

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
February 14, 2024
9:00 AM
9401 S. Painter Ave., Board Room
Whittier, CA 90605**

MINUTES

A. Opening of Meeting by Chairperson - The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

1. Roll Call

EW, Marc Patterson - Present
ER, Marco Villegas - Absent
LL, Jonathan Vasquez - Present
LN, Ramiro Rubalcaba - Present
SW, Gary Gonzales, Chair - Present
WC, Brad Mason - Present
WU, Monica Oviedo, Vice Chair - Present

B. Community Comments on Closed Session Items

There were no community comments.

C. Closed Session - By general consent of the Board, the Board moved into Closed Session at 9:02 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.

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

1. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

No reportable action.

2. Approval of Agenda for February 14, 2024 meeting

Moved: Brad Mason
 Seconded: Monica Oviedo
 Vote: 6-0

3. Approval of Minutes for December 13, 2023 meeting

Moved: Jonathan Vasquez
 Seconded: Brad Mason
 Vote: 6-0

E. Community Comments

There were no community comments.

F. Consent Calendar

Moved: Ramiro Rubalcaba
 Seconded: Monica Oviedo
 Vote: 6-0

1. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the 2023-2024 Updated Off the Top Budgets as shown below be approved:

District	2023-2024 Off-The-Top (November 2023)	2023-2024 Updated Off-The-Top (February 2024)	Difference
EW	\$2,493,047.00	\$2,596,760.00	+\$103,713.00
ER	\$1,118,082.40	No Change	
LL	\$470,149.00	No Change	
LN	\$907,750.00	\$764,000.00	(\$143,750.00)
SW	\$551,774.29	\$566,401.01	+\$14,626.72
WC	\$1,503,986.07	No Change	
WU	\$2,725,060.00	\$2,618,339.25	(\$106,720.75)

2. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the Updated WACSEP 2023-2024 Budget be approved:

District	2023-2024 Off-The-Top (November 2023)	2023-2024 Updated Off-The-Top (February 2024)	Difference
WACSEP	\$12,891,845.72	\$12,890,004.46	(\$1,841.26)

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

Provider	Description	Dates	Cost
TASK [Exhibit F.3]	Trainings for parents/ families of students with disabilities	02/15/2024 to 06/30/2025	N/A
AZ Translations & Interpretation Services	Interpreter services at assessments/IEPs/ Trainings	03/13/2024 to 06/30/2024	Not to Exceed \$5,000
Collins Business Equipment	Braille service and repairs	03/13/2024 to 06/30/2024	Not To Exceed \$5,000
Continental Interpreting	Interpreter services at assessments/IEPs/ Trainings	03/13/2024 to 06/30/2024	Not to Exceed \$5,000
Empower Communication Services, Inc.	Contracted services for SELPA-wide Assessment/Services	06/01/2024 to 06/30/2024	Not to Exceed \$15,000
John Gregory Nolte Law Office of John Nolte	Settlement Costs	02/15/2024 to 06/30/2024	Not to Exceed \$50,000
Nathan Osorio Law Office of Nathan Osorio	Settlement Costs	02/15/2024 to 06/30/2024	Not to Exceed \$50,000
Tsadik Law Seshah Wolde-Tsadik, Esq.	Settlement Costs	02/15/2024 to 06/30/2024	Not to Exceed \$50,000
Visual Aid Services, Inc.	Braille service and repairs	03/13/2024 to 06/30/2024	Not to Exceed \$5,000
Volunteers of Vacaville	Braille service and repairs	03/13/2024 to 06/30/2024	Not to Exceed \$5,000

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

Count	Description/Brand Mfg.	Serial No.	Asset Tag #
1	Dell Latitude 3490	83MR9S2	62497

5. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the following travel requests be approved:

Conference/Workshop	Person(s) Authorized	Expense (Per Person)
Introduction to Culture of Care Restorative Justice Practices <u>Virtual</u> March 13- June 14, 2024	Elvira Caro-Michel, Behavior Specialist/ Program Specialist, Inger Johnson-Quezada, School Psychologist Lourdes Lopez, Behavior Specialist	Registration: \$ 950.00 Related Expenses: \$ 0.00 Total: \$ 950.00
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Children and Adolescents <u>Virtual</u> March 13 - June 17, 2024	Maria Huerta, Mental Health Liaison Elizabeth Moreno, Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Registration: \$ 1,386.94 Related Expenses: \$ 0.00 Total: \$ 1,386.94

6. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the Continuing Contracts Report summarizing continuing contracts and authorized renewal of routine contracts, agreements, leases, and insurance for 2024-2025 be approved. [Exhibit F.6].

G. Personnel Report

1. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director the following staffing needs for the 23-24 school year be approved:

Position	Reason	Cost
School Psychologist	Yolanda I. Ugarte, effective start date TBD	Based on salary schedule

Moved: Brad Mason
Seconded: Monica Oviedo
Vote: 6-0

H. New Business

1. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director, after input from SELPA Finance, in compliance with California Education Code section 56836.148 (h) and (i) for the 2023-24 school year, that any funds needed for purposes of providing regionalized and other programmatic services by the SELPA be allocated back to the SELPA by our member districts. The current SELPA allocation model is unchanged.

Moved: Brad Mason
Seconded: Jonathan Vasquez
Vote: 6-0

I. SELPA Director Report

Ms. Janet Queneau wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. She shared information regarding the WACSEP Community Advisory Committee (CAC) sponsored Disability Resource and Transition Fair scheduled to take place at Pioneer High School on March 5, 2024, 4:00-6:00 p.m. There will be up to vendors, four workshops including a parent panel, food, and raffles. The flyer has been shared with the districts and shared with parents via email. She invited the Joint Powers Board to attend.

Ms. Janet Queneau reported WACSEP hosted many trainings since the last Joint Powers Board Meeting. There were two parent trainings, one in English and one in Spanish, conducted by the Whole Child and supported by the WACSEP Mental Health Department. These trainings were focused on positive parenting for general education students and students with mild to moderate needs. Additionally, WACSEP offered two Self and Match trainings for over 140 member district staff. The training consisted of a system that can be used directly with students to help the students learn to monitor their own behaviors. The training received a lot of positive feedback and will be offered again in the fall.

J. Board Member Reports

Dr. Brad Mason, Superintendent of Whittier City School District, wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Dr. Marc Patterson, Superintendent of East Whittier City School District, reported that they are hosting the Students Triumphant over Adversity with Resilience (S.T.A.R.) awards this month. Each of the 14 schools will be able to select a student to be invited and recognized at a breakfast.

Dr. Monica Oviedo, Superintendent of Whittier Union High School District, reported that they approved 11 courses of study for students with significant cognitive disabilities on

the graduation diploma track. She also shared that the district has experienced compliance issues with the number of fully mainstreamed students. To address this, they are having success with the co-teaching model; there are more teachers who are interested in the model. There are now more senior students with disabilities who are graduating having passed Algebra 2.

Jonathan Vasquez, Superintendent of Little Lake City School District, thanked Darin Barber and the legal team for their support. Darin Barber has been instrumental in coming to resolution in complex cases with good outcomes for students. Additionally, he commended the East Whittier City School District on starting the S.T.A.R. award, and is interested in learning more about this event.

Dr. Ramiro Rubalcaba, Superintendent of Los Nietos School District, thanked the legal team for their support. He shared that they recognized and celebrated a student, with parent permission, for successfully exiting the RSP program. They hoped to identify those students who are eligible to exit and celebrate them. He complimented the East Whittier City School District for establishing the S.T.A.R awards and was interested in replicating something similar.

Dr. Gary Gonzales, Superintendent of South Whittier School District, had no report.

K. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Moved: Marc Patterson

Seconded: Monica Oviedo

Vote: 6-0

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