

CALAVERAS COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA

Calaveras County Office of Education
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Calaveras County Special Education Executive Council

MINUTES

December 17, 2007

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

Absent:

Lou Boitano
Valerie Tudor
Claudia Davis

CCOE Board Member
CCOE Board Member
Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

Others:

Catherine Kearney
Kathy Bettger

SJCOE Director (Presenter)
Benefits/Credentials Specialist

II. Approve Agenda

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

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. Flag Salute

V. Consent Minutes

Mike Chimento made a motion to approve the minutes of November 19, 2007 with a correction of "Mr." Evan Garamendi to "Mrs." Garamendi on page 1. Glenn Sewell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Debbie Scadden, CCSEEC Secretary, apologized to Mrs. Garamendi for the error.

VI. Discussion/Action items

A. **Catherine Kearney/Director SJCOE RE: UOP-SLP Programs-Project Impact Programs Presentation:** Robin Searway introduced Catherine Kearney to the council members and shared that she had asked Catherine to explain the Speech/Language Pathologist Program that SJCOE is promoting at the University of the Pacific (UOP). Catherine provided handouts and explained that the program was developed due to the shortage of Speech/Language Pathologists in San Joaquin County. The proposal is as follows:

- Post graduate program designed specifically with current teachers, parents and paraprofessionals in mind.
- School based program intended for candidates who want to work in schools.
- All evening courses create an opportunity for candidates to work towards Masters Degree (76 units total) and licensure while continuing to work.
- Courses begin in January and coursework is completed in August of the following year. Candidates are ready for paid fulltime internship by September.

The approximate cost of this program, which includes tuition, books, candidate support is as follows:

- Candidates pay their own first year - \$27,000.00
- Districts sponsor candidates at \$45,000.00 per candidate

Candidates are screened and sign an agreement with the Consortium prior to joining this program. The candidate is aware of the cost, the program length and that the choice of school work site within the county is not an option.

Catherine then went on to explain the Teacher Development/District Intern Program (Project IMPACT). This program allows candidates to earn their credential while they teach. The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Each candidate must have earned or has nearly completed a BA from an accredited college or university
- Each candidate must have passed the CBEST
- Each candidate must have verification of a subject matter competency
- Each candidate must have a completed character and identification clearance

The participation benefits are as follows:

- Candidates will have support from a veteran teacher
- Candidates will be able to take coursework leading to their teaching credential which is directly applicable to their teaching assignment, providing them with hands-on experiences which link theory to practice
- Candidates can be a member of a cohort with other interns learning on the job
- Candidates have access to professional development activities
- Candidates are supervised and coached by experts
- Candidates are taught by faculty including current practicing teachers
- Candidates can complete all aspects of their credential program in a low-cost, district supported program
- Candidates can earn a teaching salary while earning your credential
- Candidates can earn a Multiple Subject, Single Subject or Education Specialist Credential in 2-3 years with automatic payroll deductions available for tuition.

Catherine explained that the programs were created to assist potential teachers in becoming fully certified to teach in California public schools. This serves to expand the pool of qualified teachers by attracting people into teaching who bring valuable assets to the profession but might not otherwise enter teaching.

The council members thanked Catherine for presenting at this meeting and expressed their appreciation for the information she shared.

- B. **CASEMIS Deadline:** Robin Searway provided a handout to the council members concerning the breakdown of overdue annual and triennial IEPs for each district. Robin shared that she was concerned about the high percentage of overdue IEPs which was over 2% (the State mandated maximum) for the county. Robin stated that December 1st and June 1st are the deadlines dates of each count to the State. In an effort to make the teachers aware of the importance of keeping our numbers well below the 2% level, she asked Sue Harper and Patty Haskell to further support the teachers in their districts with whatever is needed to accomplish this goal. Additionally, it was agreed that there will be a monthly report of past due annual and triennial IEPs sent to all administrators and copied to the Superintendents to review for any errors or mis-information that need correction by the Information Analyst. The council members supported these efforts.
- C. **California Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism:** Robin Searway recently attended the State SELPA Administrators' meeting where autism and the California Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission were discussed. Robin provided the council members with two reports on Autism:
 - 1. The California Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism Report; An Opportunity to Achieve Real Change for Californians with Autism Spectrum Disorders, September, 2007.
 - 2. California Superintendent of Public Instruction Autism Advisory Committee Final Report; A Call for Action: Improved Services for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, August 30, 2007.Robin reviewed the Summary of Recommendations from the Autism Advisory Committee report. Robin encouraged council members to read both reports.
- D. **Autism Spectrum Disorders:** Robin shared with the council that a committee through the Department of Developmental Services had been formed to review research based services, methodology and programs for children with autism. The committee findings will be presented to administrators in May, 2008. Robin stated that two members of our staff (D. Beauchemin and D. Wood) are attending autism classes in order to provide workshops and presentations to the special education staff. The council agreed that training is needed to assist teachers with identifying and educating students with autism. John Brophy suggested developing a brochure describing the programs and services that the SELPA provides for students with autism.
- E. **Review Draft CAHSEE Notification Letters from CHS/BHHS:** Mike Chimente shared that he had recently mailed a letter to the BHHS parents and that it clarifies the options a student has if he or she does not pass CAHSEE. Jim Frost shared that he does not send out a letter to his high school parents, but sets up counseling appointments for students who do not pass the test. It was noted that teachers are seeing a possible need for modifications during both the learning and the testing process; this will have to be board approved. Both Bret Harte High School and Calaveras High School do not have an excessive number of students who do not pass the high school exit exam and do not foresee this as a large problem. They have requested that their counselors meet and collaborate to see if there is a common problem that can be alleviated by assisting students and addressing their specific needs.
- F. **Continuum of Services for Corridor 4:** Glenn Sewell shared his concern regarding a gap in services for ED students at the primary level. There are Structured Behavior programs for 4-8 and 9-12 students but nothing for K-3 students leaving an NPS placement as the sole option. Glenn proposed a plan for a K-3 Structured Behavior program. The council members requested that this item be added to the January, 2008 agenda for further discussion and/or approval.
- G. **Behavior Specialist Aides:** The council discussed the ongoing need for staff to assist the Behavior Analyst at the school sites. The salary schedule placement will be negotiated at each district and this will be considered an addition to their regular job duties. The topics of selection criteria, acceptable candidates for classrooms and the need to be cognizant that this is not perceived as a place to put any student with behavior problems were discussed. It was decided that this item is to be brought back to the January, 2008 meeting for further discussion.
- H. **Revised Classroom Visitation:** After some review and a request that our attorney examine the special education law regarding the wording on Item #6 under the "Guidelines for Visits Seeking Evaluations of School Programs", Mike Chimente made a motion to approve the document. John Brophy seconded the motion with any minor modification that was deemed needed by the attorney and it carried unanimously. Debbie Scadden was asked to email all of the council members with the final document.

VII. SELPA Directors Report

Robin Searway reported the following:

- At the last CAC meeting Ann Cirimele, Executive Director at the Family Resource Network, provided a presentation on The Grief Cycle; hardship and emotional support for the parent of a disabled child. This presentation was well attended and well received.
- SELPA Steering Committee is continuing to work on updating policies and procedures in the Local Plan. There has been discussion of forming a subcommittee "Structured Teachers Committee". This committee will review current policy regarding Structured Program Options: Program Configurations and Locations, Learning Environment, Program Descriptions, etc. Robin has talked to Liz Zastrow and Karen Honkala about meeting with the Structured Teachers Committee.
- Robin has continued to attend high profile IEPs and IEP staffing meetings in order to work with the parent advocates. Robin discussed the necessity of administrators attending all IEP meetings to address student needs, program placement and parent concerns.
- The AU staff continues in their effort to provide support to the districts.

VIII. Regionalized Programs Report

Sue Harper shared that Mental Health is no longer providing counseling services to Gold Strike. She is continuing to work with David Sachman at Behavioral Services to provide drug and alcohol counseling at this site.

IX. Finance Report

Claudia Davis was not in attendance. Nothing to report to the council at this time.

X. Personnel and Payroll Report

Debbie Koehler was not in attendance during this portion of the meeting. Nothing to report to the council at this time.

XI. Comments from Council Members

John Brophy shared with council members that he is aware and concerned that teachers are working in their classrooms well past their contracted work day.

XII. Comments from the Public

None

XIII. Advance Planning & Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Closed Session: Open at 12:10 p.m./Closed at 12:35 p.m.: This was an 'information only' session, no action was taken.

Next Executive Council Meeting

January 14, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.

Calaveras County Office of Education Main Conference Room (CCOE 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)