



## SELPA Superintendents' Council

### Meeting Minutes - **UNADOPTED**

April 4, 2019

Conference Room B-2, EDCOE

**In Attendance:** Ed Manansala, Robbie Montalbano, Kevin Monsma, David Toston, Annette Lane, Cheryl Olson, David Roth, Eric Bonniksen, Grant Coffin, Jeremy Meyers, Marcy Guthrie, Margaret Enns, Natalie Miller, Matt Smith, Pat Atkins, Margaret Enns, and guests: Robert Steponovich, SELPA Business Services Director; Amy Andersen, EDCOE Special Services; and Kathleen Hall, Recording Secretary.

Meeting called to order at 2:35 pm by David M. Toston, Associate Superintendent, El Dorado County SELPA/ Charter SELPA.

#### **General Items**

1. Approval of Agenda

Superintendent Meg Enns moved to approve the agenda as presented; second by Superintendent Pat Atkins; motion carries. The Agenda was subsequently revised to change Item 4 – Support of Special Education Funding Legislation from an Action Item to a Discussion Item. Motion to move Agenda Item 4 from an Action Item to a Discussion Item was made by Meg Enns, second by Ron Carruth; motion carries.

2. Public Hearing

A Public Hearing was opened at 2:35 pm and, with no comment, closed at 2:35 pm.

#### **Action Items**

3. Approval of February 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes\*

Superintendent Meg Enns moved to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2019 SELPA Superintendents' Council meeting; second by Superintendent Natalie Miller; motion carries.

4. Support of Special Education Funding Legislation\* (This item was reclassified from an Action Item to a Discussion Item – see above.)

a. AB 428 – Special Education Finance Reform – Discussion only

Legislation proposed by Assemblyman Medina to increase special education funding. This bill is gaining traction – sponsored by the Coalition for Adequate Funding for Special Education. Components of the bill would establish state preschool funding (currently zero) and also address inequities in special ed funding rates by moving all SELPAs in the state to 95th percentile. Would change the declining enrollment adjustment component of the funding model to a district-level rather than a SELPA-level. David Toston attended the first committee hearing in support and will speak in support of the bill at an upcoming appropriations hearing.

David Toston will send out letter of support templates to the Superintendents and encouraged everyone to support this important legislation.

b. AB 1808 – Education Finance Omnibus Trailer Bill – Discussion only.

This legislation requires SELPAs to be involved in the LCAP process. CDE has not yet adopted an Annual Assurances Support Plan template. The SELPA will be reaching out to the districts to support and see where districts are in their LCAP development.

To meet the requirements, SELPA recommends holding meetings with each LEA Superintendent (or designee) to discuss how special education is included in the local control and accountability plan. The SELPA will make additional recommendations once a template has been adopted. The Superintendents requested standardized responses/guidelines to assist with this process.

5. Regional Program Review\*

a. Summary of Meetings

David Toston highlighted that insufficient state and federal funding is one of the primary negative drivers of our fiscal discussions. Currently, the combined SELPA cost (cost from all SELPA members) for special education services exceeds \$48M. As a SELPA, we receive less than \$18M of state/federal revenue. Therefore, \$27M is coming from district and EDCOE local contributions. This is a documented, state-wide crisis. Superintendents discussed the importance of communicating this reality to a broader audience and advocating for increased funding.

Additionally, the group discussed the need for transparency, being comfortable with dissenting or different views, and timely notices to stakeholders. David Toston assured the group we are making good progress in these conversations and believes we are reaching a point to begin formal and intentional communications about the decisions Superintendents are considering.

The group requested additional fiscal information about the budgets and EDCOE's need for increased funding for regional programs. Superintendents also requested clarification if EDCOE was shifting its priorities.

David Toston reviewed the Regional Program Review attachments and was asked to clarify if the recommendation regarding speech and language services is intended to move away from the cooperative approach for other regional programs. The SELPA was asked by Superintendents to formulate a recommendation. It does not constitute a directive or mandated action, and in no way represents a move away from the long-standing cooperative approach characteristic of our county. The SELPA will continue gathering data to inform decisions regarding viable options for providing these services.

a. Recommendations

Eric Bonniksen made a motion to approve funding of the second Pacific Street Adult Transition Program class and to continue funding the additional teacher and aide for the 2019-20 school year; second by Marcy Guthrie; motion carries.

The Superintendents held off approving any other classrooms for the time being.

b. Next Steps

The SELPA will prepare models for the provision of speech and language services for Superintendents discussion and begin developing an outline of a revised, sustainable regional program funding model. The Superintendents will continue to examine student and district needs to identify effective and economical approaches for students served in regional programs and will continue to evaluate alternative program models where appropriate. The SELPA will begin developing a revised Allocation Plan for Superintendents' discussion and action in the fall of 2019.

Discussion Items

**6. Public Records Request Update**

David Toston reported on the status of the recent SELPA Public Records Request and shared that the information will be submitted prior to the due date.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m. upon motion by Superintendent Marcy Guthrie; second by Superintendent Cheryl Olson; motion carried.