

WHITTIER AREA COOPERATIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

PHONE: (562) 945-6431
FAX: (562) 945-5855

8036 SOUTH OCEAN VIEW AVENUE, WHITTIER, CA 90602

JANET QUENEAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Joint Powers Board Regular Meeting
October 20, 2021
9:00 AM
9401 S. Painter Ave., Board Room
Whittier, CA 90605**

MINUTES

A. Opening of Meeting by Chairperson - The meeting opened at 9:00 a.m.

1. Roll Call

EW, Marc Patterson, Chair - Present
ER, Frances Esparza, Vice Chair - Present
LL, William Crean - Present
LN, Jonathan Vasquez - Present
SW, Gary Gonzales - Present
WC, Richard Tauer - Present
WU, Martin Plourde - Present

B. Closed Session- By general consent of the Board, the Board moved into Closed Session at 9:00 a.m.

1. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Reassignment/Employment

No reportable action.

2. Evaluation of Executive Director of the Whittier Area Cooperative Special Education Program (WACSEP) (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957)

No reportable action.

3. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraphs (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: One potential case.

No reportable action.

C. Reconvene Meeting- The meeting reconvened at 9:38 a.m.

1. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

No reportable action.

2. Approval of Agenda for October 20, 2021 meeting

Moved: Frances Esparza
 Seconded: Martin Plourde
 Vote:7-0

3. Approval of Minutes for September 15, 2021 meeting

Moved: Frances Esparza
 Seconded: William Crean
 Vote:7-0

D. Community Comments

There were no community comments.

E. Consent Calendar

Moved: Frances Esparza
 Seconded: Jonathan Vasquez
 Vote:7-0

1. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the following expenditures and contracts be approved:

Provider	Description	Dates	Cost
Harbor Regional Center [Exhibit E.1]	Agreement for Early Start Part C Services	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	N/A
Nicole Miller & Associates Inc.	Private Investigator	10/21/2021 to 06/30/2022	Not to Exceed \$30,000
Vanaman German LLP (Previously approved as Law Offices of Newman, Aaronson, Vanaman)	Settlement Costs	10/04/2021 to 6/30/2022	Not to Exceed \$50,000
Rios Eubanks, APC	Settlement Costs	10/21/2021 to 6/30/2022	Not to Exceed \$100,000 (Additional \$50,000)

2. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the following obsolete and unusable equipment be approved to surplus:

Count	Description/Brand Mfg.	Serial No.	Asset Tag #
1	Dell Latitude E5550	7RHY162	54346
1	Dell Latitude E5550	2BQY162	54347
1	Dell OptiPlex 3020	7TYSKB2	58366

F. Personnel Report

1. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the following staffing needs be approved:

Position	Reason	Cost
SELPA Program Specialist (assigned to Los Nietos and South Whittier School Districts)	Ponce, Kolia Start Date to be Announced	Based on Salary Schedule
Braille Transcriber	Extra Assignment Not to Exceed 180 hours for Braille Transcribing for Eunice Diaz 10/11/2021- 06/30/2022	Based on Salary Schedule

Moved: Martin Plourde

Seconded: Gary Gonzales

Vote:7-0

G. New Business

1. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the "Policy, Procedures and Criteria for Obtaining Independent Educational Evaluations", updated September 2021, be reviewed - First Reading. [Exhibit G.1]
INFORMATION ITEM

H. SELPA Director Report

Ms. Janet Queneau thanked the East Whittier City School District and Whittier Union High School District personnel departments for their tremendous help with COVID management in every aspect ranging from supporting staff to processing volunteers and visitors.

Ms. Queneau shared that the first Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Board meeting was held in person on September 16th. The CAC Board members came up with several ideas for parent trainings and are excited about reaching more parents. WACSEP is working on getting the website up to speed to be an additional resource to parents. The CAC is also looking forward to having the resource fair in person, if possible.

Ms. Queneau reported that WACSEP has been providing multiple trainings for staff of our SELPA member districts. She thanked Kristine Ramos and Karla Rahiman for setting up many of the trainings. Additionally, she thanked Dr. Crean for connecting WACSEP with the California State University of Long Beach who has provided several free trainings. Lastly, she thanked everyone for their support.

I. Board Member Reports

Dr. Frances Esparza, Superintendent of El Rancho Unified School District, reported that the district implemented testing for unvaccinated staff and is still providing testing opportunities for vaccinated staff who wish to test. Additionally, the district is taking part in a booster clinic that is open to the community at El Rancho High School. She shared that the district is planning to open a parent center which will serve as a hub for family resources. Lastly, she shared that the district received the Golden Bell Award for providing mental health and support services during the pandemic.

Jonathan Vasquez, Superintendent of Los Nietos School District, shared that he sat on the interview panel for the WACSEP Program Specialist interviews. The candidate selected will be able to help both Los Nietos School District and South Whittier School District since they have similar needs. He was thankful to the Whittier City School District as the candidate is coming from that district.

Dr. William Crean, Superintendent of Little Lake City School District, shared that the district was addressing the needs for behavior intervention; the district had received a lot of training prior to the pandemic and was implementing many strategies learned with positive results. Additionally, he thanked Darin Barber and Jeremy Rytky for their support.

Dr. Gary Gonzales, Superintendent of South Whittier School District, extended an invitation to everyone to Coffee with the Superintendent on October 21, 2021. The event will be held in person and via Zoom. The event will host a special guest, Dr. Yeganeh from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, who will be answering questions and addressing concerns from families regarding COVID Vaccines for ages 5-11.

Martin Plourde, Superintendent of Whittier Union High School District, echoed Dr. William Crean's comment about the unique challenges with behavior and student management that came from the time away from school due to COVID-19. He shared that the district has implemented all requirements for fully vaccinated staff. Additionally, in partnership with Paramount Family Pharmacy, the district will be hosting a vaccine clinic in the Board Room every Wednesday from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for the

remainder of the school year; it will be open to anyone in the community. The Paramount Family Pharmacy will also be administering the flu shot. Lastly, Whittier Union High School District is partnering with Los Nietos School District and hosting a parent information night on October 28th at Pioneer High School; a bilingual physician will be available to answer parent questions regarding vaccines. The following day there will be a vaccine clinic for those interested in signing up.

Richard Tauer, Interim Superintendent of Whittier City School District, shared that the district has tapped into the resources the SELPA offers. He expressed his appreciation for the responsiveness of the SELPA.

Marc Patterson, Superintendent of East Whittier City School District, reported that the district is hosting vaccine clinics at the middle schools; this week's clinic would be held at Granada Middle School and next week it would be held at East Whittier Middle School. The turnout has been small, but the district is hoping it will increase. Lastly, he shared that the district will be expediting the rollout of its K-8 virtual academy.

J. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Moved: Frances Esparza

Seconded: Gary Gonzales

Vote: 7-0

Any materials required by law to be made available to the public prior to a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the District can be inspected at the following address during normal business hours: 8036 Ocean View Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602

JOINT POWERS BOARD
MINUTES
October 20, 2021