

# WHITTIER AREA COOPERATIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

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JANET QUENEAU  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Public Hearing and Joint Powers Board Regular Meeting**  
**June 18, 2020**  
**8:30 AM**  
**(Due to “safer-at-home order,” meeting will be conducted on-line only)**  
**9401 S. Painter Avenue, Board Room**  
**Whittier, CA 90605**

## MINUTES

- A. Opening of Meeting by Chairperson** - The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m.
1. Roll Call  
EW, Marc Patterson -Present  
ER, Frances Esparza -Present (arrived at 9:00 a.m., left at 9:37 a.m.\*)  
LL, William Crean, Chair - Present  
LN, Jonathan Vasquez - Present  
SW, Gary Gonzales, Vice Chair -Present  
WC, Maria Martinez-Poulin -Present  
WU, Martin Plourde -Present
- B. Public Hearing - 2020-2021 Whittier Area Cooperative Special Education Program Annual Budget and Service Plans** - The Public Hearing opened at 8:38 a.m. and closed at 8:39 a.m. There were no public comments during the Public Hearing.
- C. Closed Session** – By general consent of the Board, the Board moved into Closed Session at 8:39 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.
- \*Due to connection issues with Zoom, Dr. Esparza was not able to re-join the meeting for the public meeting portion.
- D. Reconvene Meeting** – The public meeting reconvened at 9:37 a.m.

1. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

No reportable action.

2. Approval of Agenda for June 18, 2020 meeting

Moved: Marc Patterson  
 Seconded: Martin Plourde  
 Vote: 6-0

3. Approval of Minutes for May 21, 2020 meeting

Moved: Maria Martinez-Poulin  
 Seconded: Gary Gonzales  
 Vote: 6-0

**E. Community Comments**

Comment from Concerned Educator expressed concern about possible cuts and layoffs for classified and certificated staff. The educator discussed the importance of everyone's job to the well being of the district, and hoped that concern would be placed on long-term staff committed to the students.

**F. Consent Calendar**

Moved: Maria Martinez-Poulin  
 Seconded: William Crean  
 Vote : 6-0

1. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the following agreements and expenditures be approved for the 2020-2021 school year:

Provider	Description	Dates	Cost
South Pasadena Unified School District	MOU with South Pasadena Unified School District for DHH Regional Programs	07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021	+26,756/student
Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center	Agreement for Early Start Part C Services	07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021	N/A
Harbor Regional Center	Agreement for Early Start Part C Services	07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021	N/A

San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center	Agreement for Early Start Part C Services	07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021	N/A
Plaza de la Raza Child Development Services, Inc.	MOU with Plaza de la Raza Child Development Services, Inc. Preschool Programs	07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021	N/A
UCSD School of Medicine - Dr. Taras	Provide medical consultation of hospitalized students who attend school	07/01/2020 to 06/30/2023	Not to Exceed \$15,000
UCSD School of Medicine - Dr. Taras	Provide physician based speech standards	07/01/2020 to 06/30/2023	Not to Exceed \$6,000

**G. Personnel Report**

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

Position	Reason	Cost
SELPA Liaison	Resignation of Lara Ulmer, Effective June 30, 2020	Based on Salary Schedule
Behavior Specialist	Elvira Caro-Michel, Effective July 01, 2020	Based on Salary Schedule
Program Lead	Additional Duties Stipend for Vivian Rodriguez-Eads to support Los Nietos School District, Effective July 01, 2020 through June 30, 2021	\$700 per month

Moved: Gary Gonzales  
Seconded: Marc Patterson  
Vote: 6-0

**H. New Business**

1. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the Annual Service Plan and the Annual Budget Plan for the 2020-2021 school year be approved and certified as presented.

Moved: Marc Patterson  
Seconded: Martin Plourde  
Vote:

2. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that beginning July 1, 2020, the WACSEP Allocation Model will include the following:

- a. Any interest earned will be dispersed to districts based on the distribution model during the following fiscal year.
- b. WACSEP will maintain a reserve (i.e., Equity Fund) of 5%. The reserve balance will be calculated based on the Adopted Budget expenditures. During closing of the books, the final reserve balance will be adjusted based on actual expenditures incurred.

Moved: Maria Martinez-Poulin

Seconded: Jonathan Vasquez

Vote: 6-0

3. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the July 16, 2020 Joint Power Board Meeting be rescheduled.

Moved: Gary Gonzales

Seconded: Maria Martinez-Poulin

Vote: 6-0

4. Nomination and Election of Officers to the Joint Powers Board

It was recommended that Gary Gonzales serve as the Joint Powers Board Chair for the 2020-2021 school year.

Moved: Marc Patterson

Seconded: Jonathan Vasquez

Vote: 6-0

It was recommended that Marc Patterson serve as the Joint Powers Board Vice Chair for the 2020-2021 school year.

Moved: Jonathan Vasquez

Seconded: Maria Martinez-Poulin

Vote: 6-0

## **I. SELPA Director Report**

Ms. Queneau thanked the Joint Powers Board for an interesting and unexpected, but great second year serving as the WACSEP Director. She shared that it has been a pleasure supporting students with disabilities across all seven districts and looked forward to the innovation and creativity of the districts in supporting students during this difficult time in the world. Additionally, she thanked Dr. Crean for serving as the Joint Powers Board chair this year and lending his knowledge and support throughout the year.

Ms. Queneau reported that WACSEP continues to work hard in planning for re-opening and supporting students in the fall. WACSEP continues to look at how to best make sure

that students and staff are safe, while providing services and conducting assessments.

#### **J. Board Member Reports**

Dr. Gary Gonzales, Superintendent of South Whittier School District, reported that the South Whittier School District was planning for their re-opening on August 13th. He was pleased to share that although the budget will be tight they will not be laying off any South Whittier employees.

Marc Patterson, Superintendent of East Whittier City School District, shared that he was pleased to report that East Whittier City School District had not had any layoffs. The district plans to open schools on August 11th and is currently in the plan development stage. They have one committee dedicated to looking at the needs of students with special needs and how the different models being considered would impact their education.

Jonathan Vasquez, Superintendent of Los Nietos School District, thanked Janet Queneau for her leadership during this trying time and looked forward to her working with Dr. Gonzales to ensure the support of all Los Nietos students. They are planning to open on August 13th and are in the process of doing their blended program and holding task force meetings. Additionally, he reported that the Los Nietos task force would soon be putting information out to their parents regarding their feedback and how it would be incorporated into their instructional program next year.

Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin, Superintendent of Whittier City School District, thanked Janet Queneau and Dr. Crean for their support. The Whittier City School District looked forward to welcoming back students and staff on August 12th. They are looking towards a hybrid program and hosting two virtual town hall meetings for families, one tonight and on June 23rd, with the intention to get feedback from the families, share the district ideas, and discuss the state and county requirements. The Whittier City School District looks forward to working in a collaborative partnership with families so they can feel confident in the safety guidelines that will be outlined and in the district providing a well rounded education for their children. Additionally, she shared that with COVID-19, everything is fluid and changing rapidly, and the information presented at the town hall meetings could change by the time they open their doors. Lastly, she looked forward to the leadership of Dr. Gonzales and the continued partnership with Janet Queneau and WACSEP so the districts may provide sustained and comprehensive supports for students with disabilities.

Martin Plourde, Superintendent of Whittier Union High School District, congratulated Janet Queneau for completing her second successful year as the WACSEP Director and thanked her for her leadership. He shared that the district will be hosting drive through graduations on each school site the week of July 20th and looked forward to celebrating students. Additionally, he reported that the district would be re-opening its doors on August 12th and is planning to have students on campus but is unsure how many will be allowed at that point in time. They will continue to be rigidly flexible with all the things that are going on and are deeply concerned about providing services for special education students; they continue to have discussions with staff about how they can

provide special education students with outstanding education and meet their needs. Lastly, he shared that transportation will be a challenge with some of the rules coming from county public health on what is allowed on buses. The Whittier Union High School District will continue to work with the partner districts to provide transportation in a safe way.

Dr. William Crean, Superintendent of Little Lake City School District, reported that they are planning for the new school year and have multiple task forces going on. He was encouraged to hear what other superintendents in the area are doing and is sure they will be reaching out to each other and opening schools as a cohesive group. Lastly, he congratulated Janet Queneau on a successful second year; he enjoyed working with her as the Joint Powers Board Chair and thanked the Joint Powers Board for their support while serving in this role.

**K. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

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](mailto:jburgos@wacsep.org) if you would like to view copies of the exhibits.