

# WHITTIER AREA COOPERATIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

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**JOINT POWERS BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 16, 2018  
9401 S. Painter Avenue, Board Room  
Whittier, California 90605  
8:30 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

**A. Opening of Meeting by Chairperson** - The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

1. Roll Call

EW, Marc Patterson - Present  
ER, Karling Aguilera - Fort-Present  
LL, William Crean, Vice Chair - Present  
LN, Jonathan Vasquez - Present  
SW, Gary Gonzales - Present  
WC, Maria Martinez-Poulin - Present  
WU, Martin Plourde, Chair- Present

**B. Closed Session** - By general consent of the Board, the Board moved into Closed Session at 8:31 a.m.

1. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Reassignment/Employment
  - a. Program Manager  
To be reported during Personnel Report.
  - b. Administrative Specialist  
To be reported during Personnel Report.
2. 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 9:23 a.m.

1. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Joint Powers Board Chair reported there was no action taken in Closed Session.

2. Approval of Agenda for the August 16, 2018 meeting

Moved: Karling Aguilera-Fort

Seconded: Gary Gonzales

Vote: 7 - 0

3. Approval of Minutes for the July 19, 2018 meeting

Moved: William Crean

Seconded: Jonathan Vasquez

Vote: 6-0, (1 Abstention - Maria Martinez-Poulin)

**D. Community Comments**

Mr. Roland Cano, a parent, shared that he appreciated that there is more transparency than when he addressed the Board last year. He shared concerns regarding difficulties navigating through the WACSEP website and made suggestions in making the website user friendly. He also addressed the Board regarding parents being unaware of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings, preventing other parents from coming in to support programs.

Ms. Jill Frieze Prado, parent advocate, shared statistics on student proficiency in Math and Language Arts in the Whittier City School Districts and expressed concern regarding teacher certification and level of expertise in Special Education. Ms. Jill Frieze Prado also commented on legal expenses and the student placement at a residential treatment center listed on the agenda. Ms. Jill Frieze Prado addressed the Board regarding the issue of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), their duties outlined on the website and concerns of the CAC not bringing concerns to their districts. Additionally, she would like the Board representatives and Directors of Special Education to attend CAC meetings. Ms. Jill Frieze Prado asked for more accountability and expressed dissatisfaction with WACSEP's timelines and her child's school district.

**E. Consent Calendar**

Moved: Jonathan Vasquez

Seconded: Karling Aguilera-Fort

Vote: 7-0

1. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the Independent Educational Evaluation Policy, updated June 2018, be approved – Final Reading.
2. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the 2017-2018 Updated Off the Top Budget as shown below be approved:

District	2017-2018 Off the Top Approved Budget (JPB Approved 2/15/18)	2017-2018 Off the Top April Update	Difference
EW	\$1,738,036.00	\$1,745,883.00	+\$7,847.00

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

Provider	Description	Dates	Cost
Janina Botchis (previously approved as Law Office of Janina Botchis)	Settlement Costs	07/01/2018 to 06/30/2018	Not to Exceed \$50,000
Carly Christopher & Evan Goldsen, Special Education Collaboration Project	Settlement Costs	07/05/2018 to 06/30/2018	Not to Exceed \$50,000
Christopher H. Knauf, Knauf Associates	Settlement Costs	07/25/2018 to 06/30/2018	Not to Exceed \$50,000

4. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the following agreements be approved for the 2018-2019 school year:

Provider	Service	Dates	Expense/Income
Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Preschool Programs	MOU with Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Preschool Programs	07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019	N/A
Azusa Pacific University School of Social Work	Updated agreement for Social Work Interns	07/01/2018 to 06/30/2021	N/A
USC School of Social Work	Updated agreement for Social Work Interns	07/01/2018 to 06/30/2021	N/A

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

<b>Conference/Workshop</b>	<b>Person(s) Authorized</b>	<b>Expense (Per Person)</b>
Diamond Ranch Academy Hurricane, UT to Whittier, CA July 26-28, 2018	Travel for Parent to RTC for student graduation	Registration: \$ 0.00  Related Expenses: \$ 992.00  Total: \$ 992.00
Diamond Ranch Academy Hurricane, UT to Whittier, CA August 4-6, 2018	SSID# 4664331325 Travel for RTC Student	Registration: \$ 0.00  Related Expenses: \$ 1,223.00  Total: \$ 1,223.00
School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities Local Educational Agency Coordinator Meeting Downey, CA August 16, 2018	America Saisho, Administrative Specialist	Registration: \$ 0.00  Related Expenses: \$ 15.00  Total: \$ 15.00
Conquering Budgets Ventura, CA September 20, 2018	America Saisho, Administrative Specialist	Registration: \$ 325.00  Related Expenses: \$ 81.75  Total: \$ 406.75
New Directors Training/Bootcamp Sacramento, CA October 2-3, 2018	Janet Queneau, Executive Director	Registration: \$ 0.00  Related Expenses: \$ 512.28  Total: \$ 512.28

## F. Personnel Report

1. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the following staffing needs for the 2018-2019 school year be approved:

Position	Reason	Cost
Program Manager	Karla Rahiman, start date to be announced	Based on Salary Schedule
Administrative Specialist	Increase to 100%, effective November 1, 2018	Based on Salary Schedule

Moved: Marc Patterson  
Seconded: Maria Martinez-Poulin  
Vote: 7-0

## G. New Business

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

Provider	Description	Dates	Cost
Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health (Florida)	Residential Treatment Center	08/16/2018 to 06/30/2019	Not to Exceed \$350,000

Moved: Gary Gonzales  
Seconded: William Crean  
Vote: 7-0

## H. SELPA Director Report

Janet Queneau shared that WACSEP staff was welcomed back on-site on August 13, 2018. WACSEP will continue to work to create goals that support students within the SELPA.

Janet Queneau stated that several WACSEP staff were highly involved in a Whittier Union High School District Transportation department training that took place the previous week. The staff did a great job and bus drivers were trained in several areas such as behavior, orthopedic needs, health and safety, and special education. Bus drivers were highly engaged throughout the training.

Janet Queneau announced that there will be a Coordinating Council Retreat on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at WACSEP. She will share more information regarding the retreat at the next meeting.

Janet Queneau shared that WACSEP has assembled a Safety Committee which is working towards making the campus safe and the environment a good place to be in.

### **I. Board Member Reports**

Jonathan Vasquez, Superintendent of Los Nietos School District, had no report.

Marc Patterson, Superintendent of East Whittier City School District, thanked the WACSEP team for a job well done on the Transportation department training.

Maria Martinez-Poulin, Superintendent of Whittier City School District, shared that she was new to the district and welcomed the community to Whittier City School District. She expressed thanks for the welcoming she received and was humbled by the community's support.

William Crean, Superintendent of Little Lake City School District, shared that transportation went well and that summer school was seamless.

Gary Gonzalez, Superintendent of South Whittier School District, reported that South Whittier City District schools had a great first day of school.

Karling Aguilera-Fort, Superintendent of El Rancho Unified School District, had no report.

Martin Plourde, Superintendent of Whittier Union High School District, reported that the majority of the bus driver positions had been filled and the Transportation department had begun to transport students which was off to a good start. He reminded the Board that Monica Rodriguez would serve as the transportation liaison with the districts. Martin Plourde shared information regarding the technology that would soon be incorporated on buses to continue to increase student safety. Additionally, he spoke about the possibility of adding a bus driving training course to the adult school program in the future in hopes of that leading to employment opportunities with Whittier Union High School District upon completion.

**J. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 AM.