

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

March 22, 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
Kathy Huebert
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
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
Sherri Reusche

Director, Personnel/Administrative Services
CUSD Board Member

Others:

Andria Pyle
Karen Pekarcik
Hank Nagle
Andi Thomas

School Psychologist
First 5 Calaveras
CUSD Board Member (filling in for Mark Campbell)
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 March 22, 2010. John Brophy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Karen Pekarck from First 5 Calaveras attended the meeting. One of the missions of First 5 is to facilitate partnerships and fund strategies that strengthen families and support them in raising healthy children ages 0-5 years old. Karen asked that First 5 be notified of any students with special needs coming into our Kindergarten programs. She explained that this will assist First 5 to prioritize services for the upcoming year. She shared that First 5 is beginning implementation and coordination of behavioral and mental health education for parents. Karen shared the strategies for the upcoming year is as follows:

- Parent education model called 'Nurturing Parenting'
- Counseling for parents who do not have insurance, Medi-Cal or insufficient insurance to cover cost
- Group counseling available to parents
- Spanish speaking staff available for counseling
- Parent education workshops

Karen shared that a space was needed in order to conduct these workshops and asked if there were any suggestions the council may have as to an appropriate site. Mike Chimente stated that he has a room on campus that is available for use and explained to Karen who she could contact to make arrangements for its use. The council shared their appreciation of this information.

IV. Flag Salute

V. Consent Minutes

John Brophy made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2009. Rick Brewer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. Discussion/Action items

A. PUBLIC HEARING, 2009-2010 ANNUAL BUDGET PLAN AND ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN

Public Comment will be received on the proposed 2009-2010 Annual Budget Plan and Annual Service Plan: Public Hearing was opened to the public for discussion. No public was in attendance; public hearing was closed.

B. Annual Budget Plan and Service Plan-Discussion/Action Item: Budget Plan - Claudia Davis shared that the 2009-2010 budget had already been approved and adopted on June 8, 2009. She recommended that the council approve the Annual Budget Plan again to cover the requirements of this CDE report. Mike Chimente made a motion to approve the 2009-2010 budget. Rick Brewer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Service Plan - The service plan was emailed to the Superintendents prior to this meeting, however, changes were needed and a revised copy was distributed at the meeting. Andi Thomas who was substituting in Debbie Scadden's absence reviewed the documents with the council members and explained that although the services are being reported through CASEMIS their usage may change from year to year.

In order to clarify these changes Robin plans to write a letter to CDE explaining that some services are adopted by our county but are not currently utilized. Mike Chimente made a motion to approve the service plan. Rick Brewer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- C. **NPA Process/Local Plan Policy-Discussion:** Andria Pyle and Patty Haskell stated that at this time Calaveras County Office of Education does not have a Behavior Analyst on staff. Currently the districts pay their proportionate share for a Behavior Analyst position or a Non Public Agency (NPA) to provide these services. Presently CCOE contracts with Genesis Behavior Center, an NPA for the behavior services needed in our county. Generally, Genesis is asked to step in when a psychologist is no longer able to provide the services and support for a highly disruptive student. Andria and Patty presented two proposals for consideration to the council:

Proposal # 1: Districts will still pay their proportionate share of the Behavior Analyst position. When a psychologist requires support in this area, that psychologist will go to the student's district administration and request support. The district would hire the Behavior Analyst or NPA to provide the support. The district would then bill back the AU for the expenses. Districts would only have as much money as their current proportionate share and the unused monies could reduce district pass through.

Proposal #2: The AU would reduce the bill back to the districts in the amount of the cost of a Behavior Analyst, less what the AU needs for their programs. The districts would use that money to provide their own behavior support services.

Pros/Cons:

- Districts would have direct contact and control of the person or agency providing the behavior support services
- Districts and staff would more buy into the behavior support services
- Small districts may not have enough money for highly involved students
- Districts could always go back to the Executive Council and request additional funds
- Districts could hire the service provider they want to work with
- Districts would only get their share of the money
- Districts only pay for the services used

The council discussed the pros and cons of these proposals. It was suggested that Patty and Andria return with language regarding behavior services that allow districts to choose one "or" the other option during the year.

- D. **ESY Pool Use:** Robin provided an email from Chris Markus to the council members explaining the benefits of having a pool available for use by students during extended school year (ESY). Robin shared with the council that the Angels Camp pool normally used for ESY is now closed. Mike Chimente stated that he has no problem with the ESY students using the Bret Harte pool; however, his board has not developed a fee schedule so the cost of usage is not known at this time. Mike also suggested conducting the Mark Twain ESY classes on the Bret Harte campus to avoid the cost of transporting students. Patty Haskell was pleased with this proposal. John Brophy made a motion to allow our ESY students to use the pool at Bret Harte High School if the Calaveras High School pool is not available. Rick Brewer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- E. **Social Skills Proposal (handout provided):** Jan Kendall provided a handout regarding an upcoming social skills training that will be presented by Corrina Lindblom, M.A., Ed.S. Licensed Education Psychologist. The title of the presentation is 'Social Thinking Skills: Implementation of School Age Groups' and will be held at the Calaveras Unified School District office on March 24, 2010 from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Jan shared her realization that social skills assessments are a growing need in our county.

She suggested additional training be provided in this area to staff on a core development day. Jan stated that Corrina will tailor her training to the needs of the district. The council members discussed this issue however; no decision was made at this time.

Robin Searway reminded everyone that she and Patty will be sending out a survey regarding staff development needs for 2010-2011. Robin shared that due to the budget cuts staff development training may be reduced for the 2010-2011 school year. Robin suggested that the districts could consider planning their own staff development training. The council has not decided if that is of interest to them at this time. In the meantime, Robin still requested that the district-needs survey be filled out and returned to our office. She shared that having this information will assist in planning the most appropriate training for staff if funding is available.

VII. SELPA Directors Report

Robin Searway reported the following:

Robin shared that the Tuolumne Self-Review Training had been rescheduled to April 13, 2010 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Tuolumne County Office of Education. Although not required; Robin, Patty Haskell and Sue Harper are planning on attending as this will be a good opportunity to meet the new consultant and review the training that Ken Freedlander had provided. The council members asked when the key performance indicators would be available. Robin shared that there is a draft copy online however; she had printed a copy to hand out today. Robin reminded the council that the Monitoring Plan is still due on May 28, 2010. Kathy Northington asked the SELPA organization to push CDE to extend the timeline as the software is not even available yet. Robin shared that an extension has been granted and the final report is due November, 2010. She will get more information when she attends the April training and report back to the council.

Robin provided a handout showing the SELPA Administrators Preliminary Bill List for Legislation Day. Robin shared that this is an opportunity to meet our State representatives and to discuss any issues we might have concerning special education. This year Robin has invited Hank Nagle, Shannon Todd, Jan Kendall, and Tom Starks to join her for this meeting. Her next SELPA Administrative meeting is May 6 & 7, 2010 directly after Legislative Day on May 5, 2010. She will present any information about Legislation Day at the next executive council meeting.

Patty Haskell:

- * Patty shared information on the transitioning students. Patty and Chris Markus recently provided a power point presentation to the Community Advisory Committee regarding the preschool programs in our county. This presentation was well received. She is pleased with the staff and the continued success of the preschool, SDC and SBC programs in the county.

Sue Harper:

- * Sue shared that this year she has noticed an increase of student attendance in her programs. Sue stated that she is expecting four additional students coming to the Gold Strike SBC class next year. She is pleased with the student's progress in that class and informed the council members that they earned a field trip to San Francisco. A volunteer drug and alcohol counselor has been visiting the classroom and working with the students. This has been very successful.
- * Sue explained that the Transition program is also doing well and recently the students made their own videos on safety. Corrina Lindblom has been working in the Transition Program counseling students.
- * Sue discussed the recent 'Parent Family Night' program that was held at Bret Harte High School. Also, parents were asked to come to the community drop-off sites to dispose of medications so they are unavailable for student use.
- * Sue shared that we have been working collaboratively with the county agencies to pool funds and keep the lines of communication open.

Andria Pyle:

Andria briefly discussed the progress of the psychologist's assignments for next year. Robin announced that Suzanne Shacoski has resigned from her position. The school psychologist position will be flown soon in order to assure the position will be filled before next year.

VIII. Finance Report

Claudia Davis shared that next year Special Education is flat funded with no stimulus funding. She reported that the APE van is currently running but will need to be replaced next year. The council members are concerned regarding legal fees for 2010-2011 and asked Claudia if she had any idea if they would be higher. Claudia stated that it would be difficult to predict that at this point.

IX. Personnel and Payroll Report

Debbie Koehler was unable to attend this meeting. John Brophy stated there was nothing new to report.

X. Comments from Council Members

John Brophy asked if the staff had been hired to cover the ESY programs. Patty and Sue stated that the teachers are in place and they will be working on acquiring the needed classified staff next week.

XI. Comments from the Public

None

XII. Advance Planning & Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Closed Session

None

Next Executive Council Meeting

May 24, 2010 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.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)