

SUPERINTENDENTS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

TULARE COUNTY MASTER PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

MINUTES

February 25, 2025

The Superintendent's Governance Committee met on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, in the Tulare County Office of Education, Cedar Conference Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Shimer, Superintendent, Burton Elementary; Dr. Joe Hernandez, Superintendent, Dinuba Unified; Jaime Robles, Superintendent, Earlimart Elementary; Sherry Martin, Superintendent, Kings River Union; Grant Schimelpfening for Brian Griffin, Superintendent, Lindsay Unified; Dr. Heather Pilgrim, Superintendent, Oak Valley Union; Dr. Nate Nelson, Superintendent, Porterville Unified; Lucy Van Scyoc, Superintendent, Tulare Joint Union High; Kirk Shrum, Superintendent, Visalia Unified; T.J. Ryan, Superintendent, Woodlake Unified; Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent, Tulare County; and Tammy Bradford, Assistant Superintendent/SELPA Administrator, Tulare County.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Yolanda Valdez, Superintendent, Cutler-Orosi Unified; George Eddy, Superintendent, Exeter Unified; Manuel Mendez, Superintendent, Farmersville Unified; and Ira Porchia, Superintendent, Tulare City Elementary.

OTHERS PRESENT: Pleasant View School District: Mark Odsather, Superintendent; Cutler-Orosi Unified: Antonio Quintanilla, DOSE Representative; Tulare County Office of Education: Jody Arriaga, Director, Internal Business Services; Sarah Hamilton, Administrator, Academic Collaborative for Exceptional Learners (AcCEL); Malinda Furtado, Parent Liaison; and Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative Services.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dr. Joe Hernandez, Chairperson, opened the meeting to public comment.

INTRODUCTIONS: Dr. Joe Hernandez, Chairperson, introduced guest superintendent, Mark Odsather.

Mark Odsather, Superintendent, Pleasant View School District, shared that the district has 460 students enrolled and 33 of those students have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). A school psychologist, a teacher's aide, and a resource specialist are provided by the SELPA. Lastly, Mr. Odsather shared that a triage social worker is also provided to the district three days a week.

REVIEW OF SGC PACKET: Tammy Bradford, Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, reviewed the Superintendent's Governance Committee agenda packet handouts:

- Special Education Enrollment Data Report – Tammy Bradford reviewed the county served report that lists primary disability.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from November 19, 2024, Superintendent's Governance Committee Meeting were presented for approval. *A motion was made by Dr. Heather Pilgrim and seconded by Sherry Martin to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

PARENT LIAISON REPORT: Malinda Furtado, Parent Liaison, presented the Annual Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Awards Ceremony invitation, scheduled for May 8, 2025. The CAC Honoree and Linda Hess nomination forms were reviewed, and superintendents were informed that directors were advised to submit nominations no later than March 7, 2025.

AcCEL ENROLLMENT DATA REPORTS: Sarah Hamilton, Administrator, Academic Collaboration for Exceptional Learners (AcCEL), presented the Tulare County SELPA, Census Day Comparison report which demonstrates a 1% increase of infants with disabilities. Tulare County SELPA reported an approximate 4.4% increase in the number of students with disabilities when compared to the previous year. Secondly, Mrs. Hamilton presented the TCOE AcCEL Program Census Day Comparison report which demonstrates a 4.6% increase in the number of students enrolled in the AcCEL Program, with a 10% increase in enrollment over a five-year period. 61.5% of students enrolled have a primary disability of Intellectual Disability and 31.74% of the students are identified as having Autism. Lastly, Mrs. Hamilton shared that 116 referrals have been received for the current school year and stated that classroom projections were discussed as the referral report demonstrates the need for additional classrooms in the near future. Discussion followed.

DOSE REPORT: Antonio Quintanilla, DOSE representative, reported on the DOSE Meetings held December 2, 2024, and February 3, 2025. The following items were presented:

- SELPA Expenditures/Revenues – Total revenue for the year was \$130,348,551 with expenses totaling \$128,964,830. The 602 Revenue-Expenditure Comparison for 23/24 versus 22/23 was also reviewed.
- Psychological/Preschool Services Report – Directors were informed that 336 DRDP's are incomplete and/or missing. Directors were asked to remind staff to get their DRDP's completed prior to the winter break. Students on IEPs, receiving services, must be DRDP assessed. Directors were reminded of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) meeting with Healthy Campus EHR to learn about the billing process for the county office and districts. Dr. Nancy Mather is conducting training March 14, 2025, on the Use and Interpretation of the Tests of Dyslexia (TOD). Mr. Quintanilla shared information regarding Dyslexia screening toolkit and added that a big population of Spanish speaking students needed a screener that was more proficient when assessing those areas. Screeners for reading difficulty were discussed.
- SELPA Compliance Update – Monthly reports and overdue IEPs were reviewed. Fall 1 Certification is due December 13, 2024, and requires LEA approval. CIM progress reports are due January 10, 2025. Directors were instructed to compare overdue IEPs in SEIS and CALPADS and investigate discrepancies. The California Department of Education (CDE) will use data in CALPADS which was pulled December 16, 2024, for timeline compliance. The number of late IEPs will be listed in the Annual Determination letters. There will be additional activities for those districts through the Compliance and Improvement Monitoring (CIM).
- Meeting Challenges Calendar – The 'Meeting Challenges: Through Partnerships in Education,' Community Advisory Committee 2025 Calendar was presented.
- ACT Program – The SELPA has received a total of 41 submissions since the beginning of the school year. District staff were instructed how to resubmit by editing the forms online that were previously submitted. Forms submitted are redirected to the DOSE to review and approve.
- Private Schools Meeting – The portion of funds allocated for Private Schools for the 2024/2025 school year is \$96,446, which equates to \$2,097 per student although funds are utilized for students on an as needed basis.

- Community Advisory – Training was provided to help staff facilitate IEP meetings, complete forms, and discuss students' needs with parents prior to holding the IEP meeting. Training was also provided regarding the similarities between IEPs and 504 plans. Information was shared regarding Miracle League and the Night to Shine event taking place at Visalia First Assembly on February 7, 2025.
- Parent Liaison Update – Directors were encouraged to submit nomination forms via email no later than March 7, 2025. Lastly, Mrs. Furtado asked staff to refer students to her who are talented and willing to perform during the Annual CAC Awards Ceremony. The CAC Calendar theme for 2026 was discussed and directors were encouraged to notify her by April of students involved in creative endeavors such as theater arts, choir, band, etc.
- AcCEL Transportation Bill Back – AcCEL Transportation Bill Back for July-December 2024 was reviewed.

The next DOSE Meeting will be held March 3, 2025.

AcCEL TRANSPORTATION BILL BACK – Jody Arriaga, Director, Internal Business Services, presented the AcCEL Transportation Bill Back costs for July through December 2024. Extended School Year (ESY) transportation costs are not included in the calculation. The estimated transportation costs, per rider, for January-June 2025, were also presented. Mrs. Arriaga reviewed the reimbursements and adjusted costs and reiterated that the calculation is hypothetical for districts to know where they stand in regard to transportation expenses.

FIRST PRINCIPAL APPORTIONMENT – Jody Arriaga presented the 2024-2025 P-1 Certification and shared that the federal share is an estimate as the Grant Award Notification (GAN) has not been provided. Property taxes increased by \$640,864 and the overall revenue increased by \$2,685,832.

AB 602 ALLOCATIONS – Jody Arriaga presented the 2024-2025 SPED P-1 Certification Off the Top Comparisons as of February 24, 2025, and the AB 602 State Funding handout. Changes in program expenses were reviewed, and superintendents were informed that the difference in off the top costs totaled (\$1,388,478.00).

ANNOUNCEMENT: Dr. Joe Hernandez, Chairperson, announced that the Annual CAC Awards Ceremony will be held in person at the Tulare County Office of Education, Redwood Conference Center at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2025.

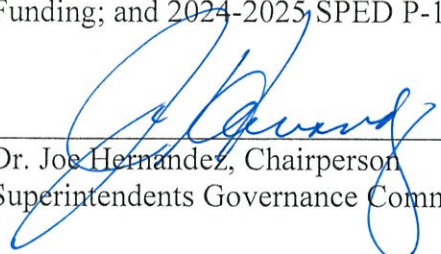
Tammy Bradford encouraged superintendents to please let her know of any suggestions or information requests moving forward. Discussion followed.

Dr. Joe Hernandez recommended having a special meeting where everyone comes together to share the district accomplishments.

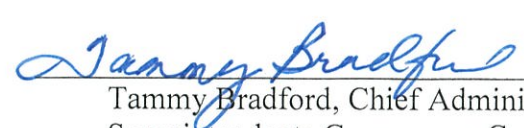
NEXT MEETING: Dr. Joe Hernandez announced that the next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in the Tulare County Office of Education, Cedar Conference Room.

HANDOUTS: AGENDA ITEM HANDOUTS: Draft minutes of the November 19, 2025 Superintendent's Governance Committee Meeting; Annual CAC Awards Ceremony invitation; Honoree Submission Form; Linda Hess Award – Parent Nomination Form; Census Day Comparison-Students with Disabilities; Annual Census Day Enrollment-SPED Percentages; TCOE AcCEL Program Census Day Comparison-Students with Disabilities; TCOE SPED School Census Day Comparison – Students with Disabilities; 2025-2026

Classroom Projections; AcCEL Transportation Bill Back, 2024-2025 Transportation Summary; AcCEL Transportation Bill Back, 24-25 July-December 2024; AcCEL Transportation Bill Back, 24-25 January-June 2025 Estimates; 2024-2025 P1 Certification; Estimate 2024-2025 P-1 Certification, AB 602 State Funding; and 2024-2025 SPED P-1 Certification Off the Top Comparisons.



Dr. Joe Hernandez, Chairperson
Superintendents Governance Committee



Tammy Bradford, Chief Administrative Officer
Superintendents Governance Committee