

WHITTIER AREA COOPERATIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

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JANET QUENEAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Joint Powers Board Regular Meeting
August 18, 2021
9:00 AM
9401 S. Painter Avenue, Board Room
Whittier, CA 90605**

MINUTES

A. Opening of Meeting by Chairperson - The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

1. Roll Call

EW, Marc Patterson, Chair - Present

ER, Frances Esparza, Vice Chair - Present (left at 10:02 a.m.)

LL, William Crean - Absent

LN, Jonathan Vasquez - Present

SW, Gary Gonzales - Present

WC, Alan Rasmussen and Richard Tauer - Present (arrived at 9:07 a.m.)**

WU, Martin Plourde - Present

**Mr. Tauer was designated as the voting Superintendent for Whittier City School District for this meeting.

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

*Dr. Alan Rasmussen and Mr. Richard Tauer arrived at 9:07 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.

*Dr. Frances Esparza left the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

C. Reconvene Meeting - The meeting reconvened at 10:06 a.m.

1. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

No reportable action.

2. Approval of Agenda for August 18, 2021 meeting

Moved: Jonathan Vasquez
Seconded: Gary Gonzales
Vote: 5-0

3. Approval of Minutes for June 30, 2021 meeting

Moved: Martin Plourde
Seconded: Jonathan Vasquez
Vote: 4-0 (1 Abstention - Richard Tauer)

D. Community Comments

There were no community comments.

E. Consent Calendar

Moved: Gary Gonzales
Seconded: Martin Plourde
Vote: 5-0

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

Provider	Description	Dates	Cost
Access Avenue [Exhibit E.1]	WACSEP Website Design, Development, Web Hosting, and Programming	09/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	Not to Exceed \$ 14,850
The Stepping Stones Group, LLC (Formerly Pediatric Therapy Services)	Speech and Language Services and Assessments	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022	Not to Exceed \$500,000

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

Count	Description/Brand Mfg.	Serial No.	Asset Tag #
1	Brother HL-6180DW	U63083C5N969013	NA
1	Dell Latitude 131L Laptop	7385BC1	35833
1	Dell Latitude E5410	JV4X5N1	41101
1	Dell Latitude E5430	8Y5MXW1	44863
1	Dell Latitude E5570	2JSHTF2	58956
1	Dell Latitude E5470	3NCRJC2	58362
1	Dell Optiplex 3010 Desktop	DZ2LSW1	44839
1	HP LaserJet P1006	NVND3B69955	NA
1	HP LaserJet P1505n	VND3C00416	NA
1	Kodak ESP 3250 All-in-One Printer	E302878	NA
2	Microsys Desktop	351411003 & 351370005	NA
1	No Brand Desktop	N/A	N/A
3	PC Unlimited Desktop	148500, 148227 & 148497	NA

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

Conference/Workshop	Person(s) Authorized	Expense (Per Person)
Parent Travel to Mountain Valley Child Family Services (Residential Treatment Center/Short-Term Residential Treatment Program) Nevada City, CA September 30 - October 02, 2021	Christie Rios, Parent	Registration: \$ 0.00
		Related Expenses: \$ 1,200.00
		Total: \$ 1,200.00

F. Personnel Report

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

Position	Reason	Cost
Behavior Specialist	Resignation of Artemisa Torres, Effective July 14, 2021	Based on Salary Schedule
Mental Health Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Resignation of Stephanie Meza, Effective July 30, 2021	Based on Salary Schedule

Moved: Jonathan Vasquez
Seconded: Gary Gonzales
Vote: 5-0

2. It is recommended that the amendment to the employment contract for J. Queneau, Executive Director of WACSEP, be approved as provided under separate cover. [Exhibit F.2]

Moved: Martin Plourde
Seconded: Gary Gonzales
Vote: 5-0

3. It is recommended that the amendment to the employment contracts for D. Barber and J. Rytky, Legal Counsel of WACSEP, be approved as provided under separate cover. [Exhibit F.3]

Moved: Gary Gonzales
Seconded: Jonathan Vasquez
Vote: 5-0

G. New Business

No New Business items.

H. SELPA Director Report

Ms. Queneau welcomed back the Joint Powers Board to in-person meetings. She reported that WACSEP staff supported the districts through the extended school year (ESY). Additionally, WACSEP staff conducted assessments throughout the summer. She reported that all WACSEP staff were back from summer break and had started to support students throughout the member districts. Currently, WACSEP is reviewing Headstart restrictions to prepare to begin providing speech services as soon as they are able to enter the Headstart sites.

Ms. Queneau shared that WACSEP worked hard to ensure WACSEP staff has a safe environment to return to and has begun SELPA-wide trainings using all appropriate precautions.

Ms. Queneau also reported that the 2021-22 budget has an increase in special education funding. This is great news, and is greatly needed to support students with disabilities.

Ms. Queneau welcomed both Whittier City School District Interim Superintendents, Mr. Richard Tauer and Dr. Alan Rasmussen and thanked them for their support. Additionally, she informed them of the new DHH program at Walter Dexter Middle School.

Board Member Reports

Martin Plourde, Superintendent of Whittier Union High School District, reported that schools opened last week. He welcomed the Whittier City School District's Interim Superintendents to the Joint Powers Board.

Dr. Gary Gonzales, Superintendent of South Whittier School District, welcomed the Whittier City School District Interim Superintendents. He reported that the district had hired several new staff members including a new associate superintendent, chief business officer, director of assessment and accountability and a middle school principal. Additionally, he thanked Ms. Diana Huizar, Director of Special Education, for doing a great job with special education. Lastly, he shared that schools opened and the district would maintain a close watch on COVID-19 safety protocols.

Jonathan Vasquez, Superintendent of Los Nietos School District, welcomed Mr. Richard Tauer and Dr. Alan Rasmussen to the Joint Powers Board and looked forward to working with them. He thanked Mr. Martin Plourde for his staff's support with COVID safety protocols. Lastly, he shared that he looked forward to seeing the new WACSEP website be an additional resource for parents.

Richard Tauer, Interim Superintendent of Whittier City School District, thanked the Joint Powers Board for the warm welcome. He commended the Joint Powers Board for their work in navigating through such a difficult time in education. He reported that the district had begun its search for a permanent superintendent that will be a good fit for the Whittier City School District. Dr. Rasmussen echoed Mr. Richard Tauer's report.

Marc Patterson, Superintendent of East Whittier City School District, reported that 8,200 students returned to in person instruction and 220 students enrolled in the virtual academy or homeschool programs. He also welcomed Mr. Richard Tauer and Dr. Alan Rasmussen to the Joint Powers Board.

I. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Moved: Jonathan Vasquez

Seconded: Gary Gonzales

Vote: 5-0

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