



TRI-VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 9, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE: **Board Members:** Dan Nelson (Mountain House); Joan Laursen (Pleasanton); Megan Rouse (Dublin); Denise Kent-Romo (Sunol); Yvonne Cerrato (ACOE); Chris Wenzel (Livermore)

Staff/CAC: Nanette Gray (SELPA); Correna Kelley (SELPA); Rebecca Williams (SELPA); Shubala Mani (SELPA); David Bona (CAC); Frank Selvaggio (Livermore); Tara Kyle (Dublin); Sheilagh Andujar (ACOE); Molleen Barnes (Sunol Glen)

GUESTS: Ed Diolazo, Assist. Supt. (Pleasanton); Dr. Matthew Campbell, Assist. Supt. (Dublin); Mike Biondi, Assist. Supt. (Livermore); Monica Vaughn Assist. Supt. (ACOE)

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 6:00PM

Joan Laursen called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda was made by Joan Laursen and seconded by Megan Rouse. Those present unanimously approved the motion.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: 01/13/2020

A motion was made by Dan Nelson to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting held on 01/13/2020, it was seconded by Megan Rouse. Those present unanimously approved the motion, Chris Wenzel abstained due to absence.

IV. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No public requests were made.

V. ITEMS FOR REPORT, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

a. Elect Governance Council Officers (report, discussion, action)

Joan Laursen explained that the annual election of officers should be done in January, although it was missed at the January meeting. Joan asked if anyone else would like to be the Chairperson for the upcoming year (2020-2021). There were no offers to take the position, Chris Wenzel nominates Joan to continue, Joan accepts the nomination, and Megan Rouse was nominated for Vice- Chairperson and accepts. Joan motioned the nominations, Dan Nelson seconded the motion and those present unanimously approved the motion.



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b. Update on Budgets (report, discussion, action)

i. Clinical Services Budget

Shubala Mani stated that in Clinical Services, Certificated Salaries (1900) budget, there has been an increase of 2.75%, as well as an increase in benefits for certificated staff. The increase is retro-active to July 2019, and the amount was encumbered by the end of January, 2020. The following are items have been spent within the Clinical Services budget; books were purchased for clinicians to use with their students who suffer from anxiety and depression, copier services have come out of the office supplies budget, SELPA counseling and behavioral health services has come out of Contracted Services. There is an increase in the Contracted Services (5881), amount due to the \$100,000.00 carryover previously approved by the Board. Clinical Services spending remains within the approved budget. Joan Larsen suggests there should be an adopted budget and revised budget comparison for future meetings.

ii. AU Budget

Shubala Mani stated that all the salaries within the AU budget have been encumbered. There was a bill for the copy machine that came out of Office Supplies (4300), there were Classroom Supplies purchased for infants. Within the Contracted Services (5881) SELPA paid for Speech Therapist Salary, substitute for the DHH Teacher, and PT for infant services. CSEA is currently in talks to increase the Classified Salary 2.75% and Management could have an increase as well. Megan Rouse made a motion to approve, and Chris Wenzel seconded the motion, those present approved unanimously.

c. Revise Budgets: Move Clinical Services non-allowable expenditures to AU's Budget (report, discussion, action)

Correna Kelley stated that the SELPA was informed that 6512 (Mental Health Funds/Clinical Services) monies, may only be used for direct student services. Clinical Services will need to remove; office supplies, mileage reimbursement, travel, etc., line items from the budget. The proposal is to decrease the Clinical Services budget (not including salaries) \$159,816.00, take off of AB602 award. Typically every year, it will be around \$60,000.00 but this year it will be higher, due to the \$100,000.00 rollover. The CDE Letter clarifies exactly which services can be charged to 6512. Megan asked if this will bring up into compliance, and if we will be any penalties or sanctions? Megan Rouse made a motion to approve, Dan Nelson seconds, those present approved unanimously.

d. Recommendations to change funding for Small LEA Assistance (report, discussion, action)

The Board agreed to change the name from Extraordinary Cost Pool to Small LEA Assistance. Twice a year, Sunol Glen USD and Mountain House Elementary USD submit invoices to be reviewed and paid



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from the \$250,000.00 pool that supports the two small districts. The question has come up as to how we determine it is an Extraordinary Cost. Nanette Gray met with the SELPA Directors and the Fiscal Collaborative team and there were two proposals to consider. Initially both small districts were awarded \$20,000.00 each and if they needed more, they could come to the Board to request. The Final recommendation from the Directors and the team were to fund both small districts at an additional \$50,000.00, which would be a total of \$70,000.00 per district. A remaining amount of \$110,000.00 will be left in the pool. The Districts can only submit for more if there is a student that costs over \$100,000.00 that school year. Districts would have to put in an application for extra costs to be reviewed by the Fiscal Team. There was conversation of doing an overview of both small districts and go with a ratio or give them each an additional \$50,000.00. SELPA wants to make sure the Districts are exhausting their monies before requesting more. Denise Kent-Romo asked for clarification on whether it is \$70,000.00 or \$100,000.00. Mary Jude Doerpinghaus states the language is vague and wants to know what constitutes the need for \$100,000.00 does it include transportation, placement, etc. Chris Wenzel wants clarification on where the amount of \$70,000.00 came from. Nanette states it wasn't based on enrollment, average amounts of cost or ratio, rather that the Fiscal Directors looked at multiple ways to share the amount, looking at over the last 3 years average of what was spent by the two small districts. They want to ensure that the districts are not going to deplete the total. Mary Jude states the language is ambiguous as to what the students costs should be, they need to be more specific. Dan Nelson asked, will the amount allocated be less each year if the full \$70,000.00 is spent by the small LEAs. The \$70,000.00 will be maintained from year to year. Joan Laursen makes a motion to approve with the amendment that Extraordinary Cost, with items that are eligible are included in the language. Such as placement, transportation, related services, speech, PT, 1 to 1 aide, etc. Megan Rouse seconds the motion, all present pass the motion unanimously.

e. Overview of CDE monitoring activities (report, discussion)

The background information for CDE monitoring activities is in the binder, there is an ongoing lawsuit stating that monitoring in California was too loose and not rigorous enough. CDE is trying to combine monitoring activities into one large group, called the MEGA letter. It is no longer called PIR, in is intensive and more targeted. All Districts listed as targeted, Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton have been disproportionate for three years, so they are now being labeled as Significantly Disproportionate. There are 120 districts across the State that are Significantly Disproportionate in the way they are monitoring students. In Dublin, African American and Hispanic students are significantly disproportionate in being identified under Specific Learning Disability. In Livermore, African American students are significantly disproportionate in being identified under Other Health Impairment. This is forcing districts to look at how students are moved from General Education to Special Education. The districts become sanctioned to give 15% of IDEA monies back to the state. If the districts are out of compliance they will focus on particular group of students and what is



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causing them to be disproportionate. Special Education in the districts have been working very hard with the General Education team to get back into compliance. Frank Selvaggio stated this is a huge issue for districts where 15% can be \$6 million. Some districts will go in and out of compliance, Joan stated it is frustrating for all but we have to focus on the issue of disproportionality. Chris Wenzel stated that \$227 million is paid out of the General Fund for SPED. The Governor is recognizing that Special Education is underfunded. AB602 is going away too, the base rate was \$513 and increased to \$530, the proposal is to take it up to \$660. Frank stated that often, to have a student attend a residential treatment facility can cost \$200,000.00, how do school districts become liable for the total cost of care, when the state is not funding mental health appropriately.

f. Update on Local Plan (report, discussion)

At the State SELPA meeting on Friday, there was an update about having the Local Plans done by June 30, 2020. The next meeting for the Local Plan is scheduled for March 23, 2020, which will be going in depth with the CAC and incorporating recommendations. Joan submitted recommendations to Nanette about some of the language in the plan, which was sent out on March 9, 2020. Joan states if the Board can receive it before June 15, 2020, it will give them time to review it ahead of time. The CAC will review the plan 30 days prior to the Board, and it will be posted on the website. Ed Diolazo asked for clarification about when LEA's have to approve, the interim plan will have an entire year. SELPA Governing Board will approve and then bring to LEA's at the beginning of the 2020-21 year.

g. Update on SELPA Counseling Enriched Classrooms (CEC)

Correna Kelly discussed that the Smith Elementary program has been having many struggles and that Catapult is contracting for one of those classrooms. The Directors met to discuss the upcoming year and the future and that there is an increase in need. Livermore Unified is proposing they pull out of the Elementary CEC class that is run by the SELPA. Dublin and Pleasanton USD will need to absorb their resident students back into another classroom, Dublin USD is exploring the option of taking on the Elementary CE program. Livermore will continue with their own program serving Livermore residents only. Correna states that next year the Middle School program will be full and that each district could have the possibility of having their own CE programs. The action piece is for the Board to vote on whether or not Livermore can exit itself from the program. SELPA will keep their staff, as a clinician can go wherever the program will go. Livermore Valley Joint USD staff from Smith Elementary will remain within Livermore Valley Joint USD. There will need to be new staff hired when the program moves, Megan Rouse asked who will pay for new staff? Correna answered that SELPA will continue to pay. Correna and staff are attempting alternative ways to keep kids out of the program. Joan Laursen asked as to why there is an increase in enrollment, Correna answered there is a large increase in both services needed as well as population. When there is more access to provide



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services to students, the need can increase. Teachers are asking for more training as the need increases. Ed Diolazo discussed the fact that Special Education IDEA was only just started in 1975, and that mental health services are relatively new and the need for services is growing quickly. Monica Vaughn mentioned that with more services provided, the enrollment at Juvenile Hall has gone from 250 10 years ago to 58 this morning. The students are not being incarcerated or expelled at the same rate, due to new Mental Health programs available. Joan Laursen states that the philosophical ideals for IDEA are there but the funding for the program doesn't follow those same ideals. New laws are often passed without understanding the full cost of Special Education services.

VI. STANDING REPORTS

A. TRI VALLEY DIRECTORS COUNCIL

i. Tara Kyle gave an update on behalf of Jennifer Chiarelli for Dublin USD; there are currently 1,025 eligible students with about 75 pending. There are ten new Instructional Assistant positions approved, and Dublin is currently working with Pleasanton on an MOU for Occupational Therapists. There has been 1 new Resource position approved. Dublin is looking at program updates, several classrooms and an increase in Mild/Moderate and Moderate/Severe needs in Elementary.

ii. Frank Selvaggio gave an update for Livermore Valley Joint USD. There have been over identification issues in Livermore, so with that, summer screening will occur for all K-2 students who need interventions. There will be a summer reading program to help those who need interventions now, not be identified later. Soliday reading program can be implemented in a way that is reproducible. The program will be a part of ESY, with a little different focus, there will be no more than 15 students per classroom and General Education as well as Special Education teachers will be teaching. Livermore is hiring for a Mental Health position.

iii. Mary Jude Doerpinghaus gave an update for Pleasanton USD. Recruitment has been active for new teachers, Mary Jude went with representatives of Human Resources, to CSU Fresno, and they will be going to CSU Chico as well as CSU East Bay and Sonoma State by the end of the month. There has been lots of Professional Development and ESY planning. Pleasanton is engaging in conversations to attempt to add additional planning time for teachers and staff.

B. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



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David Bona, Co-Chair for the CAC was present to give a report. He discussed the 3rd annual Resource and Transition Fair, had about 200 attendees and was held at the Dublin High School Student Union. There were approximately 40 vendors, and 3 tracks of breakout groups with topics ranging from Transition to Puberty. There was a survey sent to attendees, and going forward the format may change due to parent input.

C. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR CLINICAL SERVICES

Correna Kelley gave an update for Clinical Services, she stated there have been lots of opportunities for Professional Development, the SELPA clinicians sat on a panel for Mental Health at the Resource Fair, attended a Trauma Informed Care training at Dublin HS Theater. In pulling the \$100,000.00 carryover back, it helps to provide these trainings. Clinical Services received great feedback from the parent night held February 23. The Counseling Enriched Classrooms have been having a hard time, but the students are doing well. SELPA is proposing to use a vendor such as Juvo or Gateway to help with the classrooms. When there is an outside entity assisting, there is a different buy in from teachers and staff as opposed to internal trainings.

D. SELPA SENIOR DIRECTOR

Nanette Gray gave an update for SELPA, there were many smiles on the faces of parents and students who attended the Resource and Transition Fair. Nanette is thankful to the Community Advisory Committee for working so diligently to make the fair successful. An update on SELPA staffing, the DHH Teacher is out so Nanette is providing Coordinator Service while the teacher is on leave.

VII. BOARD DISCUSSION / REQUESTS

- a. Nothing.
- b. Future Agenda Items

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm