

**TEHAMA COUNTY SELPA
SELPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

Tehama County Department of Education, Board Room
1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080

**Tuesday, October 16, 2018
9:00 AM TO 10:30 AM**

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Richard DuVarney, Todd Brose, Jim Weber, Rick Fitzpatrick, Jared Caylor, Jenny Montoya, Jerry Walker, Joey Adame, Cindy Haase, Jeff Scheele, Veronica Coates

ABSENT: Brad Mendenhall, Marla Katzler, Lane Bates, Dane Hansen, Clifford Curry

GUESTS: Jim Southwick, Wes Grossman, Mark Pfaff, Sara Smith, Carli Forsythe, Mandi Gozzo

1. Call to Order

SELPA Co-Chairperson, Todd Brose, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Consent Agenda

This section is generally approved collectively; however, any item in this section may be considered individually upon request. All items in this section request council approval.

- 2.1. Adoption of Agenda
- 2.2. Approval of June 14, 2018 Minutes

Jared Caylor motioned to adopt the Agenda and approve the June 14, 2018 meeting minutes. Cindy Haase seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote in Favor: Richard DuVarney, Todd Brose, Jim Weber, Rick Fitzpatrick, Jared Caylor, Jenny Montoya, Jerry Walker, Joey Adame, Cindy Haase, Jeff Scheele
0 opposed; 0 abstained

3. Public Input

There was no public input.

4. Priorities Requests

There were no priorities requests.

5. LCI Requests

There were no LCI requests.

6. SELPA Agreement 34 Independent Education Evaluations

The current IEE SELPA Agreement, SAR 34 was provided for review. Veronica discussed the need for updating the policy. There is an increase in IEE requests and the policy has not been updated for many years. The costs associated with IEEs have risen and our policy is outdated with the amounts allowed. Additionally, the process needed refining with greater detail for directors and administrators in the field. Veronica shared that Superintendent Adame provided a sample IEE contract from Ventura County SELPA. Veronica reached out to Ventura and other SELPAs and researched legal best practices during policy development. The policy and procedure were reviewed. Common reasons for requesting IEEs was discussed. There was further discussion among the committee on the difficulty of finding and securing qualified assessors for IEEs once they are requested. The committee requested Veronica continue to research and develop a list of qualified assessors.

Joey Adame motioned to approve the revised SAR 34. Jenny Montoya seconded the motion. Motioned carried.

Vote in Favor: Richard DuVarney, Todd Brose, Jim Weber, Rick Fitzpatrick, Jared Caylor, Jenny Montoya, Jerry Walker, Joey Adame, Cindy Haase, Jeff Scheele
0 opposed; 0 abstained

7. Charter School Pupil Count Increases

Increases in the special education pupil count for the charter schools operated by TCDE were reviewed. Historically one special education teacher has been assigned to split the caseload of Lincoln Street and TeLA. This year there is an increase and 1.4 FTE are assigned to share those schools. TeLA is currently at 28 students on IEPs, which is almost 30% of their total population. Lincoln Street currently has 11 students on IEPs which is over 10% of their population. Veronica reviewed the regulations for caseload waivers for special education teachers as one of our teachers assigned to these schools already requires a waiver. The SELPA is currently looking at trends and root cause for increased special education enrollment in charters. This is also a statewide trend.

8. Educationally Related Mental Health Services Update

Veronica provided an ERMHS update and distributed current data to committee members. The trends of students eligible for these services were discussed. Additionally, 60 students have been exited from the regionalized service, which is

a huge success. However, the number of referrals and eligible students is outpacing the number of students exited. Our ERMHS Clinicians are at the top of their caseload levels due to referrals outpacing exits. If these trends continue, Veronica anticipates a need to hire an additional clinician possibly as early as December.

9. Non Public Day School Update

The Non Public Day School (IEP School) opened a site in Tehama County this summer. This process has been closely monitored by Veronica and the SELPA. CDE had involved Veronica in the approval process as it was delayed. Veronica stated that CDE worked collaboratively and with rapid speed. The site is now fully certified and there was only a short period of the approval status that will require districts to pay with their general fund, rather than special education dollars.

The Committee reviewed the SELPA policy in relation to the responsibilities of districts/LEA for students that are placed at NPS. Veronica stated she has been working closely with IEP School and has some concerns regarding decision making LEAs/districts may allow the NPS to do. The LEA/district is the entity who makes the offer of education and is responsible for all of the accountability of the student, including transitions back to the least restrictive environment.

10. Assistive Technology Position Request

The increased need for qualified staff to provide assistive technology assessments and services was discussed. Our SELPA has a shortage of a qualified professional to provide the districts and we are having to contract with a retired specialist at a very high rate. Other district representatives shared their experiences in seeing this increased need within their student populations. Veronica shared some ideas for solutions in acquiring a specialist. One idea would be to grow our own employee and offer to fund their certification if we have interested staff members willing to be trained and certified.

Veronica made a recommendation to open an assistive technology position for a minimum of 0.1 (18 days).

Todd Brose motioned to approve Veronica consult with Tehama County Department of Education Human Resources Department to post 0.1 FTE assistive technology position in-house, and to cover cost of anyone desiring to obtain the certification. Jared Caylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote in Favor: Richard DuVarney, Todd Brose, Jim Weber, Rick Fitzpatrick, Jared Caylor, Jenny Montoya, Jerry Walker, Joey Adame, Cindy Haase, Jeff Scheele
0 opposed; 0 abstained

11. Regional Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services – High School Needs

Regional Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services at the high school were discussed. The concentration of regional services for students with these needs is located at RBJUHSD; the regional program operated through TCDE is housed at RBJUSD. This is the first year in which students from other high school districts have needed to access the regionalized services at RBJUSD. As this is the first time this has occurred, Veronica suggests inviting the three high school CBOs to the Excess Cost Committee and participate in the work of calculating an average excess cost for these sorts of district to district fiscal/program situations. Veronica will bring back recommendations at the next SELPA Executive Meeting after meeting with the CBOs and Excess Cost Committee.

12. Director's Report

Veronica provided an update on state monitoring and upcoming changes. CDE is desiring more SELPA director involvement in lower level compliance and monitoring efforts. The trailer bill language was reviewed as there will be new requirements for LEAs/districts to involve the SELPA in their LCAP development. Our Local Plan revision is going to be submitted to CDE soon and was approved by Governance, CAC, and some local LEA boards prior to the trailer bill language. Our local plan may need a slight addition / revision to reflect the changes of the trailer bill. Veronica will continue the submission process with that noted.

Veronica shared updates on the changes coming for special education credentials. There will be increased flexibility in credentialing as the recommendation has been to do away with the bifurcation of mild/moderate and moderate/serve credentials, having one credential. The additional authorizations for DHH and VI will remain. All special education credentials through the new regulations will also be required to have Orthopedic Impairment authorizations. Our SELPA is rare in that we are fully staffed with a qualified OI specialist. The early childhood special education credential will also be authorized up to kindergarten, which will allow special education teachers to teach TK-K level, allowing for some flexibility in our programming. These changes will begin in 2020. Veronica indicated we will probably see these teachers with the new credentials in the field starting in 2022.

Veronica provided a legislative update as the two-year bill cycle has come to a close and the Governor has either signed or vetoed all bills that reached his desk: SB 354, a bill related to translating IEPs, was vetoed, but believed to have continued advocacy. AB 2423 was amended to provide educational physical therapists to provide IEP related services without having a medical/doctor prescription. This will ease the access of services for eligible students. AB 2657, a

bill on restraint and seclusion, was also signed by the governor. This bill provides specific language outlining the circumstances for educational providers during behavioral emergencies that require restraining and/or secluding a student. It also requires additional reporting for students that are not on IEPs. The bill does not change much of our current practices as we already have in policy and practice what the bill specifies. It does require LEAs to have additional reporting for their general education population. AB 2022 was passed and would require a school district, county office of education and charter schools to notify students and parents, no less than twice during a school year, on how to obtain access to available student mental health services on campus, or in the community, or both. AB 2639 was passed and would require the governing board or body of an LEA that serves students in grades 7 -12, to review every five (5) years its policy on student suicide prevention and update policy if necessary. SB 972 was passed and would require public, charter and private schools that serve students in grades 7-12, and that issue student identification cards to have printed on the student identification cards the telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and would authorize those schools to have printed on student ID cards the Crisis Text Line and local suicide prevention hotline telephone number by July 2019. SB 1951, was a bill that would allow high schools to use the SAT or ACT as their statewide assessment was vetoed. SB1127 was a controversial bill that would have allowed parents to administer medical cannabis to students with a qualified condition. This bill was vetoed by the Governor. Veronica reviewed a current special education litigation case that was also related to the same issue, in which the Office of Administrative Hearings ruled in favor for the parent, so although SB 1127 was vetoed, there could be case law. It is something to watch as this is a litigation trend.

13. District Reports

There were no district reports.

14. Adjournment

Rick Fitzpatrick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 a.m. Cindy Haase seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote in Favor: Richard DuVarney, Todd Brose, Jim Weber, Rick Fitzpatrick, Jared Caylor, Jenny Montoya, Jerry Walker, Joey Adame, Cindy Haase, Jeff Scheele
0 opposed; 0 abstained