

CALAVERAS COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA

Calaveras County Office of Education
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Calaveras County Special Education Executive Council

MINUTES

June 14, 2010

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
Mark Campbell, Superintendent
Kathy Northington, Superintendent
Rick Brewer, (Interim) Superintendent
Joan Lark
Lou Boitano
Kathy Huebert
Hank Nagle
Zerrall McDaniel
Sherri Reusche
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
CUSD Board Member
CUSD Board Member
CUSD Board Member
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:

Joan Lark
Hank Nagle
Kathy Huebert
Zerrall McDaniel
Rick Brewer, (Interim) Superintendent
Jan Kendall
Debbie Koehler

BHUHSD Board Member / President
CUSD Board Member
CCOE Board Member
CUSD Board Member
Vallecito Union School District (VUSD)
CUSD Director of Special Education
Director, Personnel/Administrative Services

Others:

Andi Thomas

Information Analyst

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 June 14, 2010. Mark Campbell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. Flag Salute

V. Consent Minutes

John Brophy made a motion to approve the minutes of May 24, 2010. Mark Campbell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. John shared his appreciation of the comprehensive minutes taken at the May meeting during a lengthy discussion.

VI. Discussion/Action items

- A. **Additional Para Support-Revisited from May 24, 2010:** Patty Haskell stated that she wanted to provide a more detailed explanation for the need to have one to two additional aides to support the structured class. There are five additional students in the Structured Behavior class at this time. Two students from VUSD and three from CUSD. The three CUSD students came with some 1 on 1 aide support on their IEPs and when the thirty day placement review was held for two of the students, one third grader and one fifth grader, the IEP team decided that the aide support was still needed. CUSD provided aides to transition the students to Mark Twain and then the positions were covered by long term substitutes through the end of the year. The third new student's IEP will be held after school begins in August. Patty shared that the Structured Class and the Structured Behavior Class at Mark Twain mainstream their students so aides are shared between both classes. However with the additional student and only 1 aide in the class, Patty feels two additional six hour aides are needed. Kathy Northington shared the concern that with classes getting larger at Mark Twain, there may not be as much mainstreaming as there was last year. The council discussed reverse mainstreaming with general education students to alleviate over-crowding. Sue Harper shared that the purpose of the one-on-one aides is to assist the student early and avoid an NPS placement later. Patty shared that Sue Harper will be assuming Program Manager responsibilities for the Mark Twain Structured Behavior class. The reasoning behind this is that Sue is the Program Manager for the high school Structured Behavior class and this will create continuity in the programs. In addition, Patty is responsible for the Pre-School programs and has additional duties and travel time with the new Valley Springs Preschool. Mike Chimente made a motion to add the additional aides with the caveat to continue to search for another way to cover the needs of these students. Patty then shared that there is a need for an additional aide for the Valley Springs Preschool due to the placement of a severely autistic student. In addition the bathroom is outside the classroom which takes an aide out of the room to toilet students. Sue shared that an additional aide was needed for the high school Structured Behavior class and the Transition Program due to the increasing number of students in the classes, the variety of special needs and to cover lunches and breaks for staff. In the case of the Transition Program, the coverage is needed when students are driven to work sites or college classes.

The council discussed regarding the cost of one 6 hour aide with benefits in comparison to two 3.75 hour aides which alleviates additional cost. There was a suggestion that the high school Structured Behavior class start the year with a temporary 3.0 hour aide to see if this position is needed on a more permanent basis. Sue agreed to this suggestion. Sue shared that she and Ingrid Olson-Miller discussed reverse mainstreaming between the high school Structured Behavior class now housed on campus and Ingrid's SDC program. After further discussion, the council members asked for a clarification as to what had been proposed. Patty shared that the additional aide time needed is as follows:

- One 3.0 hour aide for the Bret Harte High School Structured Behavior Class (temporary)
- One 3.75 hour aide for the Valley Springs Preschool
- Two 3.0 hour aides for the Transition Program
- One 6.0 hour aide for the Mark Twain Elementary Structured Behavior Class

Mike Chimente amended his motion to approve the five additional aides and asked that the programs be creative in the use of these aides. Mark Campbell seconded the motion and it carried with a reluctant approval from Kathy Northington. Robin Searway requested that Patty and Sue update the council members at the next meeting as to the progress in filling these positions.

John Brophy wanted to mention a couple of items for the council members' information. Kathy Northington had mentioned that her business manager stated that there were decisions being made during the discussion at the committee meeting regarding Special Education. John spoke to Claudia Davis regarding these concerns and they agreed that it is not the Finance Committee's role to decide on programmatic financing but to discuss the needs of the county and what financing is available to meet these needs. Any proposals are brought to the Executive Council for discussion and final decision. John wanted to clarify this process and share that this is not a reflection on Robin Searway. Robin shared that she feels the business staff are taking a more active role in thinking out of the box and working closely with Special Education to work through these difficult economic times. She appreciates the Finance Committee's assistance and values the input of the Executive Council. Secondly, John requested that Mark Campbell and Mike Chimente review their SH Programs at the high school level to review the consistency of the transition of these students as they get older. Due to the diversity that is occurring in the Transition Program there are two ways of considering how to address this issue. An additional Transition Program could be created to meet the needs of the lower functioning students or these students could stay at their current school sites until they reached the age of 22. John would like the Superintendents to be proactive in considering this issue.

Legislative Action Day-Next Steps: Robin Searway mentioned her appreciation of having the CUSD board members and Jan Kendall join her at the Legislative Action Day. At the last meeting Robin provided a "Grass Roots" proposal handout to the council members. She noted that she is very active in Coalition as she is a Steering Committee member for Region 4. There was a discussion between the board members at Legislative Action day meeting and discussing all of the current issues facing education and proposing possible solutions. She also handed out the June Bills in the council members' packets along with a letter that Carol Bartz (the Chairperson of the Coalition) wrote on June 8th. It addresses the Governor's decision to suspend AB3632. Robin wanted the council members to be aware of this issue. Much of the discussion at the last SELPA meeting was based on addressing the issue of returning mental health responsibilities back to the SELPAS and to districts. John Brophy noted that on a positive note, the relationship with Behavioral Health Services has been collaborative, positive and supportive. John stated that another piece that needs to be kept in AB3632 is social services which are extremely costly. Robin asked the council members if they had any suggestions for the upcoming year. The council agreed with educating all board members within Calaveras County to discuss current issues in education and proposing possible solutions. Another suggestion is to meet with the new legislators in office to discuss these issues.

Sherri Reusche suggested that Robin and the Legislative Day attendees present this discussion at the August Rural County meeting. Robin will continue to bring back to the council the documentation she receives from the Coalition and SELPA Administrator meetings.

- C. **NPA Process/Behavior Services:** Patty Haskell shared that on March 22nd there was discussion on behavior services. The discussion focused on whether a district can contract with an NPA without contracting through the SELPA for behavior services only. Mark Campbell made a motion to approve the choice of districts contracting for behavior services on their own or through the SELPA. Mike Chimente seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. It was further decided to include this decision in the Local Plan.
- D. **County-Wide Staff Development:** Robin Searway and Patty Haskell shared that a staff development survey was sent out county-wide to get the input of staff as to the training needs of the county. Twenty surveys were returned which Patty and Robin reviewed. Patty shared that ten teachers, one counselor, three administrators and three psychologists responded. Patty said that the surveys requested one staff development training per month. Patty plans on using existing staff to cover these trainings and to schedule them for Friday afternoons. She will create a master calendar for the entire year in order for staff to be able to plan ahead to attend. Staff can sign up with Lorie Wise in advance to assure their attendance. Jan Kearns will also provide Patty with their staff development trainings which include eleven Fresno Diagnostic workshops. Robin and Patty believe this is a more proactive approach to staff development while ensuring that staff will be able to attend without disrupting any district training. It was decided that having the trainings from 12:30 – 3:00 will also allow the paraprofessionals to attend without incurring additional cost for their time. The plan is to have the trainings at alternate training sites to allow as many people to attend without excessive drive time. Robin shared that there will be a workshop on writing goals for E.L. learners at the San Joaquin County Office of Education in October. She will verify the date and notify the council members at the September meeting. Robin suggests that at least one person from each district attend. Mike Chimente made a motion to approve the staff development plans as presented, Kathy Northington seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. John Brophy mentioned that he had seen some current legislation that required special education teachers to acquire additional training in Autism. He asked Robin Searway to research this and bring information back to the council members in September. Debbie Koehler and Melissa had recently attended a web cast regarding this issue and Robin will meet with them to discuss if additional training is needed.
- E. **Revised Suspension Field Changes:** Andi Thomas presented the current changes made to the suspension form as requested by the council. This form is now on SEIS in the document library and she will ensure that it can be filled in on-line. In addition, basic student information will transfer to other pages. Mike Chimente made a motion to approve the revised form, Mark Campbell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Andi also shared that all districts were under their 2% quota for overdue IEP's and Triennial reviews. Andi thanked the council and the teachers for all the hard work and support.

VII. SELPA Directors Report

Robin Searway reported the following:

Robin Searway began her report by congratulating Kathy Northington on becoming the next Calaveras County Superintendent of Schools. Robin also shared her appreciation of John Brophy's support of her and special education.

Robin provided the council members with the CAC calendar for the year. There are four meetings planned for the year. Robin wanted to discuss the presentations with the council members and possibly get some direction. Robin asked Kathy Griggs and Sawndella Freeman to provide another presentation on the Workability Program to CAC. She would also like Genesis to provide a home programming presentation as well and noted there will be no additional cost as training is part of the contract with Genesis. There is also a plan to ask Anne Ciremele to provide a presentation on parents rights and the grieving process for parents with special education children. Anne presented to CAC last year and it was very well received. Robin asked that council members contact her with any other ideas they may have. A possible solution to increase attendance would be changing the time of the meetings such as a morning meeting versus a night meeting.

Robin expressed a concern that our V.I. staff member has resigned for a position in Placer County. This position is particularly difficult to fill as this staff member also provides assistive technology (A.T.) and orientation and mobility (O&M) services to our students. Our outside contracted O.T. specialist will be assuming the A.T. duties for the time being and Robin was assured that there will be no additional cost for these services. However, we do not have a staff member to take over the O&M piece. Robin will keep the council members posted on the progress in filling these vacancies.

Robin thanked everyone for their support this year. She handed out the Psychologist assignments for the year and shared that Corrina Lindblom has been hired on as a full time psych.

Patty Haskell:

ESY started today and there are 35 students attending our programs this year. There is a class in San Andreas which is a combination of the San Andreas and Valley Springs preschools, a class at Michelson, and a class at Mark Twain Elementary. We are fully staffed including Meegan Lucore providing speech services and Tom Christian providing APE. No vision or deaf and hard of hearing services are needed. Patty shared that everything is off to a good start. Patty also shared that she and Sue will be working on updating the procedural binder.

Sue Harper:

Sue Harper shared that there has never been ESY provided for the Transition Program. She is planning on providing that to students starting 2011 due to the level of students that are entering the program. She has spoken to Jim Hayes and he has agreed to teach the summer program.

Sue is also in the process of moving the Gold Strike Structured Behavior class out of Gold Strike and onto the Bret Harte campus. She plans to have the classroom ready for students before the beginning of the Bret Harte school year.

VIII. Finance Report

Claudia Davis had nothing further to report.

IX. Personnel and Payroll Report

Debbie Koehler was unable to attend this meeting. Debbie has posted the Vision position.

X. Comments from Council Members

XI. Comments from the Public

None

XII. Advance Planning & Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Closed Session

The closed session began at 10:40 a.m. and ended at 10:55 a.m. There were no decisions made during this session.

Next Executive Council Meeting

September 13, 2010 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.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)