

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

October 22, 2007

I. Call Public Session to Order 9:00 a.m.

Establishment of Quorum
Attendance by Roll Sheet

Executive Council Members:

Mike Chimente, Superintendent
John Brophy, Superintendent
James Frost, Superintendent
Phil Yoon, Superintendent
Glenn Sewell, Superintendent
Joan Lark
Valerie Tudor
Lou Boitano
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 Valerie Tudor when unavailable)
CUSD Board Member
MTUESD Board Member
VUSD Board Member

Staff:

Kathy Northington
Robin Searway
Sue Harper
Patty Haskell
Sharon Knick
Claudia Davis
Debbie Koehler
Debbie Scadden

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

Absent:

Phil Yoon, Superintendent
Valerie Tudor
Jill Bray
Debbie Koehler

Mark Twain Union Elementary School District (MTUESD)
CCOE Board Member
VUSD Board Member
Director, Personnel/Administrative Services

II. Approve Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Mike Chimente. 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 September 17, 2007. Mike Chimente seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. Discussion/Action items

- A. **Foster Youth Interagency Agreement:** Robin Searway asked the council to refer to the agreement in their board packets. As he was familiar with the writing of this document and approved of the terms, Mike Chimente was asked to present some background on the collaboration on this agreement. Robin asked the council members if they had reviewed the document. Jim Frost stated that he was unaware of this agreement but had reviewed it, there was also discussion of any cost involved. John Brophy suggested that Barbara Bernstein be invited to the Superintendents meeting scheduled for the next day to discuss the specifics of this agreement. Robin asked John to inform her of the final decision.
- B. **Behavior Analyst Job Description:** Robin Searway had requested the council members review this document that had been presented at the last Executive Council meeting with the intention of bringing it back to this meeting for possible approval. She shared that there is a real need for support in the MTE Structured class. Jim Frost shared his appreciation of the work put into creating this document but feels it needs to be brought back to each district's board for review and approval. His reasoning being that it will be each districts responsibility to hire these employees. Robin shared that the County Office may need to hire someone to assist the Behavior Analyst in the AU programs, as well.
- C. **Wheel Chair Transportation for the Transition Class:** Sue Harper shared that there is one student in the Transition class that is wheelchair bound and this raises issues with field trips, appointments and work experience. Additionally, Calaveras Transit will no longer pick up at Save Mart Supermarket but will stop at Longs Drug Store which is a considerable distance from the Transition classroom and extremely unsafe to travel by wheelchair. Sue contacted Calaveras High and Bret Harte High asking for their predictions for students in wheelchairs attending Transition in the coming school year. She found that there will be a possibility of another student attending this class next year. There are options but it would be costly and Sue asked for suggestions from the council members. The suggestions are as follows:
- changing the Transition Program schedule from BHHS calendar to the CUSD calendar
 - moving the Transition Program to the CUSD area
 - purchasing a wheelchair accessible van that converts from multiple wheelchair capability to seats if needed.
- It was decided that Bret Harte High will assist with transportation at this time. Sue will research the cost for a multiple use van either via direct purchase or lease and will bring that information back to the council for discussion and a decision. Mike Chimente shared that he would like to suggest starting the Transition Program later in the day as the buses carrying both Transition and MTE students are having trouble getting the MTE students to school on time. Kathy Northington did not foresee a problem with this as the Transition Program does not fall into the same required time parameters as regular schools.
- D. **Second Date for Special Education Law Workshop:** Robin Searway shared that due to a conflict with the ACSA dinner the Special Ed Law Workshop had to be re-scheduled to November 9th from 1:00–5:00 and November 16th from 1:00-5:00 which constitutes two Fridays in succession. Robin asked if the council felt that this could effect attendance. The council approved the dates and felt there would be no foreseeable problem with attendance. Robin then asked for suggestions on topics for discussion at this workshop. The items are as follows:
- Autism (legal responsibilities)
 - Advocates
 - Restraint (behavior issues)
 - Reauthorization for New Teachers
- The council members shared concern over what education can offer families with autistic students in comparison to what 'Mind Matters*' offers their clients (*a local private organization dealing with children with autism). Robin shared that some parents feel that Mind Matters is overly expensive and too exclusive, yet other parents are looking at this organization as a 'quick fix' for their autistic students needs.

VII. SELPA Director's Report

Robin Searway reviewed her calendar since September and shared the highlights with the council members to keep them apprised of her office schedule:

- ✓ Met twice with low incidence committee members to discuss equipment needs and future purchases (ongoing meeting)
- ✓ Attended a number of high profile IEP meetings with the parents and their advocate. There has been resolution on two of the cases
- ✓ Involved with the Psych meetings – many discussions on behavior support, intervention, data collection and working closely with the behavior analyst
- ✓ Attended the monthly CCOE Board meeting
- ✓ Attended the Finance Committee meeting
- ✓ Facilitated Clerical meetings-keeping lines of communication open, prepping for workshops and trainings
- ✓ Meeting with Program Managers every week discussing with student issues, high profile cases, etc. Robin made a point of complimenting Sharon Knick for her consistent attendance and valuable participation in these meetings.
- ✓ Met with Steering Committee to discuss policy

Robin shared that recently there was an excellent training presented by Amber Fitzgerald, a consultant from Lodi. The training was on Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) and Robin and Sharon Knick agreed that it was well attended and well received. It was one of the few opportunities for paraprofessionals to team with their teachers in a training environment. There is a second training scheduled for November 2, 2007. Council members asked if this was needed for our new teachers that had not had the training yet. Robin shared that although it was directed toward new teachers, the training was also planned due to an advocate request for formal training and teachers request for a refresher course as it had been a couple of years since this was offered. Robin invited any council members who wished to attend or visit the training to feel free to do so.

Robin also shared that she, Patty, Sue, and Mike have attended a number of workshops primarily dealing with Autism. Another excellent training they attended was presented by Julie Weatherly at the SJCOE regarding the recent changes in 504 and Transition. Kathy Northington stated that she felt a number of teachers would be interested in 504 training in our county. Sue Harper shared that opinion but also noted to the council that she feels specific training in Transition is imperative as it is seen as a possible litigious area in the future. She has become a trainer of trainers and will be planning a workshop for staff in the future.

Robin was happy to explain that Andrea Thomas has been hired to take the vacated Information Analyst position in our office. In order to share information and in a cross training mode, Robin asked Debbie Scadden, Lorie Wise, as well as Andrea to attend the recent Elk Grove CASEMIS meeting.

Robin attended the October SELPA meeting in Sacramento.

VIII. Regionalized Programs Report

- **Sue Harper** shared that SRA curriculum books were ordered and have arrived for the Transition classroom. Sue said that although the students are 18 – 22 their reading skills are still low. Jim has attended training regarding this type of teaching and how best to gauge the level of reading that each student has. This has been determined and the reading book order was based on this scale.
- There have been some incidents regarding a transition student. She was standing too close to the road and was hit by a car near her home in Valley Springs. The student was not injured seriously, appropriate authorities/persons notified and no action was taken. Sue shared that Denise Ferrin has since provided a workshop on pedestrian safety to the students. The class also went on a walk in order to be shown what to look for, appropriate crosswalks, signs, etc. All the transition students are employed at this time.
- The Structured Behavior class at Gold Strike High School has been on break for two weeks so there is not much to report at this time. The new school psychologist (V. Karn) is in the process of getting to know the students and familiarizing herself with the classroom. She has begun counseling and feels she is making some progress.

- The Structured Behavior class teacher has applied for and been awarded a gardening grant. The class went on a field trip to the Transition class in order to help them start a garden at their site. Sue is pleased that the two programs are working so closely and feels it will benefit the students in both programs.
- Sue shared that the cost of signing up the Gold Strike students at the fitness center in San Andreas was too costly; approximately \$600.00 per month for the students to attend twice a week.
- Sue presented a new teacher training recently and felt that it was well received.
- Sue is also working on the 'age of majority' brochure for parents. She is also making program fliers for her two county programs (Transition Program and Structured Behavior). Pending approval, she will begin distributing them to parents.
- **Robin Searway** shared an overview that Denise Ferrin prepared for the council members. Denise is in the process of writing to publishers to request permission to reproduce textbooks into large print for students use. Some of the responses have been favorable but not all requests have been answered to date. Robin wanted to make sure that the council is made aware of Denise's efforts. The council members asked Robin to confer with our attorney to get her opinion on the matter.
- Robin explained to the council members that Patty Haskell is absent as she had to attend an IEP.

IX. Finance Report

Claudia Davis reported that the governor finally signed the budget. There are no immediate changes to the special education budget at this time.

X. Personnel and Payroll Report

Debbie Koehler was unavailable for this meeting. John Brophy reported that there is one position open at the San Andreas Preschool and a plan for a possible instructional aide position at the Michelson Preschool.

XI. Comments from Council Members

- John Brophy has been in Doug Goldie's classroom (Gold Strike Structured Class) once a month observing and providing support while he is going through his intern program. John noted that one day as part of their life and math skills, the students were cooking burritos to sell to students at the high school to assist in classroom funds. John noticed that in this somewhat unstructured setting in the classroom with Doug Goldie providing minimal direction the students were on task, polite and courteous to each other, cleaning up on their own and working individually and as a team. This was extremely impressive to John knowing the background of the students in this class.
- Robin Searway complimented Sue Harper on all of her hard work regarding the new teacher training. Robin received extremely positive feedback from the participants as well as encouragement to make this an on-going workshop for teachers. The next workshop is on November 3rd from 1:00-3:00.
- John Brophy asked Robin Searway to provide a report or ask San Joaquin County to provide a presentation on the Speech Therapist Intern program that they are involved with at this time. He feels that this may be the answer to our speech and language needs in the future. Robin agreed to research this and provide information at a future council meeting.

XII. Comments from the Public

None

XIII. Advance Planning & Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Closed Session: Open at 10:25 a.m./Closed at 10:45 a.m.: Regarding the closed session held on October 22, 2007; this was an 'information only' meeting, no action was taken.

Next Executive Council Meeting

November 19, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.

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)