

CALAVERAS COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA

Calaveras County Office of Education
185 South Main Street / PO Box 760
Angels Camp, CA 95221
209.736.6020 FAX: 209.736.6048

Calaveras County Special Education Executive Council
Meeting held at Calaveras Medical Therapy Unit/San Andreas Elementary
MINUTES
April 9, 2007

I. Call Public Session to Order 9:01 a.m.

Establishment of Quorum
Attendance by Roll Sheet

Executive Council Members:

| | |
|---|--|
| Rick Brewer, Superintendent | Mark Twain Union Elementary School District (MTUESD) |
| John Brophy, Superintendent | Calaveras County Office of Education (CCOE) |
| Glen Sewell, Superintendent | Vallecito Union School District (VUSD) |
| James Frost, Superintendent | Calaveras Unified School District (CUSD) |
| Mike Chimente, Superintendent | Bret Harte Union High School District (BHUHSD) |
| Diane Bateman | MTUESD Board Member |
| Evan Garamendi | CUSD Board Member |
| Trudy Lackey (subbing for Jill Bray) | VUSD Board Member |
| Joan Lark | BHUHSD Board Member / President |
| Lou Boitano (subbing for Valerie Tudor) | CCOE Board Member |

Staff:

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|-------------------|---|
| Kathy Northington | Associate Superintendent/SELPA Director |
| Mike Harrison | Program Manager |
| Patty Haskell | Program Manager |
| Sharon Knick | CUSD Special Ed Director |
| Claudia Davis | Assistant Superintendent, Business Services |
| Debbie Koehler | Director, Personnel/Administrative Services |
| Debbie Scadden | SELPA Administrative Assistant |

Absent:

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Valerie Tudor (substitute provided) | CCOE Board Member |
| Jill Bray (substitute provided) | VUSD Board Member |
| Debbie Koehler | Director, Personnel/Administrative Services |
| Claudia Davis | Assistant Superintendent, Business Services |

Other(s) In Attendance:

II. Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Mike Chimente to approve the agenda for April 9, 2007. John Brophy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment

No public in attendance.

IV. Flag Salute

V. Consent Minutes

Mike Chimente made a comment to the council to clarify that although his statement in the March minutes (page 5, 'Council Members Comments') was accurately noted, that the emphasis of his concern was the placement of students in the correct programs. Mike Chimente made a motion to approve the minutes of March 12, 2007. John Brophy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. Discussion/Action items

- A. **Preschool Bathroom at Michelson Elementary:** Kathy Northington shared that this facility was completed recently and the construction included the removal of a wall in the previous preschool classroom to enlarge the room's overall space. Kathy asked Glen Sewell to extend appreciation to his staff for expediting this construction in order for the room to be complete by the end of Spring break.
- B. **MOU for School Districts Provision of Space for Regional Programs:** Kathy Northington shared that at this time there is no MOU or contract documentation in place for sharing space for programs and asked the council for their direction. Claudia Davis is creating a standard MOU for this very reason. This document will address the responsibility of the cost associated with the remodeled structures currently used or redesigned for special education programs. It will also clarify a shared or district cost for these changes. After some discussion it was decided that Kathy and Claudia should research other Districts to identify their standard operating procedure regarding this matter.
- C. **Behavior Task Force Update:** Mike Harrison shared that the first meeting had taken place and how well it was attended. There were staff members from Merced and San Joaquin Counties that came to share information about their behavior programs. Mike felt that this meeting was very well received and a positive approach to enhancing our current practices. There were many avenues discussed and he feels that the task force is a positive step towards creating a behavior model that can be followed by both teachers and aides when faced with students who have behavior issues. This has been a common and ever increasing problem in our classrooms and the number of cases cannot be adequately addressed by our Behavior Analyst alone. Kathy Northington noted that the next meeting is scheduled for April 26th and attendance is still open to all who wish to attend.
- D. **'Why Try' Training:** Mike Harrison shared that the recent over-view of the 'Why Try' training model that was presented was extremely well attended and received by staff. This program was developed to address student's behavioral challenges and to date has shown better results than most programs. Mike is requesting approval from the council to contract with this organization for their two day training. The cost will be \$6000.00 for the two day training and \$1000.00 for travel costs. Mike has checked with both Amador and Tuolumne to see if they might be interested in attending and sharing some of the cost and Amador has agreed; Mike has not heard from Tuolumne. There is a curriculum binder to purchase and that cost is \$350.00 for attendees and \$450.00 for those for those who do not attend the training. There was also a possibility of sending staff members to train at the Why Try site and return to train our staff, however, it was decided that the cost would be prohibitive and additionally there is the problem of making time to effectively train staff. The council members discussed different funding models to cover costs. It was decided that within the week of June 11th through the 15th would be a reasonable time to schedule training and expect good attendance. During this discussion a county-wide RTI program was suggested and well received by the council members. There will be further discussion on this subject in subsequent meetings. The Superintendents will discuss the 'Why Try' funding at their next meeting.

Michelson K-3 Structured Class: Glenn Sewell requested discussion regarding his and parents concern with consistency and a seamless transition between the District and the AU run programs as students move through the school system. His immediate concern is the VUSD K-3 Structured Program, should this be an AU program and if not what is the role of the AU? After discussion, the question posed was how the county can fiscally operate programs across the county in the most responsible manner and how to operate programs while providing a level of support and training to staff in order to run programs effectively. The council agreed that this does not center on who is in charge of the programs but how the programs are managed and the community perceptions. In a study session venue the council planned to meet and discuss this matter, one hour earlier on May 14th (8:00 a.m.) the next scheduled CCSEEC meeting.

Trudi Lackey stated that she is aware of classes that are provided at Columbia College for Instructional Aides; if there are enough people interested. She will provide that information to the council for their review.

VII. SELPA Director's Report

- Kathy Northington updated the council members on the current status of moving the Transition class to another site. The rental that seemed appropriate is no longer available; Kathy asked that everyone keep an eye open for other sites.
- Due to the new regulations and IDEA, the current twenty nine assurances provided by CDE need to be reviewed by the individual district boards and approved. We will need the Superintendents signature and a copy of the minutes stating these forms were reviewed. Legally that is all we are responsible for at this time. These forms will be available to Kathy on Wednesday and after transferring them to your district letterhead, they will be forwarded to each of the districts. They are due to CDE by June 30th so Kathy asked that the council members bring them to the first available board meeting.
- There was an additional day added for staff development; the day before Labor Day (August 31st). Superintendents stated that they would make sure that staff was available to attend training offered on that day.
- Kathy wanted direction from the council members regarding participating in the small rural SELPA group with Sarge Kennedy's as we had during previous years. Kathy felt that this is a worth while endeavor and that we have benefited from this group in the past. The council members agreed to this proposal.
- Kathy reminded the council members of the '22 Don't Do's in Special Education' training that Julie Weatherly is presenting on April 17th.
- Kathy Northington shared information from the last SELPA meeting regarding North Inland County and their practice of offering a consistent form of providing speech and language services to students across their county. By all speech teachers using the same tools this has proven to provide clear identification of students with speech needs. She provided the council members with a sample binder that she received. These binders are available for purchase at \$15.00 each and there is a training offered by North Inland as well. Kathy will ask Meegan Lucore to review the binder and training opportunities with staff at the next speech meeting.

VIII. Regionalized Programs Report

- Mike Harrison shared that over the last couple of years it has become clear that hiring staff with proper experience with behaviorally challenged students has been critical to our county. The challenge is finding people with this level of training willing to come to this county. Mike asked the council to make sure that this is the best placement for their students and that all avenues have been researched prior to this type of decision.
- Mike shared that there is a student that has been removed from one of our ED classrooms and the home by the parent and he is in the process of placing that student in an appropriate site.

IX. Finance Report

Claudia Davis does not have any current budget changes. She will be communicating with district budget staff to acquire the special education budget forms for next years funding. She does not anticipate any major changes but hopes to bring some figures to the May Executive Council meeting.

X. Personnel and Payroll Report

Debbie Koehler was not in attendance. John Brophy shared that we are losing one of our psychologists who is relocating closer to his family and two other psychologists are reducing their work calendar to accommodate their families. In addition our DHOH staff member is moving out of state so we have that position open along with the A.T. part of her job. Debbie has advertised these openings and hoping to schedule interviews soon.

XI. Comments from Council Members

- Glenn Sewell heard of a bill that is in process regarding rural school bussing. Jim Frost stated that he did not think we qualified.

XII. Comments from the Public

None

XIII. Advance Planning & Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Next Executive Council Meeting

**May 14, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.
(Special Study Session-8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.)**

Closed Session: Following Meeting (if required)

Calaveras County Office of Education Main Conference Room (BHUHSD 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)