

SUPERINTENDENTS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TULARE COUNTY MASTER PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

MINUTES

February 22, 2011

The Superintendent's Governance Committee met on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, in the Board Room of the Tulare County Office of Education.

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Howard Berger**, Superintendent, Tulare Joint Union High; **Luis Castellanoz**, Superintendent, Tulare City Elementary; **Dr. Joe Hernandez**, Superintendent, Dinuba Unified; **Tim Hire**, Superintendent, Woodlake Union; **Janet Jones**, Superintendent, Farmersville Unified; **Janet Kliegl**, Superintendent, Lindsay Unified; **Terri Rufert**, Superintendent, Sundale Union Elementary; **Jim Vidak**, County Superintendent, Tulare County; **Dr. Craig Wheaton**, Superintendent, Visalia Unified; **Renée Whitson**, Superintendent, Exeter Union; and **Dr. Marilyn Rankin**, Assistant Superintendent/SELPA Administrator, Tulare County.

MEMBERS ABSENT: **Dr. Carolyn Kehrli**, Superintendent, Cutler-Orosi Unified; **Dr. Gary Mekeel**, Superintendent, Burton Elementary; **Sandra Munoz**, Superintendent, Earlimart Elementary; **Connie Owens**, Superintendent, Springville Union Elementary; and **Dr. John Snavelly**, Superintendent, Porterville Unified.

OTHERS PRESENT: **BURTON ELEMENTARY:** **Kathleen Daguman**, DOSE Representative to SGC; **CUTLER-OROSI UNIFIED:** **Gary Sanchez**, Director of Special Education; **EXETER UNION ELEMENTARY:** **Diane Graziani-Orton**, Deputy Superintendent; **TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION:** **Stephanie Caldera**, Parent/School Liaison; and **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 two guest superintendents, Frank Betry, Terra Bella Union and John Manning, Palo Verde Union, were invited but unable to 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 – January – Marilyn pointed out that the District-served students are represented on the blue side with TCOE-served on the yellow side by grade and by disability. Often times these enrollment numbers represent the district's philosophy behind identifying students.
- *AB 3632 Litigation Update* from Attorneys Dannis Woliver Kelley dated February 14, 2011 – This update reviews three pending cases surrounding the unfunded/suspended mandate for services to emotionally disturbed students who are eligible for mental health services in order to make educational progress under AB 3632.
- *State SELPA Administrators Finance Committee Report*, February 2011 – A review of the 2011-12 Governor's Budget Proposal and Fact Sheet was included.

GUEST PRESENTER: Diane Graziani-Orton, Deputy Superintendent, Exeter Public Schools gave a presentation on how Response to Instruction (RtI²) was implemented beginning in general education in her district. Over 8 years ago, the district looked at their CMT scores and realized reading was not where it should be within the elementary grades. They started with implementing three benchmarks each year that mirrored the CSTs. Then 6 years ago, they increased the benchmarks to implementation every 6 weeks. Next, DIBELs was implemented in grades 1-6 and the Reading Fluency Model (RFM) in grades 7 and 8. This allowed the district to collect powerful data from which to draw conclusions. Four years ago, Reading Mastery was introduced for all students in grades 1 through 5 which is a direct instruction model. At this time the district began to see that the dip in reading scores at the third grade level was less than it had been in the past.

Diane also reviewed what each tier looks like. In Tier 1, every classroom has differentiated instruction and an intervention block. The intervention block is where the teacher with the most experience/success in that subject teaches that particular block. They also have an academic academy and CAHSEE bootcamp. She also discussed the Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) which allow teacher collaboration, planning, and discussion of student performance on a weekly basis. This collaboration includes review of the assessment data, lesson planning, homework packets, and review of curriculum. Diane also reviewed sample assessment data for a single classroom as well as a summary for a grade level. Overall, the district is 16% more proficient or advanced in each grade over the last six years with the successful implementation of RtI. Diane also noted the company that developed the assessments from the district's blueprint is Intel-Assess, Inc.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the January 18, 2011 Special Superintendent's Governance Committee Meeting were presented for approval.

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

PARENT LIAISON REPORT: Stephanie Caldera, Parent/School Liaison, shared with the superintendents a success story which was a result of the efforts of the team of parent liaisons as well as district staff. Stephanie indicated this particular case involved a parent that is also an employee at a Special Day Class. The child displayed typical signs of autism; however, the father was not open to having the child assessed initially. After discussions, Bright Future was able to do an assessment and begin services to the child. The parents' emotions turned to advocacy for their child and they were able to understand what their child's needs were educationally.

TULARE COUNTY/DISTRICT SELPA ANNUAL BUDGET PLAN FOR 2010-2011:

Dr. Marilyn Rankin, Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, and SELPA Administrator, presented the SELPA's Annual Budget Plan for 2010-2011 on the template required by CDE. The annual budget plan will be presented at a public hearing before the County Board at their March meeting for adoption and will then be submitted to CDE by the March 31st deadline. Clarification on how this CDE report compares to the total SELPA expenditures will be provided at the next SGC meeting as this report only depicts expenditures of the SELPA and not pass-through funds to districts and their associated expenditures.

A motion was made by Tim Hire and seconded by Jim Vidak to approve the SELPA Annual Budget Plan for 2010-2011 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

TULARE COUNTY/DISTRICT SELPA ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN FOR 2010-2011:

Dr. Marilyn Rankin, Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, and SELPA Administrator, presented the SELPA's Annual Service Plan for 2010-2011 on the template required by CDE. All service descriptors have been adopted by the Tulare County/District SELPA which offers a full continuum of services to students with special needs. The annual service plan will be presented at a public hearing before the County Board at their March meeting for adoption and will then be submitted to CDE by the March 31st deadline.

A motion was made by Renee Whitson and seconded by Luis Castellanoz to approve the SELPA Annual Service Plan for 2010-2011 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

DOSE REPORT: Kathleen Daguman, representative from the Directors of Special Education Committee to the Superintendent's Governance Committee, reported on the February DOSE meeting (*See February 7, 2011 minutes*). Presentations to DOSE included Examples of Assistive Technology Devices by Jesse Ruiz and Review of the Low Incidence Process and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program by Carol Sonier.

REVIEW/DEBRIEF RECENT CASE LAW: Gary Sanchez, Director of Special Education, Cutler-Orosi Unified, shared a challenge in his district that resulted in a successful outcome from reviewing recent case law. This challenge involved an adversarial parent attorney who came with unreasonable demands for services and a request for independent evaluator evaluations. The parent alleged that the district was not doing enough to ensure the student graduated. After two years of struggle, the argument changed to the parent not wanting the student to graduate but wanting continuation of special education services into a 5th year. Student had completed the district's requirements for graduation and the CAHSEE had been waived by the State. The district stepped up the transition plan for the student which included post-secondary connection to a community college. They also were willing to offer the student a 5th year of instruction or adult school. Student however was 19 at the time, so district shifted conversations from the parent to the student who chose to graduate with her peers and continue post-secondary education at COS. The district learned from case law and from their experience during the process that if a weakness in the IEP is found, move quickly to address the weakness. This also applies to the transition plan. Case law indicates even though graduation requirements have been met more service may be required of the district. Students must also fulfill the requirements of the transition plan. It is also recommended that once the student reaches 16, they be included in all IEP meetings to be a part of their continued education and transition to adult life. Kaye van Gilluwe indicated the County Office will be holding a workshop in October 2011 where the speaker will address the social isolation aspect of special education students as they enter adulthood.

PROPOSED 2011-2012 SUPERINTENDENTS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING DATES: Janet Jones, Chairperson, reviewed the proposed dates for the 2011-2012 Superintendents Governance Committee meetings. There was discussion on reducing the number of meetings. Meetings will be held in September, November, February and April, in addition to the joint luncheon in May for next year.

A motion was made by Renee Whitson and seconded by Dr. Craig Wheaton to approve the 2011-2012 Superintendents Governance Committee Meeting Dates as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL OUT-OF-HOME CARE FACILITIES LIST: Mr. Jim Vidak, County Superintendent, presented the Annual Out-of-Home Care List for facilities within Tulare County as required by State law. There was discussion on the number of students residing in these facilities. More will follow at the next SGC meeting when allocation of Group Home funding is presented.

CAC LUNCHEON – SAVE THE DATE! Janet Jones, Chairperson, reminded the superintendents that the Joint Luncheon of the Community Advisory Committee, Superintendents Governance Committee, and Directors of Special Education will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2011, at 12:00 Noon at the Holiday Inn.

NEXT MEETING: Janet Jones, Chairperson asked for future agenda items from the superintendents. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22nd at 12 noon in the Board Room of the Tulare County Office of Education.

HANDOUTS: AGENDA ITEM HANDOUTS: Common Assessment Class Spreadsheet Examples by Teacher and by Grade – RtI² Presentation; Draft minutes of the January 18, 2011 Superintendent’s Governance Committee meeting; SELPA Annual Budget Plan, Fiscal Year 2010-2011; CDE CASEMIS Service Descriptions – Tulare County/District SELPA 2010-2011 as part of SELPA Annual Service Plan; Cutler-Orosi Case Debrief Summary; *You Be The Judge: Did graduation moot a student’s transition services claim?* LRP Publication; Superintendents Governance Committee Meetings for 2011-2012 Draft; and Tulare County/District SELPA Out-of-Home Care Facilities 2010-2011 List.

MISCELLANEOUS HANDOUTS: CASEMIS Special Education Enrollment Data – February; Dannis Woliver Kelly: *AB 3632 Litigation Update* – February 14, 2011; and State SELPA Administrators Finance Committee Report – February 2011.

Janet Jones, Chairperson
Superintendents Governance Committee

Marilyn Rankin, Chief Administrative Officer
Superintendents Governance Committee