

WHITTIER AREA COOPERATIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

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8036 SOUTH OCEAN VIEW AVENUE, WHITTIER, CA 90602

JANET QUENEAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joint Powers Board Regular Meeting

April 21, 2021

9:00 AM

(Due to "safer-at-home order," meeting will be conducted on-line only)

9401 S. Painter Ave.

Whittier, CA 90605

MINUTES

A. Opening of Meeting by Chairperson - The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

1. Roll Call

EW, Marc Patterson, Vice Chair- Present

ER, Frances Esparza- Present

LL, William Crean - Present

LN, Jonathan Vasquez - Present

SW, Gary Gonzales, Chair - Present

WC, Maria Martinez-Poulin - Present

WU, Martin Plourde - Present

B. Closed Session – By general consent of the Board, the Board moved into Closed Session at 9:05 a.m.

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

No reportable action.

C. Reconvene Meeting – The public meeting reconvened at 9:50 a.m.

1. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

No reportable action.

2. Approval of Agenda for April 21, 2021 meeting

Moved: Marc Patterson

Seconded: Frances Esparza

Vote: 7-0

3. Approval of Minutes for March 31, 2021 meeting

Moved: Martin Plourde
 Seconded: Maria Martinez-Poulin
 Vote: 6-0 (1 Abstention - William Crean)

D. Community Comments

There were no community comments.

E. Consent Calendar

Moved: Martin Plourde
 Seconded: Marc Patterson
 Vote: 7-0

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

Provider	Description	Dates	Cost
University of Southern California [Exhibit E.1]	Agreement with University of Southern California for SLP interns	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	N/A
Marc Purchin, Purchin Consulting	SELPA-Wide Contract for 504 Mediations	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	Not to Exceed \$20,000
Robert Helfand	SELPA-Wide Contract for 504 Mediations	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	Not to Exceed \$20,000
Timothy Newlove	SELPA-Wide Contract for 504 Mediations	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	Not to Exceed \$20,000
Bellflower Unified School District [Exhibit E.1]	MOU with Bellflower Unified School District for	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	+\$39,186.92 - \$39,871.92 per student

	DHH Regional Programs		
La Habra City School District [Exhibit E.1]	MOU with La Habra City School District for DHH Regional Programs	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	+\$39,186.92 - \$39,871.92 per student
Lowell Joint School District [Exhibit E.1]	MOU with Lowell Joint School District for DHH Regional Programs	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	+\$39,186.92 - \$39,871.92 per student
South Pasadena Unified School District [Exhibit E.1]	MOU with South Pasadena Unified District for DHH Regional Programs	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	+\$39,186.92 - \$39,871.92 per student

F. Personnel Report

No Personnel items.

G. New Business

1. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that a 2.0% one-time, off schedule salary increase, effective July 1, 2020, for Whittier Area Cooperative Special Education Program (WACSEP) employees be approved.

Moved: Jonathan Vasquez
 Seconded: Maria Martinez-Poulin
 Vote: 7-0

H. SELPA Director Report

Ms. Queneau thanked Martin Plourde and the Whittier Union High School District for being WACSEP’s administrative unit and for the continuous support they provide to WACSEP and WACSEP staff.

Ms. Queneau shared that the virtual Disability Resource and Transition Fair went live on Monday. She was incredibly impressed with the staff, especially with Adahena Gutierrez who learned how to put together the Google Site to make the virtual fair. She reviewed the fair’s Google site which included a message from the Director, pre-recorded workshops, live workshops and vendor pages for families to explore; visitors could also

enter to win great prizes by signing the guestbook. Additionally, she shared that while participation had been low for the live workshops thus far, those workshops were recorded and would be added to the pre-recorded section of the site. Ms. Queneau shared that most pre-recorded workshops were presented by WACSEP staff and one was presented by a parent and CAC Board member, Gloria Ruiz, on organizing special education paperwork. All pre-recorded workshops had been transcribed through Youtube and transcribed in Spanish by WACSEP staff; when possible workshops were also presented in Spanish by bilingual staff. She invited the Board to visit the fair site and continue to publicize the event taking place through April 30th.

Ms. Queneau reported that State SELPA is sponsoring a Special Education Legislative Day. In the past, parents had gone to Sacramento but this year it would take place virtually on May 5th. WACSEP scheduled individual Zoom meetings with Senator Bob Archuleta, Assemblywoman Lisa Calderon, and Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia so that Ms. Queneau and CAC Board members could discuss special education legislation and issues.

I. Board Member Reports

Dr. William Crean, Superintendent of Little Lake City School District, reported that schools are open and students are back in the classrooms.

Marc Patterson, Superintendent of East Whittier City School District, reported that they hired a new Director of Special Education, Shermella Roquemore, who would be overlapping with the current Director of Special Education, Diana Grant. Diana Grant will be retiring after many years of service and will be missed.

Jonathan Vasquez, Superintendent of Los Nietos School District, thanked the WACSEP Mental Health and Behavior teams who are working with the Director of Special Education to provide some professional development training prior to being back with special education students.

Martin Plourde, Superintendent of Whittier Union High School District, shared that the District would be hosting an in-person farewell event on May 27 at 7 p.m. to celebrate Transition students, age 22, who are transitioning out of the SELPA.

Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin, Superintendent of Whittier City School District, thanked WACSEP for the parent workshops and the outreach to ensure everything was also provided in Spanish. She thanked the superintendents for their collaboration on making sure children returned to school safely. Additionally, she shared that Whittier Rotary is collaborating with Whittier elementary schools and will be recognizing the Teachers of the Year from East Whittier City School District, South Whittier School District, and Whittier City School District at a luncheon. Lastly, she wished everyone a great month.

Dr. Gary Gonzales, Superintendent of South Whittier School District, congratulated Ms. Queneau and the WACSEP staff for great things happening at WACSEP. He reported that

Pre-K through 8th grade has completely re-opened. Additionally, he shared that the District has officially closed one school, Monte Vista Elementary School; students in grades 4 through 6 will stay at Los Altos Elementary School. Monte Vista Elementary School will serve as a parent engagement center. Lastly, he welcomed new Associate Superintendent of Educational Services for South Whittier School District, Dr. Rebecca Rodriguez, effective July 1.

Dr. Frances Esparza, Superintendent of El Rancho Unified School District, thanked Ms. Janet Queneau for the support given to the Director of Special Education and the Program Specialists as the District Board dove into what is happening with the special education population; the Board is interested in what the District is doing to provide services to all students especially those with special needs. She thanked all superintendents, especially Dr. Martinez-Poulin, for the support and guidance in getting El Rancho staff vaccinated as the District prepares for a soft re-opening. She reported that the District will re-open with Special Day Class, grades K through 12 on May 4th. Additionally, the District will be holding a Transition Program ceremony for El Rancho Unified School District Transition students. Lastly, she looks forward to continued collaboration with everyone.

J. Adjournment -The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Moved: Jonathan Vasquez

Seconded: Martin Plourde

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

Due to the school closures, the WACSEP office is closed at this time. You may contact Jessica Burgos at jburgos@wacsep.org if you would like to view copies of the exhibits.