

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

May 21, 2025

1:00 PM

8036 Ocean View Avenue, MPR

Whittier, CA 90602

MINUTES

A. Opening of Meeting by Chairperson - The meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m.

1. Roll Call

EW, Marc Patterson - Present

ER, Marco Villegas - Present

LL, Jonathan Vasquez, Vice Chair - Present (*arrived at 1:19 p.m.)

LN, Ramiro Rubalcaba - Present

SW, Gary Gonzales - Absent

WC, Brad Mason - Present

WU, Monica Oviedo, Chair - Present

B. Public Hearing - 2024-2025 Whittier Area Cooperative Special Education Program Annual Budget and Service Plans

The Public Hearing opened at 1:11 p.m. and closed at 1:16 p.m. There were no public comments during the Public Hearing.

C. Community Comments on Closed Session Items

There were no Closed Session community comments.

D. Closed Session- By general consent of the Board, the Board moved into Closed Session at 1:16 p.m.

*Mr. Jonathan Vasquez arrived at 1:19 p.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.

E. Reconvene Meeting - The meeting reconvened at 1:26 p.m.

1. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

No reportable action.

2. Approval of Agenda for May 21, 2025 meeting

Moved: Ramiro Rubalcaba

Seconded: Brad Mason

Vote: 6-0

3. Approval of Minutes for April 16, 2025 meeting

Moved: Marco Villegas

Seconded: Brad Mason

Vote: 5-0, 1 abstention (Jonathan Vasquez)

F. Community Comments

Ms. Sarah Smith commented on the services presented during the Annual Service Plan presentation. She encouraged that some of the services be reviewed, as she was unclear why they were not currently being used by the districts.

G. Consent Calendar

Moved: Ramiro Rubalcaba

Seconded: Marc Patterson

Vote: 6-0

1. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the 2024-2025 Updated Off-the-Top Budgets, as shown below, be approved:

District	2024-2025 Off-the-Top Jan Update	2024 -2025 Off-the-Top April Update	Difference
EW	\$2,625,103.00	\$2,579,011.00	(\$46,092.00)
ER	\$1,116,372.00	\$988,040.00	(\$128,332.00)
LL	\$545,216.00	\$537,531.00	(\$7,685.00)
LN	\$807,000.00	\$776,500.00	(\$30,500.00)
SW	\$549,635.75	\$548,885.75	(\$750.00)
WC	\$1,533,017.73	\$1,562,213.22	+\$29,195.49
WU	\$2,960,972.00	\$2,993,628.00	+\$32,656.00

2. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the WACSEP 2024-2025 Updated Budget, as shown below, be approved:

District	2024-2025 Off-the-Top Jan Update	2024-2025 Off-the-Top April Update	Difference
WACSEP	\$13,671,691.41	\$13,508,070.41	(\$163,621.00)

3. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the 2025-2026 Estimated Off-the-Top Budgets, as shown below, be approved:

District	2025-2026 Off-the-Top April Update	Difference from 2024-2025 Off-the-Top
EW	\$2,652,508.00	+\$73,497.00
ER	\$1,063,665.40	+\$75,625.40
LL	\$533,754.50	(\$3,776.50)
LN	\$999,800.00	+\$223,300.00
SW	\$556,880.00	+\$7,994.25
WC	\$1,524,066.05	(\$38,147.17)
WU	\$3,014,491.00	+\$20,863.00

4. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the WACSEP 2025-2026 Estimated Budget, as shown below, be approved:

District	2025-2026 Off-the-Top April Update	Difference from 2024-2025 Off-the-Top
WACSEP	\$14,206,725.24	+\$698,654.83

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

Provider	Description	Dates	Income/Expense
University of California, San Diego - Dr. Howard Taras and Dr. Piper Sandel	Amend the current contract to add Dr. Piper Sandel to provide medical consultations	11/1/2024 to 06/30/2026	Not to exceed \$29,960 (no change)

Brea Olinda Unified School District [Exhibit G.5]	MOU with Brea Olinda School District for DHH Regional Programs	03/31/2025 to 06/30/2025	+\$57,780.50 to \$67,957.50/ per student
Matthew G. Zerby Law Offices of Matthew G. Zerby	Settlement Costs	07/01/2025 to 06/30/2026	Not to Exceed \$50,000
Carrie Ortiz	Speech-Language Services	07/01/2025 to 06/30/2026	Not to Exceed \$157,000.00
Lowell Joint School District [Exhibit G.5]	MOU with Lowell Joint School District for DHH Regional Programs	07/01/2025 to 06/30/2026	+\$58,248 to \$69,316/ per student
Brea Olinda Unified School District [Exhibit G.5]	MOU with Brea Olinda Unified School District for DHH Regional Programs	07/01/2025 to 06/30/2026	+\$58,248 to \$69,316/ per student

6. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the following JPB Meeting Dates be approved:

2025-2026 JPB Meeting Dates 9:00 a.m.
07/16/2025
08/20/2025
09/17/2025
10/15/2025
11/19/2025
12/10/2025
01/21/2026
02/18/2026
03/18/2026

04/15/2026
05/20/2026
06/10/2026

H. Personnel Report

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

Name/Position	Description	Dates	Cost
Natalie Perez, Audiologist	Reduction in Hours to 80%	07/01/25 to 06/30/26	Based on Salary Schedule

Moved: Ramiro Rubalcaba
Seconded: Marco Villegas
Vote: 6-0

2. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the following salary and benefits changes be approved:
 - a. Effective July 1, 2024, a 1.50% one-time, off-schedule salary increase will be provided to all WACSEP certificated employees.
 - b. WACSEP will make a one-time contribution of \$86,800.00 to the Health and Welfare Benefits fund. The calculation was based on 52 employees who receive Health and Welfare Benefits.

Moved: Ramiro Rubalcaba
Seconded: Brad Mason
Vote: 6-0

I. New Business

1. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the following Regional Program Expenses be approved as Off-the-Top beginning with the 2025-2026 school year :

Program - District	Description	Estimated Cost
Infant Program - EW	Mileage for itinerant staff	\$7,000/yr
Hospital Program - EW	Monthly parking fees at the hospital	\$1,100/yr

Moved: Ramiro Rubalcaba
Seconded: Marc Patterson
Vote: 6-0

2. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the Annual Budget Plan and Service Plan for the 2025-2026 school year be approved and certified as presented. [Exhibit I.2]

Moved: Brad Mason
Seconded: Ramiro Rubalcaba
Vote :6-0

J. SELPA Director Report

Ms. Janet Queneau reported that WACSEP is concluding services for the current school year and will continue working over the summer to complete preschool assessments. In addition, WACSEP is developing trainings for next school year, for both its own staff and those of member districts.

Finally, Ms. Queneau reported that she was looking forward to attending Whittier Union High School District's Adult Transition Program graduation on May 22; it is an event she looks forward to every year. She reported that, due to a schedule conflict, she, unfortunately, cannot attend the El Rancho Unified School District Adult Transition Program graduation.

K. Board Member Reports

Dr. Marcos Villegas, Superintendent of El Rancho Unified School District, noted that it was a busy time of year for everyone. He looked forward to the upcoming Adult Transition Program graduation which is always a great end-of-year event.

Mr. Jonathan Vasquez, Superintendent of Little Lake City School District, thanked the Joint Powers Board and Ms. Janet Queneau, as well as the Community Advisory Committee for coordinating the recent visit with the State Director of Special Education.

Dr. Ramiro Rubalcaba, Superintendent of Los Nietos School District, reported a successful, well-attended parent workshop on IEP rights and inclusion, led by David Chavez. He shared that they are working to develop more inclusive models for next year, and thanked Ms. Queneau for helping to facilitate visits of other sites. He thanked everyone for their condolences and support following his father's passing.

Dr. Marc Patterson, Superintendent of East Whittier City School District, shared that the district held its State of the District event on May 16, which was a great event. He reported that he looked forward to the summer programs provided by the district.

Dr. Brad Mason, Superintendent of Whittier City School District, reported that the district would begin the summer with 1,100 students enrolled in summer programs. He wished everyone a celebratory end to the school year. He shared that he had just come from a school event, which was a nice gathering with parents who helped make a good school year.

Dr. Monica Oviedo, Superintendent of Whittier Union High School District, shared that the Adult Transition Program ceremony would take place tomorrow night at the district. It would be an evening full of celebration for the students and their families. She noted that several of the member district superintendents and board members would be attending the Whittier Union High School District graduation ceremonies throughout the district, all of which would begin at 6 p.m. Additionally, she shared that Whittier High School intends to apply for a Golden Bell award in recognition of its co-teaching model. She also reported visiting the Adult Transition Program students at their work sites and expressed her appreciation to Lascari's and Smart and Final on Mulberry Avenue.

L. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Moved: Brad Mason

Seconded: Ramiro Rubalcaba

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