

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

MINUTES

April 20, 2009

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

Establishment of Quorum
Attendance by Roll Sheet

Executive Council Members:

Mike Chimente, Superintendent
John Brophy, Superintendent
James Frost, Superintendent
Kathy Northington, Superintendent
Glen Sewell, Superintendent
Joan Lark
Lou Boitano
Valerie Tudor
Hank Nagle
Evan Garamendi
Diane Bateman
Jill Bray

Bret Harte Union High School District (BHUHSD)
Calaveras County Office of Education (CCOE)
Calaveras Unified School District (CUSD)
Mark Twain Union Elementary School District (MTUESD)
Vallecito Union School District (VUSD)
BHUHSD Board Member / President
CCOE Board Member
CCOE Board Member (substitute for L. Boitano when unavailable)
CUSD Board Member (substitute for E. Garamendi when available)
CUSD Board Member
MTUESD Board Member
VUSD Board Member

Staff:

Robin Searway
Jan Kendall
Patty Haskell
Sue Harper
Claudia Davis
Debbie Koehler
Debbie Scadden

SELPA Director
CUSD Director of Special Education
Program Manager
Program Manager
Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Director, Personnel/Administrative Services
Administrative Assistant, SELPA

Absent:

Debbie Koehler
Valerie Tudor
Hank Nagle
Lou Boitano
Patty Haskell

Director, Personnel/Administrative Services
CCOE Board Member
CUSD Board Member
CCOE Board Member
Program Manager

Others:

Mike Harrison

School Psychologist

(Please note that there are times when not all attendees sign in at the meeting. I attempt to keep track of any council members that arrive late but this is not always possible. Therefore, I depend on the sign in sheet for accurate attendance)

II. Approve Agenda

Mike Chimente made a motion to approve the agenda of April 20, 2009. Glenn Sewell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. Flag Salute

V. Consent Minutes

Glenn Sewell made a motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2009. John Brophy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. Discussion/Action items

- A. **Outside Service Contracts:** Robin reviewed background information on the outside service agencies we are currently contracting with, i.e., Practical Behavior Solutions, Genesis Behavior Services and Sierra Rehabilitation Services. Emily Branscum and her associates from Practical Behavior Solutions have provided behavioral services to many students while working collaboratively with the AU and school site staff. Romina Kiryakous of Genesis Behavior Services has been working on two involved autism cases and with her assistance; the students have shown positive progress. Jean Ogburn of Sierra Rehabilitation has been providing speech services to our Transition and Gold Strike programs. Robin assured the council members that we are continuing to search for a speech therapist that will serve our county. Rosalyn Vermuelen is a speech therapist who has been providing feeding therapy to a student in CUSD via a legal agreement.

Robin shared that she requested that Mike Harrison attend this meeting to give an overview of the recent training that he, Sue and other staff members have completed regarding Behavior Intervention Case Management. Mike Harrison stated that he, Sue Harper, Andria Pyle and Lisa Shaw attended the BICM training and were certified through Stockton Unified School District to train staff. Mike's experience is that site staff are in-experienced in what constitutes a behavior plan and there is a need to bring them up to speed on the process. A behavior plan does not lessen the district's legal responsibility, in some cases it adds to the district's litigious arena. Due to this, the behavior plan must follow stringent guidelines. Mike stated that he met with Emily Branscum and discussed the amount of time behavior plans take per student and does not believe that our county is ready for staff to assume that responsibility without outside assistance next year. His recommendation is to contract with PBS one more year in order for staff to be able to train and collaborate with this agency. Although some council members felt that Emily Branscum and her staff have failed to show relation building skills with district staff during IEP meetings, the consensus is that, in this case the outside contractors are still needed to assist with behavior issues. It was agreed that there will be strict direction, accountability, guidelines and definition of the NPA role in our community. Mike stated that teachers should be trained in BICM as they would provide consistent behavior intervention with their students. Designated staff at each site should be chosen for this program. Robin shared that although PBS has provided services that have proven to be positive for our students the goal is to move away from hiring non-public agencies. Robin stated that she has continued open communication with Emily. She will share the council's concerns and suggestions and move towards a more positive and productive relationship between Emily and site staff. She will also check to see if Emily is available to present an end of year report to the council at the June meeting.

Genesis has played a very positive roll in assisting our students. They have two very involved cases regarding students with autism and staff and parents are pleased with their work.

Jean Ogburn of Sierra Rehabilitations has been providing speech services and consultation for our Transition and Gold Strike Structured Behavior classes this year. Her services have been a positive assistance to these students and will continue next year.

The council discussed the shared cost of these non-public agencies and agreed that the district contributions would be based on the district's percentage of ADA.

Mike Harrison concluded with the suggestion that each district should be involved in an upcoming training entitled "Student Threat Assessment". It is to be held on May 18th and 19th at the Santa Clara COE and if anyone is interested in sending staff, he will copy and distribute the flyer.

- B. **New Law (Jan.2, 2009) Revocation of Services:** Robin explained that a new law was discussed at the SELPA Administrators meeting regarding written notice of revocation of special education and related services. This form is for parents or students (over 18 years of age) that decide they no longer want special education services. This letter will only be required if the IEP team disagrees with this decision. Our attorneys have created a draft and it was presented to the council members for review. If effect, the letter states that the party agrees that the right to services previously agreed to will be discontinued. In addition, the procedural safeguards available to students with disabilities in the event of any disciplinary action will no longer apply. The letter states that if the parent/student wish to resume services, the request will need to be submitted in writing to the district administrator for assessment. The council discussed this form and decided that if services are to be discontinued; another meeting needs to be scheduled to include the case manager, parent and/or student and the Superintendent to discuss the decision and to formally receive the signature from the Superintendent. The council decided that after a final review by the Steering Committee, the form can be re-agendized for approval.

- C. **Bret Harte Bill-Back for Instructional Aide Support in AU Program:** Sue Harper shared some background on the Structured Behavior class at Gold Strike High School. The class currently has 9 students; 5 from Bret Harte High School and 4 from Calaveras Unified School District. There are potentially 2 additional students coming from Bret Harte and 1 additional student from Calaveras Unified. At the beginning of this year, due to some possible volatile issues with a couple of the Gold Strike students and the diversity of the ages and disabilities of the students riding this bus to San Andreas, the Transportation Director requested that a paraprofessional ride the bus with these students everyday for safety concerns. A paraprofessional from Bret Harte was assigned to take on this task. In addition to riding the bus she has done an exceptional job in the Gold Strike classroom, monitors the students at lunch and breaks and keeps the students on task when studying. Sue shared that Mike Chimente has been paying 100% for this aide and although this has been greatly appreciated, she feels this is unfair. After discussing this issue, Mike Chimente is willing to pay 60% of the salary for this employee with the AU paying 40%. The council's concern is that this may set a precedent as the paraprofessional is not a one-on-one aide. After some discussion, John Brophy made a motion to approve the 60/40 split. Kathy Northington seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. As there was some concern from Mike Chimente regarding the staffing ratio next year, John Brophy stated that if there were significant changes, he would amend his motion.

- D. **2009-2010 CCSEEC Meetings/Bi-Monthly:** John Brophy suggested having the CCSEEC meetings on a bi-monthly basis for 2009-2010. The months discussed were September, November, January, March, May and June. The possible need for separate meetings scheduled to discuss the self-review were agreed upon. Robin will bring the draft calendar to the May meeting for review and possible action.

VII. SELPA Directors Report

Robin Searway reported the following:

- Robin met with Mary Hedler and Ken Freedlander from the California Department of Education regarding the upcoming self review.

Robin asked if the consultant can come to our county for training purposes and she was told that would not be possible due to the current budget restraints. Robin and Sue Harper will attend training in Sacramento on June 3, 2009. There is a plan for a follow-up training for the Superintendents in October, 2009. The self review is scheduled for January 2010. Robin shared that 5% of the SELPAs will get a verification review.

- Robin shared that Sue Harper, Sawndella Freeman and Kathy Griggs (our two Workability Coordinators) will be joining her for Legislative Information Sharing Day in Sacramento. Along with being parents of students with special needs, they will be presenting a Workability brochure for the State legislators. Robin will ask them to provide an overview at a future council meeting. Joan Lark took a moment to thank Robin Searway and her staff for their hard work. She mentioned that it would have not been possible with the previous administration to move the CCSEEC meetings to bi-monthly.
- Robin shared that Mike Harrison will be retiring this year and the plan at this time is to hire an intern to fill the position.

Patty Haskell: Patty was not able to attend this meeting and provided the following as her report:

- * All transition meeting have been completed for her sites.
- * There were fifteen students that transitioned out of our AU programs; ten students will be fully mainstreamed with resource support.
- * The Integrated Preschool has been a wonderful success and students have made progress. The five students moving onto Kindergarten from that class are fully mainstreamed with resource support. There is no requirement for one on one aides or that level of support. Teachers and parents are very pleased with the progress of the students. Molly Teale, Inclusion Specialist will support all transition students for the first few months to create a seamless move from one site or program to another.
- * The three structured behavior students will go to high school in their home district. None of them continued to need the support of the structured behavior class.
- * Danielle Beauchemin (Infant Specialist) and I also attended the 'Baby Fair' on April 4, 2009. The faire was successful with tremendous community involvement. There are two new referrals from the program.

Sue Harper:

- * Sue shared that she is pleased with the progress in the Gold Strike Structured Behavior class. It has been running smoothly and there has been no need for the behavior specialist to visit the classroom.
- * Sue shared that the Transition class is doing well. The time clock and mock job scenario has been successful. Some landscaping needs to be done at the Transition house and Sue is planning on having the Workability students and Transition students working on this project. The van is being used successfully and Sue thanked the council members for their support in purchasing this much needed vehicle.
- * The students from Transition that will be attending ESY will be in Mark Outland's classroom at CHS.

Andi Thomas and Lorie Wise addressed the council members on the process to obtain SSID numbers for students. This is now a requirement by the State and must be reported in the CASEMIS data that is submitted to CDE twice a year. Permission from the Superintendents must be obtained prior to retrieving this data. Andi will send each Superintendent the proper paperwork to give her access.

VIII. Finance Report

Claudia Davis reported on the status of the Federal stimulus monies. She shared that California is in possession of two payments from the Federal government. These funds have not been allocated and she shared that she is not anticipating funding until it arrives. However, she does anticipate that Special Education will end up in a more stable financial place with the proposed package. She stated that Adult Education and the ROP programs will not fare well in the coming year. She is in the process of building the budget for the 2009-2010 school year.

IX. Personnel and Payroll Report

Debbie Koehler was unable to attend this meeting. John Brophy shared that the ESY programs are fully staffed and we have hired a part time APE teacher.

X. Comments from Council Members

Kathy Northington is interested in the Infinite Campus attendance system. She asked if a trainer could come to school sites to train teachers. John stated he would ask Liz Jordan to research how much time would be needed to train and any cost involved.

XI. Comments from the Public

None

XII. Advance Planning & Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Closed Session

None

Next Executive Council Meeting

May 18, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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)