



TRI-VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JANUARY 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Kristin Pelham (Dublin); Kristie Wang (Livermore); Dan Nelson (Mountain House); Kelly Mokashi (Pleasanton); Denise Kent- Romo (Sunol); Yvonne Cerrato (ACOE)

Staff/CAC: Nanette Gray (SELPA); Correna Kelley (SELPA); Rebecca Williams (SELPA); Shubala Mani (SELPA); David Bona (CAC); Frank Selvaggio (Livermore); Jennifer Chiarelli (Dublin); Kenneth Goeken (Pleasanton)

GUESTS:

Dr. Matthew Campbell, Assistant Superintendent (Dublin); Ed Diolazo, Assistant Superintendent (Pleasanton), Dr. Odie Douglas, Interim Assistant Superintendent (Livermore); Monica Vaughan, Chief of Schools (ACOE)

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 6:03PM

Ed Diolazo called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Denise Kent-Romo to approve the agenda and seconded by Dan Nelson. Those present unanimously approved the motion.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

A motion was made by Denise Kent-Romo to approve the minutes and seconded by Dan Nelson. Those present unanimously approved the motion.

IV. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No public requests were made. Due to new members being appointed to the Board, the Governance Council was without an elected chairperson. Nanette Gray was unable to facilitate the meeting due to a medical emergency, Ed Diolazo facilitated.

V. ITEMS FOR REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION

a) Introduction of New Trustees (report, discussion)

Ed Diolazo asked that all new Board members take a chance to introduce themselves. Kristin Pelham from Dublin USD introduced herself; as a SPED teacher in San Ramon Valley USD. Kelly Mokashi introduced herself as an educator and education consultant for PEARSON education. Kristie Wang introduced herself as a proponent for special education.



TRI-VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JANUARY 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

b) Review of Governance Council Bylaws (report, discussion)

Ed Diolazo discussed the bylaws outlined in SELPAs Local Plan. The Board is made up of one trustee from each of the local areas, Livremore, Pleasanton, Dublin, Mountain House and Sunol, ACOE. Each LEA will have one trustee representative and without a trustee, the Assistant Superintendent for that LEA will act in their place. Elections for the Board are held in January, there will be four regular meetings a year. The Board's charge is to adopt a plan to ensure Special Education is serving students and families in the Tri-Valley. The Board and trustees support students who are eligible for Special Education and work to ensure appropriate levels of services are provided. Each LEA will participate, reads Board Member responsibilities.

c) Election of Governance Board Officers (report, discussion, action)

i) Chairperson: Both Kristin Pelham and Kelly Mokashi volunteered to serve as Chairperson. Due to Kristin Pelham's experience in Special Education, Denise Kent-Romo nominates Kristin Pelham and Yvonne Cerrato seconds the motion. Those present unanimously approve the motion.

ii) Vice-Chairperson: Kristin Pelham nominates Kelly Mokashi to service as Vice-Chairperson, Denise Kent-Romo seconds the motion. Those present unanimously approve the motion.

d) Carryover of SELPA Funds from 2019-20 (report, discussion)

Shubala Mani gives an update on the Carryover. Typically, at the end of the school/fiscal year we are left with a balance. This amount needs to be distributed back to member districts. \$338, 312.78 was actual balance. We need to keep 10% reserve, and Small LEA assistance of \$110,000 is held with SELPA in order to help the Small LEAs (Sunol and Mountain House). The remaining is redistributed back to LEAs. This is for SELPA AU. Clinical Services started with \$298,274. We will hold 10% for reserves. \$25,000 was approved to be added to the Contracted Services, remainder is distributed back to member districts.

e) Updates on SELPA Budgets (report, discussion)

i) FY 2020-21 Clinical Services Budget

Shubala Mani gives an update on the budget. Two parts of the main expenses are salaries for the Assistant Director as well as the Clinicians and those who perform hourly assessments. All the money in the Clinical Services budget may only be used directly for students. Part of the Clinical Services budget is merged with the AU budget for non-allowable expenditures. So far this year, \$628,516 has been spent. The indirect costs get added up at the end of the school year and the total will be updated. Clinical Services has spent approximately half of the budget.



TRI-VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JANUARY 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

ii) FY 2020-21 Administrative Unit (AU) Budget

Shubala Mani gives an update on the budget. The first portion is the revenue from AB602 and the 10% reserve which totals \$680,563. Salaries for staff of the AU include; Senior Director, Executive Secretary, Account Specialist and DHH Teacher. The Speech Therapist salary was added to Contracted Services, so the funds were moved in order to hire a therapist from the private sector. Under every object code on the budget, there is a column for Clinical Services one for AU in order to track expenses for each. Some of the expenditures include books for online instruction, chromebooks for the Early Start Infant Program to allow families to access their virtual home visits, pens and other office supplies. For Clinical Services, toolkit materials were purchased for students. Clinical services purchased a laptop for a new clinician under Small Equipment. Virtual conferences were attended by staff and charged to both Clinical Services and AU under travel/conference. AU has yearly dues and membership charges. Rental Equipment charges are for printer services and are generally invoiced at the end of the year, graphics are also billed at the end of the year. Legal Counsel charges for AU only, training and general legal counsel. Contracted Services charges are for Early Start, Physical Therapy sessions, Speech, Interpretation and Translation, new child find brochures, and SEIS for IEP database management. Postage and telephone charges come at the end of the year.

f) Overview of Special Education Finance (report, discussion)

Ed does not have the information for this meeting, there is no action or timeline, just a presentation for SPED finance. Chairperson Pelham gives her approval to move to the next meeting.

g) Approval of Local Plan Section B (report, discussion, action)

Nanette Gray states that there will be a review of the Local Plan from time to time as there may be changes to laws. From the start of the year, SELPA has been working on Section B; the purpose of this section describes what is required and how to run SELPA in detail, it is driven by the California Education Code. This was last completed in October 2016; SELPA needs recommendations from the CAC, General Education teachers, Special Education teachers. As the Local Plan has been previously reviewed, there have been no major changes. The California Department of Education requires all 135 SELPAs to follow a similar format. The Local Plan was cut and pasted into the CDE Format per their request. Governance Board predecessors reviewed this prior to the new trustees appointments. After the Governance Council approves, it will go to the Alameda County Superintendent, then to each LEAs Board of Education for approval. Nanette can participate to help districts understand what they are reviewing if needed. The plan needs to go to CDE prior to June 30th. As soon as the Local Plan is approved by the County it will be ready for LEA approval. Monica Vaughn asks to clarify who will receive the Local Plan at the LEA level and do they



TRI-VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JANUARY 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

know it is coming? Nanette states it will be sent to the Special Education Directors. A motion was made by Yvonne Cerrato to approve the Local Plan and was seconded by Dan Nelson. Those present unanimously approved the motion.

VI. STANDING REPORTS

A) Tri-Valley Directors Council

Kenneth Goeken gave an update for Pleasanton USD. On 12/7/2020 there were 14,549 students, and 1,298 SPED students (80 pending). Pleasanton is hiring for all positions, there have been a number of Professional Development trainings online for social emotional health. Hired more Behavior Intervention Specialists, currently at 7. BCBA qualified. Pleasanton is working on Paraprofessional hiring and training. The district has been found to be Significantly Disproportionate in the area of Hispanic students and Specific Learning Disability, Pleasanton submitted a plan to CDE, waiting for approval. Cohorts have been on campus since October 2020, Prek-5th. When the county goes back into red, the Board will discuss 1/14 for secondary re-opening.

Frank Selvaggio gave an update for Livermore Valley Joint USD. There are currently 2,168 SPED students, at this time there are no specific staffing needs, although the district is always having to use contracted SLP from outside. There are 17 teacher led SPED cohorts, expecting that to increase and they are all going well. In early grades, a need was found in reading TK-3, and will be allowed to add as a cohort. Continue to see focus with teachers and paraprofessionals during distance learning. A highlight has been having Dr. Douglas as an Interim Assistant Superintendent. Mental health needs in the community continue to be a great challenge, families are constantly asking for assistance.

Jennifer Chiarelli gave an update for Dublin USD. Currently 984 SPED students, a small decrease as some students are being homeschooled, moved, etc. Staffing update; looking for temp School Psychologists for assessments, conducting in person and virtual. Need to look for SLPS, teachers have the option to come in for virtual assessments. Program Specialists are managing well. Dublin is continuing with meal delivery services, American Logistic company (transportation company), will continue through June, feeding 65 families on a daily basis. Awaiting approval on Significantly Disproportionate, was submitted on 12/15. Families will be able to participate in ELA assessments in spring, comprehensive coordination early intervening services plan. Ongoing needs to address inclusion, equity, anti bias, provide trauma awareness, many policies that reflect inclusion will need to be updated.



TRI-VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JANUARY 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

B) Community Advisory Committee

Nanette Gray gave a brief update for the CAC, working on the Tri-Valley SELPA Resource and Transition Fair which has been held annually since 2017. The fair will be virtual on 2/27. Sometime this week there will be a Save the Date sent out with more information. Topics will cover a wide range of subjects from Infants to Mental Health. There will be a Vendor Fair and Zoom presentation and Q&A.

C) Clinical Services Assistant Director

Correna Kelley explains that Clinical Services provides Mental Health services to students with IEPs. In 2012 individual districts were allowed to take on these students directly as opposed to the County providing services. Now services are received at School sites, Clinicians can now discuss with teachers, principals, etc for collaboration. Clinical Services has seen really good success, although this year has been a tough year for High School students. In the SELPA CEC programs, there are two Elementary classrooms, two Middle School classrooms and 3 High School classrooms, all at school sites. There are 11 clinicians and 10FTE, who provide outpatient services, 1x week therapy, the CEC has full FTE. Many opportunities for Professional Development allowing staff to use Zoom is a benefit, able to reach more staff via Zoom. There were multiple Trauma Informed Care trainings, which was a presentation brought back again this year. Able to invite many General Education teachers, Pleasanton Middle School will have a presenter come and do training, Dublin HS will as well. Provided training for CE Classified staff, paraprofessionals, via Gateway training and collaborating, which will continue throughout the year. Filled 1.0 FTE vacancy. Talked with directors about increase in HS referrals, for CEC, have one seat available, across the SELPA. Beginning to see a higher need for this year and looking to next year as well. Doing more intensive outpatient therapy since there is not a spot left. If we don't have a spot, the next option is a NPS Program. Nanette stated to put this on the agenda for March, to discuss in more detail. There are around 80 students who receive outpatient, and 160 students all together.

D) SELPA Senior Director

Nanette Gray gave an update for the SELPA. Significantly Disproportionate is when a district is disproportionate in a certain race or ethnic group. The District is sanctioned by taking 15% of SPED dollars, they set aside to use to improve. It means there is a systemic problem of over identifying students within those groups. Would like to applaud the districts, who took this on with General Education Staff, SPED staff to really look at quantitative and qualitative data. Noticed a common theme, spoke with SPED Directors, listed root causes for each district.

Dr. Campbell appreciates the process, took it seriously, a call to arms, not doing a good job, when students weren't successful, practices were inconsistent on how they responded. Having individual



TRI-VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JANUARY 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

conversations with stakeholders: teachers, psychologists, parents. Enlightening experience, using it as an opportunity to evoke change.

Kelly Mokashi stated this is a national trend, working on Professional Development curriculum, looking at how to approach this. Pleasanton report- appreciated how staff was reflective of this issue. It is a process, and will take time. Meeting on change in grading policy, even in grading it can be disproportionate. Systemic change, that will take time. Good to see that there are other districts aware of and making changes as well.

Ed Diolazo stated, when a corrective action comes through SPED it stays in SPED. However it really does start in General Ed, with teachers, parents, referrals, etc. We need to support students before they are tested for SPED. Will always be students who need immediate testing. However there is inherent racism among specific demographics and it is disproportionate, the process. Goes to state now that it's been approved by the Board.

Dr. Douglas, we are stronger together, there are great examples of what we have done as a region. Bringing in General Education as partners and seeing what we can do, bringing in training, coaching, followup. 1 out of 2 African American students is identified as SPED. No blame, no shame, but what can we do to make a change?

Nanette is proud to be part of this team, many SELPAS struggle with Gen Ed getting on board with this. We are doing great work and these are the things we are uncovering. Thanks to all SPED directors and teams for working all for all students. Appreciative of the Trustees who support us and will strengthen this group.

VII. BOARD DISCUSSIONS/REQUESTS

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ed Diolazo adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm