimente, Superintendent  
Diane Bateman  
Evan Garamendi  
Jill Bray  
Joan Lark  
Valerie Tudor

Mark Twain Union Elementary School District (MTUESD)  
Calaveras County Office of Education (CCOE)  
Vallecito Union School District (VUSD)  
Calaveras Unified School District (CUSD)  
Bret Harte Union High School District (BHUHSD)  
MTUESD Board Member  
CUSD Board Member  
VUSD Board Member  
BHUHSD Board Member / President  
CCOE Board Member

**Staff:**

Kathy Northington  
Mike Harrison  
Patty Haskell  
Sharon Knick  
Claudia Davis  
Debbie Koehler  
Debbie Scadden

Associate Superintendent/SELPA Director  
Program Manager  
Program Manager  
CUSD Special Ed Director  
Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Director, Personnel/Administrative Services  
SELPA Administrative Assistant

**Absent:**

Debbie Koehler  
Claudia Davis

Director, Personnel/Administrative Services  
Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

**Other(s) In Attendance:**

**II. Approve Agenda**

A motion was made by Glenn Sewell to approve the agenda for February 5, 2007. Mike Chimente seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### III. Public Comment

No public in attendance.

### IV. Flag Salute

### V. Consent Minutes

A few minor typographical errors and the need for the omission of “open session” were noted regarding the minutes of January 8, 2007. With the corrections a motion was made by Glenn Sewell to approve the minutes, Jim Frost seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### VI. Discussion/Action items

- A. **Mike Harrison, Heidi Harding, and Kathy Griggs-Workability Program Presentation:** Mike Harrison introduced Heidi Harding (Bret Harte High School Workability) and Kathy Griggs (Calaveras High School Workability). Heidi and Kathy explained the program was started in approximately 1982. The key goals of the program, i.e., working with students in preparation of adulthood. This program provides the support and motivation for students to learn the skills of application, communication, and training needed to be successful in a community. Heidi explained the program funding, community support and vocational projects that assist our students in moving forward in a positive manner. She shared that at the end of the year, the students and their employers are invited to an appreciation luncheon that is arranged and sponsored by each counties Workability staff member. Kathy Northington distributed a copy of the new “Student Information Letter” that each parent receives when their student starts the program. To the question of on the job insurance coverage, it was explained that the County Office covers students under Workman’s Comp. The council members appreciated the presentation and expressed thanks for the hard dedication of the Workability staff.
- B. **ESY (Extended School Year):** Kathy Northington shared that the staff has been working on preparation of the extended school year. i.e., the number of students with ESY on their IEPs, staffing, services and program preparation. Kathy asked that she be provided with a list of the personnel that will be handling ESY for each district in order to work with these staff members to provide for our AU students. The ESY information provided is as follows:
- BHUHSD = Dan McGee and Terri Sepulveda
  - CUSD = Karen Dickerson
  - MTUESD = Julie Tidball
  - VUSD = Cheryl Boyd
- C. **Transition:** Kathy Northington had provided a handout regarding an article on a class action lawsuit that was recently brought against the Montebello Unified School District by disabled teens. This lawsuit was directed at appropriate “school to adult” transition services being offered in California. The focal point is the quality and level of transition services provided to each student. The IDEA regulations state that by the age of sixteen, a special education student with IEP will be provided with a plan that includes a transition program to help them proceed as seamlessly as possible into adult life. IDEA states that it should no longer be only about access but the focus should be on helping students manage their lives after high school. The council members inquired about the type of services our transition program is offering at this time, i.e., career counseling, workability, transition to a special education class at a Junior College and vocational education. Kathy asked the council members to review how our districts look at transition. How do we assist the students with achieving their diploma yet look beyond that with our program? John Brophy said he feels that the students are receiving appropriate services to assist in their transition; however he is concerned about those students who do not pass the high school exit exam. Our responsibility is to provide realistic assistance to those students to achieve their goals and transition successfully.

- C. **Transition (cont.)** The key is to have a balance between meeting academic goals and being job ready. Kathy is attempting to get Liz Zastrow to provide a transition services training for our county. John Brophy shared the need for clear documentation from teachers SELPA wide regarding the transition piece of a student's education.

Mike Harrison toured the AU Transition house on January 25, 2007 with Joel; our maintenance staff member and the owner Tom Floyd. Mike presented a list to the council members noting the needed steps to make the house ADA compliant. This included a breakdown of the repairs that would fall under the responsibility of the County. He shared that any modifications made to the house would need to be changed back by the tenants when we vacated the rental property.

The suggestion of purchasing another house was broached by the council members. John Brophy shared that the long term solution would be to purchase a piece of property and place a portable building on it for the Transition class or use a portion of the new county office property in the same manner. In the mean time – Diane Bateman will check on the availability of a building in Angels Camp that may be coming available and the research to pursue another site for this classroom will continue. Although the student attendance projection is not currently available there was discussion regarding the possible need for two programs with one in Angels Camp and one in Valley Springs. These projections will be brought to a future meeting for discussion.

## **VII. SELPA Director's Report**

- Kathy Northington shared handouts regarding upcoming workshops presented by Diana Browning-Wright and sponsored by the San Joaquin County Office of Education and ACSA. The first is "Effective Instruction Accommodation/Modification Planning" on March 12, 2007 at SJCOE, "Threat Assessment" on March 16, 2007 at SJCOE and Julie Weatherly (Attorney) is presenting "22 Don't Do's in Special Education" on April 17, 2007 at CCOE.
- Kathy shared that she is concerned about parents removing their students from special education and asking to enroll them in Independent Study because they feel their student's educational demands are not being met. Kathy asked the council members to direct staff to contact the SELPA when they see that parents are frustrated to avoid this occurrence. Kathy or the Program Managers will meet with the parents to try to resolve issues.

## **VIII. Regionalized Programs Report**

- Patty Haskell reported there is a new deaf student in Chris Markus's class which is inadequate in size to accommodate her growing caseload. Patty is continuing to work with Glenn Sewell on providing Chris with a larger classroom. The San Andreas Preschool (Jen Tapia's class) is being relocated to the San Andreas Elementary School campus. Patty reported that the preschool enrollment is climbing; at this time she is planning on meeting with teachers to calculate the number of students for the 2007-2008 school year.
- Mike Harrison provided the council members with a flyer regarding the "Why Try" presentation being offered at CCOE on March 13, 2007 from 8:30-12:00. This presentation is an overview of the actual program and Mike urged the council members to share the flyer with their staff in order to ascertain if this is something that would be effective in our schools. Staff from Mental Health, Probation and Amador will be attending, as well.
- Mike shared his concern over our current Behavior Programs. There has been a constant issue with finding qualified teachers for these programs-partly due to insufficient wages offered. In the 4-8 Program there have been three teachers in as many years. Mike would like to meet with staff to review the program, student needs and possible enrollment for next year. Glenn Sewell and Jim Frost offered to work with Mike assessing these classrooms and evaluating the future needs.

**IX. Finance Report**

- Claudia Davis was not in attendance. John shared that he met with her recently and she stated the budget is stable according to projection with the reserve at \$80,000.

**X. Personnel and Payroll Report**

- Debbie Koehler was not in attendance. Kathy Northington shared Debbie will be posting the DHOH position being vacated in June, 2007.

**XI. Comments from Council Members**

- John Brophy shared the finalized negotiations, i.e., COLA and benefits for the teachers, school psychologists and management personnel with the council members (handout provided). He stated that the package would come to roughly a six percent increase and explained the research and reasoning behind his decision regarding staff parity with other counties of similar size. The council discussed this issue and agreed that our county needs to be competitive in salary and benefits.

**XII. Comments from the Public**

None

**XIII. Advance Planning & Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**Next Executive Council Meeting**

**March 12, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Closed Session: Following Meeting (if required)**

**Calaveras County Office of Education Main Conference Room (MTUESD Hosting)**

Any individual, who requires disability-related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the board meeting, should contact the SELPA office in writing.  
(Gov. Code 54953.2, 54954.1)