

WHITTIER AREA COOPERATIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

PHONE: (562) 945-6431
FAX: (562) 945-5855

8036 SOUTH OCEAN VIEW AVENUE, WHITTIER, CA 90602

JANET QUENEAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joint Powers Board Regular Meeting

September 23, 2020

9:30 AM

(Due to "safer-at-home order," meeting will be conducted on-line only)

**8036 Ocean View
Whittier, CA 90602**

MINUTES

A. Opening of Meeting by Chairperson- The meeting was called to order at 9:42 a.m.

1. Roll Call

EW, Marc Patterson, Vice Chair - Present

ER, Frances Esparza - Present

LL, William Crean - Present

LN, Jonathan Vasquez - Present

SW, Gary Gonzales, Chair - Present

WC, Maria Martinez-Poulin - Present

WU, Martin Plourde - Present

B. Closed Session- By general consent of the Board, the Board moved into Closed Session at 9:43 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.

C. Reconvene Meeting - The meeting reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

1. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

No reportable action.

2. Approval of Agenda for September 23, 2020 meeting

Moved: Martin Plourde
Seconded: Maria Martinez-Poulin
Vote: 7-0

3. Approval of Minutes for August 25, 2020 meeting

Moved: Frances Esparza
Seconded: Martin Plourde
Vote: 7-0

D. Community Comments

Ms. Leticia Pintado, a parent, commented regarding the lack of speech services for her daughter. She inquired regarding the change in services from the beginning of school closures to now and commented on the importance of speech services to the student's communication skill and progress within the curriculum. She hoped that she could receive direction as to the expectation for the provision of speech services.

E. Consent Calendar

Moved: Jonathan Vasquez
Seconded: Marc Patterson
Vote: 7-0

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

Provider	Description	Dates	Cost
Bellflower Unified School District	MOU with Bellflower Unified School District for DHH Regional Programs	07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021	+\$26,579.35/ student

F. Personnel Report

No personnel report items.

G. New Business

No new business items.

H. Future Meeting Dates

The Joint Powers Board Meetings will take place at 9:00 AM on the following dates:
October 28, 2020
December 2, 2020
January 13, 2021
February 3, 2021
March 31, 2021
April 21, 2021
May 19, 2021
June 30, 2021

The meeting dates and times will be posted on the WACSEP website.

I. SELPA Director Report

Ms. Queneau shared that the WACSEP Behavior and Mental Health Departments worked collaboratively to put together a parent training series. The trainings will be a 30 to 45 minute virtual meeting with time for parent questions, each will focus on one strategy. The trainings will be held in English at 5 p.m. followed by in Spanish at 6 p.m. on the same days. The first training will take place on September 30, 2020. WACSEP is emailing the flyers to parents and working with member districts to have the flyer posted on their websites. Additionally, she shared that the CAC Board was also excited about the topics and was part of their request to have parent trainings around behavior and working with their own children at home during this unprecedented time.

Ms. Queneau reported that the CAC Board elected a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the 20-21 school year. She shared that Ms. Gloria Ruiz had completed her term according to bylaws as Chair but would be continuing as a Board member. Additionally, she announced the new Chairperson, Hilda Lopez, parent representative from East Whittier City School District and the new Vice Chairperson, Veronica Ramirez, parent representative from El Rancho Unified School District.

Lastly, Ms. Queneau reported that the SELPA is working diligently to support students virtually and prepare for the eventuality of returning to in-person instruction.

J. Board Member Reports

Marc Patterson, Superintendent of East Whittier City School District, thanked Ms. Queneau for her responsiveness and putting together the Parent Workshop Series.

Dr. Frances Esparza, Superintendent of El Rancho Unified School District, thanked Ms. Queneau for presenting at the El Rancho Unified School District Board meeting. She shared that the Board was happy to hear about all that the SELPA has to offer and for supporting with the parent workshops.

Dr. William Crean, Superintendent of Little Lake City School District, thanked Ms. Queneau for her work on the Special Education Plan and the new Joint Powers Agreement.

Jonathan Vasquez, Superintendent of Los Nietos School District, thanked Ms. Queneau and the WACSEP team for facilitating the parent workshops. The district has been advertising the upcoming parent workshops and hopes for good turnout of parents from the Los Nietos School District. He would be encouraging parents to sign up. Additionally, he thanked Mr. Barber and Mr. Rytky for their responsiveness and great work they are doing for the districts.

Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin, Superintendent of Whittier City School District, thanked Ms. Queneau and the WACSEP staff for the efforts in drafting a plan to get the best action and support for students across the Whittier area. Additionally, she thanked the Joint Powers Board for the collaboration as they learn about the blueprint for a safer economy and are given direction from the state and the county as to how districts can open up to small cohorts or to hybrid in a safe environment.

Martin Plourde, Superintendent of Whittier Union High School District, thanked Ms. Queneau for keeping the Joint Powers Board focused on the importance of special needs students, working with the Directors of Special Education, and taking into consideration the finances. Additionally, he shared information about Whittier Union Transportation, and requested that the districts, who use Whittier Union for transportation, keep in contact with that department for their current and upcoming needs; this includes planning for bringing students back, as well as support with getting meals to families.

Dr. Gary Gonzales, Superintendent of South Whittier School District, thanked the WACSEP staff for the parent workshop opportunity. Additionally, he thanked the new Director of Special Education, Diana Huizar, and the South Whittier School District staff for doing a wonderful job in dealing with the uniqueness of the pandemic.

K. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 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 if you would like to view copies of the exhibits.

JOINT POWERS BOARD
MINUTES
September 23, 2020