

CALAVERAS COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA

Calaveras County Office of Education
185 South Main Street / PO Box 760
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Calaveras County Special Education Executive Council
Meeting held at Calaveras Medical Therapy Unit/San Andreas Elementary

MINUTES
March 12, 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
Lloyd Boitano (subbing for 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:

Mike Harrison
Patty Haskell
Debbie Koehler
Claudia Davis

Program Manager
Program Manager
Director, Personnel/Administrative Services
Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

Other(s) In Attendance:

II. Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Mike Chimente to approve the agenda for March 12, 2007. John Brophy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

III. **Public Comment**

No public in attendance.

IV. **Flag Salute**

V. **Consent Minutes**

John Brophy made a motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2007. Rick Brewer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. **Discussion/Action items**

- A. **Tom Christian APE (Adapted Physical Education) Program Presentation:** Kathy Northington explained that in the continued endeavor to share with the Executive Council the descriptions and responsibilities of each DIS (Designated Instructional Services) provider; she has asked Tom Christian to provide a short presentation.

Tom Christian explained that he has been working for Calaveras County as an APE Teacher since 1979 starting in Calaveras County and then working for all three counties in the Tri-County Consortium. Tom shared that his job is to work with students from primary to high school-regular education to students with special needs. This involves more than just physical education; it can mean teaching and assisting kids with self help skills, personal hygiene, toileting and dressing. Along with assisting his students with their physical and motor skills, he instructs them in self discipline and appropriate response to adults and/or fellow students. He sets achievable goals for all of his students whether they are in regular or special education. Tom has strong ties to the community and donates his time and skills, not to mention his support to many community events. Every year he volunteers to assist with the Science Camp trip which involves both the regular ed and special ed students. He explained that his biggest joy is to see all of the students combine and help each other and the teachers with whatever needs to be done. He believes that this is a wonderful opportunity for all students to learn to understand each other as well as learn about their environment. Tom stated that the support from the Superintendent, the administrators and staff has been excellent throughout the years and it is greatly appreciated. The council members thanked Tom for his presentation and shared a deep appreciation for his dedication to our students and community.

John Brophy introduced Lloyd Boitano to the council members. Mr. Boitano will be substituting for Valerie Tudor while she is out of town for the next couple of meetings.

- B. **Monitoring Programs-Self Review:** Kathy Northington shared that one of the items needed to complete the self review for our SELPA is to develop a plan as to how we will self monitor our programs in the future. Mike Chimente asked if the plan could include common non-compliant issues that trainings could be focused on. Mike also suggested a mini self review in which random files are pulled and checked a few times a year. The council members requested that Kathy Northington draft a policy that addresses a fiscal self review plan for the county. This policy should include the need for student files to be randomly yet consistently monitored to assure that appropriate services are provided for maximum educational benefit. Kathy will draft a policy and return it to the council for review.

- C. **Transitional Services:** Kathy Northington gave the council members an accounting of the number of students that are scheduled to be attending the Transition Program in 2007-2008. The numerous changes needed both inside and outside the current location in order to create a conducive environment for the students are not cost effective for the county. Also, the owner of the house is looking to use it as a home for his family in the future and does not want to fund these particular changes.

C. **Transitional Services Continued:** Items discussed:

- Appropriate locations currently available in Angels Camp; should one be rented for a year as a trial
- A majority of students are residents of CUSD, should the program be located in that district; a portable would have to be provided to house this class
- A discussion with the Workability staff would need to take place for input
- Transportation is an on-going costly issue for CUSD (three runs per day)
- Contribution of ideas from a task force of SDC, SH, Structured and Special Ed. staff to discuss ideas regarding how this program should function in the future
- Should there be a Transition program on both sides of the county
- ADA revenue from Workability (Claudia Davis was not available for this meeting – Kathy will ask her to address this question at the next council meeting)

Kathy was directed by the council to explore options locally regarding available rentals in Angels Camp and find out details, i.e.; cost, availability to this type of program, is the building rented month to month, yearly lease, etc. and report the findings to the council.

- D. **Behavior Programs:** The council members were recently copied on an email inviting staff to a “Behavior Task Force” meeting. Kathy Northington shared that the basis for this is the need to address the behavior issues that seem to be occurring across the county. There is a need for a group of people who would be interested in being part of a team to focus on problem solving, positive direction and/or possible solutions. Kathy has invited staff members from San Joaquin and Merced counties to share with the attendees how they deal with this problem, the programs they implement and their success rate. Kathy would also like to build a closer collaboration with the Non-Public Schools. In addition, she has invited members of the Probation and Mental Health departments for their input on this matter. Kathy informed the council members that this is not just for administrators and asked them to share the information regarding the Behavior Task Force meeting, (Wednesday, March 14th at CCOE from 4:00 pm -7:30 pm) with any staff member who may be interested. Kathy feels this is an issue that requires our immediate attention and the pursuit of a policy or program for intervention.

John Brophy shared that there is an increasing number of Special Education students at Mountain Ranch. He stated money is being saved by having the students in this program instead of an NPS; however some of the NPS services still need to be provided whether it be extra staff or additional rooms where students can go when they are out of control. Kathy suggested the need for a higher level of training for the current staff and asked that the Superintendents request that their staff attend pertinent trainings provided by the AU. The council agreed that the current NPS facilities are too far away and costly. The question was posed regarding possibly sharing an NPS facility with TCOE and ACOE to minimize cost. A suggestion was made to hire an aide to support our Behavior Specialist in order to assist in covering the needs of the entire county which is a difficult job for one person.

VII. **SELPA Director’s Report**

- Kathy Northington discussed the question of providing service to a high school special ed. student who signs themselves out of special education, leaves school without graduating and then returns wanting to enroll in Adult Education. For the council’s information, she shared that we are required to take this student back either in the Adult Ed program or High School program depending on services needed for this student to graduate.

- Kathy shared that at the last SELPA Administrators meeting there was discussion on the future funding for special education. She was informed that the President's proposal is to cut 291 million dollars from special Ed funding in order to divert that into implementation of NCLB.

This along with the State's plan for the bifurcated COLA means the lack of funding will be felt next year.

- Kathy shared a handout regarding a presentation by Julie Weatherly entitled "22 Don't Do's in Special Education" that is scheduled for April 17th from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at CCOE. She urged the council members to ask their staff to attend. She also informed the council that we asked Margaret St. George from San Joaquin County to present training on writing transition plans and school performance summaries on March 9, 2007. Kathy was pleased by the attendance; this training had been requested and was well received by the participants.

VIII. Regionalized Programs Report

- Mike Harrison was unavailable for this meeting but asked Kathy to remind the council members of the "Why Try" presentation that was to be held from 9:00 am – 12:00pm the next day. Kathy stated that the reminder email will be sent out once again to the Superintendents for their information.
- Mike also wanted Kathy to share that there are two cases that may be heading towards a legal venue. Due to unforeseen circumstances, parents have escalating concerns which may lead to a need for legal assistance.
- Patty Haskell was not available for this meeting and asked Kathy to clarify the printout provided regarding the number of children listed on our Infant Specialists caseload report. Kathy shared that these numbers are inflated. This can be attributed to some students in a pending status and students that are going on to preschool who have not yet been removed from her caseload. The accurate numbers are more in the area of 10-12 children not the 23 children that are noted. Patty will work on updating this data in order to present an accurate accounting of the caseload.
- Kathy shared that every preschool student that is on an IEP now has to be assessed with the DRDP (Desired Results Developmental Profile). Patty is working on making sure that all staff that serves preschool students are trained as the first assessment must be completed by this Spring. Patty also shared that she has been assisting teachers and administration with difficult and challenging IEP's at the elementary level, working on appropriate classrooms for 2007-2008 and working with the VUSD Superintendent on possibly splitting his current structured class into two classrooms. Glen Sewell shared that the current preschool classroom is being enlarged over Spring break to allow for appropriate space for the preschoolers.
- Kathy praised San Joaquin COE on their willingness to share information, making sure our county is included in their trainings and their consistent availability to assist us when needed.

IX. Finance Report

Claudia Davis was not in attendance. She provided a written report for the council members. No discussion necessary.

X. Personnel and Payroll Report

Debbie Koehler was not in attendance. Kathy Northington shared Debbie asked her to pass out conflict of interest forms for the council members to sign and return to Debbie K. Also she is advertising for the upcoming vacant DHOH position. There may be an individual interested and Kathy is pursuing that lead.

XI. Comments from Council Members

- A question was posed from a council member regarding the legality of meeting in closed session on student cases. John Brophy stated that the closed sessions are legal without having an attorney present as long as the parent in question is notified of the discussion.
- John Brophy requested input from the council regarding an inspirational speaker that presented at a recent Rotary meeting he attended. This individual is a DHOH teacher and she went to England to get specialized training on how to work with the deaf (which is significantly different compared to training in the States) and due to this her students made significant gains in their communication skills. She presents an inspirational story and is an excellent speaker. John spoke to her and she is willing to present at our November 1st Core Development Day. He suggested that she present a keynote address in the morning for all staff and stated she is willing to share some of her techniques with special ed teachers in a breakout session afterwards. Kathy reminded the council that it had been previously decided that Michelle Garcia Winters will be presenting a workshop to the special ed teachers that day and staying for a meeting with any parents that are interested that evening. The council asked that John keep the information on this speaker as they would like this individual to present to our county staff sometime in the future.
- Mike Chimente shared that he has noticed that when students are transitioning to high school, there have been parents that advocate for certain teachers rather than the appropriate program. He wanted to make the council aware of this occurrence.

XII. Comments from the Public

None

XIII. Advance Planning & Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Next Executive Council Meeting

April 9, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.

Closed Session: Following Meeting (if required)

Calaveras County Office of Education Main Conference Room (VUSD 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)