

WHITTIER AREA COOPERATIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

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JANET QUENEAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Joint Powers Board Regular Meeting
September 15, 2021
9:00 AM
9401 S. Painter Ave., Board Room
Whittier, CA 90605**

MINUTES

A. Opening of Meeting by Chairperson - The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Roll Call

EW, Marc Patterson, Chair - Present
ER, Frances Esparza, Vice Chair - Present (Arrived at 9:09 a.m.)
LL, William Crean - Present
LN, Jonathan Vasquez - Present
SW, Gary Gonzales - Present
WC, Richard Tauer - Absent
WU, Martin Plourde - Present

B. Closed Session - By general consent of the Board, the Board moved into Closed Session at 9:00 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 meeting reconvened at 9:21 a.m.

1. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

No reportable action.

2. Approval of Agenda for September 15, 2021 meeting

Moved: Gary Gonzales
Seconded: William Crean
Vote: 6-0

3. Approval of Minutes for June 30, 2021 meeting

Moved: Martin Plourde
Seconded: Jonathan Vasquez
Vote: 6-0

4. Approval of Minutes for August 18, 2021 meeting

Moved: Frances Esparza
Seconded: Gary Gonzalez
Vote: 5-0 (1 Abstention - William Crean)

D. Community Comments

Community member, Ms. Jill Frieze Prado, spoke to the Joint Powers Board (JPB) about the number of identified students with disabilities. She shared multiple suggestions to the Board regarding Spanish translations, posting of JPB Meetings, and representation at JPB Meetings. She also commented on the duration of previous closed sessions, as well as equitable access, continuity of service, and loss of learning from the pandemic. Lastly, she discussed being proactive with the budget.

Consent Calendar

Moved: Frances Esparza

Seconded: Martin Plourde
Vote: 6-0

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

Provider	Description	Dates	Cost
Avidex [Exhibit E.1]	Audio/Visual Installation for Multi-Purpose Room and Two Training Rooms	9/16/21 to 06/30/2022	Not to exceed \$90,000.00

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	HP Officejet 100 Mobile Printer	MY27T910TD	NA

1	Dell Optiplex 3010	G2N3H02	46213
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3. It is the recommendation of the SELPA Director that the following travel requests be approved:

Conference/Workshop	Person(s) Authorized	Expense (Per Person)
California Autism Professional Training and Information Network (CAPTAIN) Summit 2021 Riverside, CA November 1-2, 2021	Vira Caro-Michel, Behavior Specialist Inger Johnson-Quezada, Behavior Liaison Lisa Torres, Program Specialist	Registration: \$ 0.00 Related Expenses: \$ 423.00 Total: \$ 423.00
Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Every Child Counts Symposium 2022 Palm Desert, CA January 12-14, 2022	Janet Queneau, Executive Director	Registration: \$ 250.00 Related Expenses: \$ 790.00 Total: \$1,040.00
Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Every Child Counts Symposium 2022 Palm Desert, CA January 12-14, 2022	Karla Rahiman, Program Manager Kristine Ramos, Program Manager Kristin Smoot-Guerrero, SELPA Liaison	Registration: \$ 550.00 Related Expenses: \$ 950.00 Total: \$1,500.00

E. Personnel Report

No personnel report item.

F. New Business

No new business item.

G. SELPA Director Report

Ms. Janet Queneau complimented the districts for opening schools with safety in mind. She shared that WACSEP staff is working diligently supporting students on campuses. She thanked program managers, Karla Rahiman and Kristine Ramos, for overseeing trainings for district staff. Additionally, she shared that WACSEP is working on a new website platform to post resources; recent trainings for parents are currently linked on the WACSEP website. She also commented that SELPA Administrators of California has

created a new Facebook page and is also working on updating their website.

H. Board Member Reports

Martin Plourde, Superintendent of Whittier Union High School District, shared that Frontier High School was selected as a model continuation school and Marty Martin was selected as teacher of the year by the Continuation Education Association. He reported that the district continues to track COVID cases and conduct contact tracing. Lastly, he reported that approximately 87% of district staff are vaccinated.

Dr. Gary Gonzales, Superintendent of South Whittier School District, reported that the district had its first in person Board meeting and was excited to feel a sense of normalcy. Additionally, he shared that the district is beginning COVID testing for students and employees next week; the district staff vaccination rate is at about 85%.

Dr. Frances Esparza, Superintendent of El Rancho Unified School District, reported that the district is currently working on the use of the funding from the American Rescue Plan and monies from congresswoman Linda Sanchez, identifying the money for special education to provide equity and access. She reported that the special education department staff is meeting weekly to ensure everyone understands what is coming from state and local government to improve practices in the district. Additionally, she shared that the district has a mass amount of amplification systems for the classrooms and all teachers received new LED screens. She shared that the district was the finalist for the CSBA golden bell award for mental health services; the services provided have been amazing through the pandemic, and pre-pandemic. Lastly, she reported that the district is COVID testing staff regularly, providing vaccination clinics, and is currently working on providing booster shots in the future.

Dr. William Crean, Superintendent of Little Lake City School District, reported that the district opened the year with a district-wide staff development on trauma given by the California State University of Long Beach. It was a great training and teachers are reporting using information from the training in the classrooms. Lastly, he shared that the district began their voluntary COVID testing for both students and staff.

Jonathan Vasquez, Superintendent of Los Nietos School District, reported starting the year with a day-long social emotional training for all staff members with lessons on how to better support students. He shared that all COVID protocols are in place and was happy to report this was the third week with no new COVID cases reported. Classrooms were modified, with additional sinks added, as well as a new sound system, which will have a good impact for students and staff and help with difficulties with the masks. Lastly, the district is about two weeks away from having a testing program and over 80% are vaccinated.

Marc Patterson, Superintendent of East Whittier City School District, reported that the district has received a lot of additional funding around health and safety for all campuses which included additional custodians, math interventionists, instructional assistants and social workers. The district has rolled out Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for students

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and has partnered with LA Insight which offers free trainings on mindfulness and relaxation for staff. The district has also partnered with CAUSE who supports families with students with special needs and will be putting on Spooktacular in collaboration with them. Additionally, he shared that the district Director of Special Education is forming a district version of the Community Advisory Committee to discuss things going on in the district. Lastly, he shared that the Special Children's League will be holding a Bunco fundraiser to help the community.

I. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Moved: Gary Gonzales

Seconded: Frances Esparza

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