

SUPERINTENDENTS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TULARE COUNTY MASTER PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

MINUTES

April 28, 2009

The Superintendent's Governance Committee met on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, in the Board Room of the Tulare County Office of Education.

MEMBERS PRESENT: **John Beck**, Superintendent, Tulare City Elementary; **Howard Berger**, Superintendent, Tulare Joint Union High; **Stan Carrizosa**, Superintendent, Visalia Unified; **David DePaoli**, Superintendent, Strathmore Union Elementary; **Tim Hire**, Superintendent, Woodlake Union; **Janet Jones**, Superintendent, Farmersville Unified; **Dr. Carolyn Kehrli**, Superintendent, Cutler-Orosi Unified; **Janet Kliegl**, Superintendent, Lindsay Unified; **Jerry Sessions**, Superintendent, Dinuba Unified; **Dr. Marcella Smith**, Superintendent, Earlimart Elementary; **Sue Sherwood**, Superintendent, Three Rivers Union Elementary; **Jim Vidak**, County Superintendent, Tulare County; **Dr. Marilyn Rankin**, Assistant Superintendent/SELPA Administrator, Tulare County.

MEMBERS ABSENT: **Dr. Gary Mekeel**, Superintendent, Burton Elementary; **Dr. John Snavelly**, Superintendent, Porterville Unified; **Renée Whitson**, Superintendent, Exeter Union.

OTHERS PRESENT: LINDSAY UNIFIED: **Suzzane Terrill**, DOSE Representative to SGC; TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION: **Scott Alrich**, Program Manager, Speech and Language Services, **Norma Erwin**, Parent Liaison, **Bob May**, Program Manager, Severely Handicapped Program, **Jill Santivanez**, Program Manager, Severely Handicapped Program, **Kaye van Gilluwe**, Administrator, Student Support Services.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Janet Jones, Chairperson, opened the meeting to public comment. No public comment was made.

INTRODUCTIONS: Janet Jones, Chairperson, indicated Frank M. Chavez, Superintendent, Richgrove Elementary and Saddle Nishitani, Ed.D., Superintendent, Pixley Union Elementary were invited to the meeting as visiting superintendents but could not attend.

REVIEW OF SGC PACKET: Dr. Marilyn Rankin, Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, and SELPA Administrator, reviewed the Superintendent's Governance Committee agenda packet with the superintendents. Items included were:

- CASEMIS Special Education Enrollment Data – April
- Understanding Minority Disproportionality – Assessment and IQ Testing – Marilyn reviewed the use of IQ-discrepancy criterion during the assessment process. The excerpt from the LRP publication *Understanding Minority Disproportionality* points out these assessments have little instructional relevance and often result in delays in determining eligibility and therefore services.
- Article of Interest – ABA-Based Instruction – this article pointed out that OAH ruled in one case that a school may select the methodology of instruction it chooses if the chosen methodology shows results in the child's academic progress.

GUEST PRESENTERS: Bob May and Jill Santivanez, Program Managers, Tulare County Office of Education, Severely Handicapped Program gave a presentation on the severely handicapped program within TCOE and how this program differs from district programs. Bob indicated most students attending TCOE programs have very intense needs, are in the moderate to severe range of mental retardation, and have severe cognitive delays. These students are significantly below average intellectual functioning with commensurate delay of adaptive behavior. This is defined as 2 standard deviations below the mean which equals less than a 70 standard score. In district programs, more students are in the mild range of mental retardation. Bob indicated in TCOE programs, it is not a question of eligibility but a question of need. Jill gave an example of two students with same IQ score, but one would likely require SH services while the other student can learn to navigate their environment, i.e. classroom, desk, bathroom, and achieve some level of independence due to higher verbal communication skills, processing speed, and greater adaptive behavior skills. Jill indicated it is hard to identify the level of mental retardation in preschool due to developmental expectations and parents wanting to include their child. However, by the time the child progresses to 6th and 7th grade, cognition and adaptive behavior expectations increase, the delay becomes a more significant impact and the student will likely require different curriculum and alternate goals. In the severely handicapped program, education continues until age 22, and an adult program will be required for supported employment and/or care. Jill reviewed the typical student goals of severely handicapped students, and the superintendents viewed a video on a lesson for circle time in one of the County classrooms. The superintendents were provided the referral form for the Severely Handicapped Program which includes contact information for both Bob and Jill.

Scott Aldrich, Program Manager, Speech and Language Services, gave a presentation on caseload management for speech and language services as related to designing an effective delivery service model. Scott gave an example of San Diego County utilizing the *Communication Severity Scales (CSS)* to ensure consistency in determining entrance and exit criteria for SL placement. He indicated there is a difference between services in a clinical versus educational setting. Scott reviewed California Education Code 56333 which pointed out the key language of “adversely affects his or her educational performance and cannot be corrected without special education and related services”. Consideration also needs to be given to disorder versus delay. Does the articulation, fluency, or voice disorder adversely affect the student’s educational performance? Scott reviewed the *Communication Severity Scales* which are guidelines for the IEP team to consider in determining the type, frequency, duration, and location of speech/language services. Service must be provided in the least restrictive environment. Scott reviewed the question of “Are duplicated services necessary?” If a student is receiving both Resource Specialist and Speech and Language services, couldn’t his language difficulties be addressed within the RSP program thus minimizing the impact on removal from the general education setting? There was group discussion on how far does the expertise of the general education teacher go and how much can they do. A student with a speech/language disability could have his needs addressed in a language-enriched classroom. Students learn better in the natural classroom. Janet Kliegl noted that implementing a phonic awareness program in K-1 proves to lessen articulation issues later on. Scott reviewed articulation errors and whether they adversely affect education performance. Scott pointed out that students with severe speech disorders such as severe apraxia get more service once eligibility and caseloads are reviewed and resources (staff) are reallocated to provide the appropriate service to students. Scott indicated that referrals to Sp and Lang should be reviewed by the site principal and the student study team before being sent to a Sp and Lang Specialist. Scott is reviewing the caseloads for speech and language services SELPA-wide.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the March 24, 2009 Superintendent's Governance Committee Meeting were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Janet Kliegl and seconded by David DePaoli to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER – MILD TO MODERATE: Kaye van Gilluwe, Administrator, Student Support Services and Assistant SELPA Administrator, reviewed the proposed shift from the Resource Specialist title to that of Special Education Teacher – Mild to Moderate. The superintendents were provided a position paper on the shift as well as the job description being implemented by TCOE. This change is less restrictive and allows for more latitude with the changing roles. There is no caseload size requirement with the Special Education Teacher title and the Resource Specialist job description has become outdated. The Special Education Teacher – Mild to Moderate still requires the Education Specialist Instruction Credential, but not the Resource Specialist certificate.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT 2009-2010: Kaye van Gilluwe, Administrator, Student Support Services and Assistant SELPA Administrator, asked the superintendents for input on staff development for 2009-2010. It was suggested that some in-services be held during the summer to alleviate possible substitute issues; however, with layoffs, this may not be as big of an issue this year. A portion of the stimulus dollars will be used to support staff development. Janet Jones noted appreciation for the efforts of the County and indicated workshops are very professional. Superintendents indicated they would like options and choices in dates for workshops over the summer, and during winter and spring breaks.

DOSE REPORT: Suzzane Terrill, representative from the Directors of Special Education Committee to the Superintendent's Governance Committee, reported on the April DOSE meeting (See April 20, 2009 minutes). Suzzane noted one agenda item was review of the Suspension and Expulsion Flowcharts. The superintendents requested receipt of these by email.

VISALIA UNIFIED'S SEVERELY HANDICAPPED ADJUSTMENT ALLOCATION: Stan Carrizosa, Superintendent, Visalia Unified, indicated his district once had a fully operating severely handicapped program, but after ten to fifteen years, the program has evolved into many different settings. After studying the current student population, he feels it is fair to add the VUSD special allocation to the funds to be distributed to districts based on ADA.

A motion was made by Stan Carrizosa and seconded by John Beck to approve the discontinuance of the separate severely handicapped adjustment allocation for Visalia Unified. The motion carried unanimously.

2009-2010 FEDERAL STIMULUS ESTIMATE AND SUMMARY OF FUNDS TO

BUDGET: In the absence of Patty Blaswich, Director, Internal Business, Dr. Marilyn Rankin, Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, and SELPA Administrator, presented a revised Stimulus Estimate for 2009-2010 taking TCOE out of the allocation as recommended at last SGC meeting. A Summary of Funds to Budget for 2009-2010 was also presented with the revised stimulus allocation as well as the removal of the severely handicapped allocation adjustment for Visalia Unified.

A motion was made by Janet Kliegl and seconded by Sue Sherwood to approve the revised funding exhibits for 2009-2010 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AD HOC COMMITTEES: Janet Jones, Chairperson, reviewed the role and responsibility of the SGC Ad Hoc Committees. The superintendents requested that the committees remain the same and that the Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee remain intact to keep the dialogue open with the County Mental Health Department. With the retirement of Jerry Sessions and John Beck, Dr. Carolyn Kehrli and Howard Berger will join the Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee.

REQUESTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR SUPPLEMENTARY SERVICES TO HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS IN DISTRICT PROGRAMS FOR 2008-2009: Dr. Marilyn Rankin, Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, and SELPA Administrator, presented the submitted requests from districts for reimbursement of supplementary services to hearing impaired students in district programs for the superintendents' review and approval. While the expenditures have increased 66% to \$937,528, the number the students receiving services has also increased 59%.

A motion was made by Sue Sherwood and seconded by Tim Hire to approve requests for reimbursement for supplementary services to hearing impaired students in district programs for 2008-2009 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

LOW INCIDENCE EXPENDITURES FOR 2008-2009: Dr. Marilyn Rankin, Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, and SELPA Administrator, presented the low incidence expenditures as of April 8th for 2008-2009 which totaled \$134,669.

DUE PROCESS ATTORNEY/SETTLEMENT FEES FOR 2008-2009: Dr. Marilyn Rankin, Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, and SELPA Administrator, indicated that to date there are no due process attorney/settlement fees for 2008-2009 to report.

ELECTION OF SGC CHAIRPERSON FOR 2009-2010: Janet Jones, Chairperson, opened the meeting for nominations for a chairperson for the Superintendent's Governance Committee Meeting for 2009-2010. The group nominated Janet Jones for a second year.
A motion was made by Dr. Carolyn Kehrli and seconded by John Beck to approve the nomination and appointment of Janet Jones as Chairperson for the SGC for 2009-2010. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be the Annual Joint Luncheon Meeting of the Superintendents Governance Committee, Directors of Special Education Committee and the Community Advisory Committee on Thursday, May 14, 2009, at 12 noon at the Holiday Inn in Visalia.

HANDOUTS: AGENDA ITEM HANDOUTS: Referral to Severely Handicapped Program Form; Caseload Management Speech and Language Services – Issues to Consider for Designing an Effective Delivery Service Model PowerPoint Presentation by Scott Aldrich; ; Draft minutes of the March 24, 2009 Superintendent's Governance Committee meeting; Special Education Teacher - Mild to Moderate Position Paper; Tulare County Office of Education Job Description – Special Education Teacher/ Mild-Moderate (2929); Special Education Stimulus Estimate 2009-2010 Revised; Special Education Summary of Funds to Budget 2009-2010 Revised; Superintendent's Governance Committee Ad Hoc Committees 2008-2009; Reimbursement Requests for Supplementary Services for Hearing Impaired Students in Districts 2008-2009; Low Incidence Equipment/Material Requests 2008-2009 School Year.

MISCELLANEOUS HANDOUTS: CASEMIS Special Education Enrollment Data – April; *Understanding Minority Disproportionality – Assessment and IQ Testing* – LRP; Article of Interest – *Child’s Progress Undermines Parents’ Request for ABA-Based Instruction*.

Janet Jones, Chairperson
Superintendents Governance Committee

Marilyn Rankin, Chief Administrative Officer
Superintendents Governance Committee