

SUPERINTENDENTS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

TULARE COUNTY MASTER PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

MINUTES

May 25, 2010

The Superintendent's Governance Committee met on Tuesday, May 25, 2010, in the Board Room of the Tulare County Office of Education.

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Howard Berger**, Superintendent, Tulare Joint Union High; **Stan Carrizosa**, Superintendent, Visalia Unified; **Luis Castellanoz**, Superintendent, Tulare City Elementary; **Dr. Joe Hernandez**, Superintendent, Dinuba Unified; **Tim Hire**, Superintendent, Woodlake Union; **Janet Jones**, Superintendent, Farmersville Unified; **Dr. Carolyn Kehrli**, Superintendent, Cutler-Orosi Unified; **Janet Kliegl**, Superintendent, Lindsay Unified; **Terri Rufert**, Superintendent, Sundale Union Elementary; **Sue Sherwood**, Superintendent, Three Rivers Union Elementary; **Dr. John Snavely**, Superintendent, Porterville Unified; and **Dr. Marilyn Rankin**, Assistant Superintendent/SELPA Administrator, Tulare County.

MEMBERS ABSENT: **Dr. Gary Mekeel**, Superintendent, Burton Elementary; **Dr. Marcella Smith**, Superintendent Earlimart Elementary; **Jim Vidak**, County Superintendent, Tulare County; and **Renée Whitson**, Superintendent, Exeter Union.

OTHERS PRESENT: **CAPISTRANO CONNECTIONS ACADEMY:** **Franci Sassin**, California Schools Consultant and **Kimberley Springer**, Director of Special Education; **VISALIA UNIFIED:** **Dr. Craig Wheaton**, Incoming Interim Superintendent; **TULARE CITY ELEMENTARY:** **Joyce Nunes**, DOSE Representative to SGC; **TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION:** **Kaye van Gilluwe**, Administrator, Student Support Services.

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

INTRODUCTIONS/PRESENTATION: Janet Jones, Chairperson introduced the guest presenters from Capistrano Connections Academy, Franci Sassin, California Schools Consultant and Kimberley Springer, Director of Special Education. The purpose of their presentation was to provide the superintendents with an overview of Capistrano Connections Academy and the reasons behind the charter school wanting to join the Tulare County/District SELPA as an LEA. Kimberley began the presentation explaining that while Capistrano would be a new charter school within our SELPA, they are already familiar with the Tulare County/District SELPA. The same management structure exists with the Central California Connections Academy which is chartered through Alpaugh School District and has been a member of the SELPA for the past four years. She stated this has been a great working relationship. The main reason for Capistrano wanting to join our SELPA is that while they are chartered by Capistrano Unified, they cannot join that SELPA as an LEA because it is a single district SELPA so when they went to shop for a SELPA, Tulare County made sense since they already have an existing relationship.

Kimberley indicated Capistrano Connections Academy is an independent study program and a full-time virtual school for grades 9-12. They enroll students from five southern counties, including Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. The charter provides personalized learning for every student which includes live online instruction which is interactive between the staff and the students. They have 65 to 90 students with IEPs which equates to 7 to 10% special education. Another 25 students have a 504 plan in place. The charter academy employs 3 resource specialists and a director of special education to provide special education services as well as receiving support from their headquarters in the Eastern US. Kimberley went on to explain that the charter has had no due process cases, no state complaints, and no issues on the Special Education Self Review last year. They have been through one mediation which was a transfer student that had a pending mediation in LAUSD prior to enrollment in the charter. Six years ago, Capistrano Connections Academy started with 100 students. The 2009-2010 P-2 ADA was 1,050 and the 2008-2009 P-2 ADA was 859.

Franci indicated that while the Capistrano Charter and the Central California Connection Academy are two legally distinct charter schools, they fall under the same management and have a mutually beneficial relationship that enhances the learning of students served by both. Central California Connections Academy has been a LEA with the Tulare County/District SELPA since the 2006-2007 school year. Capistrano Connections Academy is authorized through Capistrano Unified which is a single district SELPA, so the charter school cannot join as a member LEA. The State Board of Education recently has authorized charter schools to join out-of-geographic area SELPAs. This is because many of these charter schools have the type of program where geographic location is not a barrier. The California Department of Education first piloted this idea and it proved successful. Franci indicated their target for funded ADA for 2010-2011 is 1,400.

Marilyn further explained to the superintendents that an IEP team meeting is held with the current district where student is enrolled to see if an independent study program is an appropriate placement. She also explained that the Central California Connection Academy enrolls students from Tulare County and the four surrounding counties. Capistrano Connection Academy enrolls students from Orange County and the four surrounding counties. They provide a rigorous curriculum with extensive accountability measures. From a financial perspective, the additional funding generated through the added ADA will flow back to the LEA so there will be minimal change to other district allocations. All other SELPA policies and procedures would apply including the process for reimbursement of legal fees and the cap of \$60,000 per case.

Janet Kliegl asked how much per ADA the SELPA receives as a whole before allocations to districts are calculated. This amount is approximately \$660/ADA.

A motion was made by Terri Rufert and seconded by Sue Sherwood to accept Capistrano Connections Academy as an LEA into the Tulare County/District SELPA. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the April 27, 2010 Superintendent's Governance Committee Meeting were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Dr. John Snavely and seconded by Tim Hire to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Dr. Marilyn Rankin highlighted the following bills:

SB1051 – Emergency Medical Assistance: Administration of Diastat – This bill has been withdrawn from committee. It would have allowed for unlicensed personnel to administer Diastat in emergency situations.

AB1802 – Pupil Health: Diabetes: Insulin Injections – This bill failed passage and would have allowed a parent to designate school employees who could have administered insulin during the regular day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sue Sherwood indicated this would be her last meeting as a member of the SGC. She will be adding teaching to her duties as Superintendent/Principal of Three Rivers Elementary School District.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2010, at 12 noon in the Board Room of the Tulare County Office of Education.

HANDOUTS: AGENDA ITEM HANDOUTS: Capistrano Connections Academy Slideshow; Draft minutes of the April 27, 2010 Superintendent's Governance Committee meeting; Legislative Update on SB1051 – Emergency Medical Assistance: Administration of Diastat and AB1802 – Pupil Health: Diabetes: Insulin Injections.

Janet Jones, Chairperson
Superintendents Governance Committee

Marilyn Rankin, Chief Administrative Officer
Superintendents Governance Committee