

SELPA FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Standing Committee of the Consortium

October 16, 2023
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

SELPA Conference Room
3570 Rancho Road, Ste. 9; Redding, CA 96002

MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 3:00 pm

Christian Patz, SELPA Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

SELPA Finance Advisory Council members roll call:

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| ● David Flores, Shasta UHSD - Region1 | ABSENT |
| ● Donell Evans, Anderson UHSD – Region 2 | Present |
| ● Robert Fellingner, Redding ESD – Region 3 | Present |
| ● Deborah Williams, Enterprise ESD – Region 4 | Present |
| ● Cathleen Serna, Columbia ESD – Region 5 | Present |
| ● De’An Chambless, Shasta COE – Region 6 | Present |
| ● Teresea Spooner, Fall River JUSD – Region 7 | ABSENT |

Others present were:

- | | |
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| ● Christian Patz, SELPA Executive Director | ● Beth Roberts, Gateway USD |
| ● James Glover, SELPA Sppt. Svcs. Cons. | ● Lindsey Gilstrap, SCOE |

2. Approval of the Agenda

Discussion: None.

ACTION: Cathleen Serna motioned to approve the Agenda as presented. Robert Fellingner seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 5-0-2, no opposition, no abstentions, David Flores and Teresea Spooner were absent.

3. Public Forum / Hearing of Person’s Wishing to Address the Finance Advisory Council

Discussion: None.

4. Consent Items – (These action items are of a routine nature or items for which no discussion is anticipated, and are acted upon by a single vote. Members may request that any item be removed and given individual consideration.)

4a. Approval of Minutes for August 21, 2023

4b. Low Incidence Equipment & Reimbursement Requests

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 4b1. LI Equip. Request #72 – Fall River JUSD – Fall River Jr. High, HH Equipment | \$1,723.15 |
| 4b2. LI Equip. Request #73 – Shasta UHSD – Enterprise HS, VII Equipment | \$ 323.12 |
| 4b3. LI Equip. Request #74 – Anderson UHSD – Anderson HS, VI Equipment | \$1,235.06 |

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| 4b4. LI Equip. Request #75 – Shasta UHSD – Foothill HS, HH Equipment | \$ 663.49 |
| 4b5. LI Equip. Request #76 – SELPA – SELPA stock, HH Equipment | \$ 86.20 |
| 4b6. LI Equip. Request #77 – Fall River JUSD – Burney Elem., Deaf Equipment | \$2,653.46 |
| 4b7. LI Equip. Request #78 – Fall River JUSD – Burney Elem., Deaf Equipment | \$2,653.46 |
| 4b8. LI Equip. Request #79 – Shasta UHSD – U-Prep, Deaf Equipment | <u>\$ 438.64</u> |
| TOTAL: | \$9,775.98 |

Discussion: Ms. Serna requested the Minutes for August 21, 2023 be corrected to reflect her absence.

ACTION: Cathleen Serna motioned to have the Minutes for August 21, 2023 be corrected to reflect her absence, and otherwise approve the Consent Items as presented. Robert Fellingner seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 5-0-2, no opposition, no abstentions, David Flores and Teresea Spooner were absent.

5. SELPA Director’s Report

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Halloween themed open house / resource fair on October 28, 2023 at noon. This is a parent coordinated event with the SELPA hosting.

Dr. Patz stated that Spectrum’s new Director is heavily supported with many trainings, but they continue to have staffing and leadership struggles to keep local personnel. Dr. Patz CP reminded members of the contract terms regarding SELPA paying for any empty seats to meet minimum enrollment, and SELPA did receive a credit of \$50k for September. Spectrum has begun to bill districts directly for enrolled students. The SELPA’s long term goal is to help build and secure programs for students with the highest needs.

6. SELPA Fiscal Update

6a. 2023-24 Budget vs. Actual YTD

Discussion: None.

7. SELPA Fiscal Team - Discussion

7a. Hilary Schwartz, SELPA Accountant

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members that the SELPA has hired Hilary Schwartz as an Accountant II for her extensive finance but limited accounting experience. She will be based at SCOE while being trained by Ms. Chambless for special education accounting.

8. Local Plan and Service Plan and Allocation Plan / Subsidies – Update / Discussion

8a. Driving Principals “Success Equals Local Control Powering Action”

8b. Local Plan ([link](#))

8c. Service Plan ([link](#))

8d. Budget Plan ([link](#))

Discussion: Dr. Patz requested guidance for recommendation to the Governing Board. He will review the current version and provide a redline version for consideration. The SELPA’s vision is *Success Equals Local Control Powering Action (SELPA)* with a goal to pass through the majority of state and federal funds to districts and charters, while supporting students in a local inclusive environment.

8e. Regional Resource Committee (NPS, Countywide, ERICs)

Discussion: Dr. Patz reminded members the Regional Resource Committee (RRC) currently reimburses from off the top (OTT) funds 25% of costs to districts for students who live with parents and are placed off site. Dr. Patz proposes a sliding scale reducing the subsidy the longer the student stays off site to \$12k the first year, \$7,400 the second year, and \$2,500 the third year. The scale would still help LEAs, but still streamline the program side and incentivize keeping students on site and building appropriate programs to keep students on campus. Ms. Williams suggested 25% for two years to keep financing easier. Members discussed concerns regarding how remaining funds would be pooled for distribution, excess costs, concerns with who is large enough to build proper programs, and perceptions of need between high school and elementary.

Dr. Patz indicated out of home (OOH) students (group home / foster care attending non-district program or ERICS class) would have the same tier idea, but slower as OOH students are less likely to return to general education. Dr. Patz proposes reimbursement at a flat \$37,500 (35%) the first year, then \$25k the second year, and \$12,500 the third year. Ms. Evans voiced appreciation of this proposal due to the high transition of students, but wouldn't advocate for a cap if there are more group homes in one district than others. SUHSD and Gateway USD have the most group homes. CP wants to streamline the process and equalize.

ERICs classrooms would be treated the same way – flat amount per student per day for OOH, or fund at a higher rate. The current \$35k subsidy doesn't incentivize districts, as it doesn't consider staffing requirements and the cost of classrooms. Members consider a flat fee for every foster youth able to serve in class, as the purpose remains to keep local control by the LEAs and become more predictable and simple. Members agree the ERICS subsidy would need to be better than the NPS subsidy if the goal is to incentivize districts to build ERICS classrooms on site. Members like the idea of a flat amount, in addition to the classroom getting a subsidy to incentivize keeping the student on site and help with building program. Dr. Patz suggested a review of the process and rate evaluation could be reviewed with the annual budget plan. Dr. Patz will provide new figures at the next meeting.

8f. Extraordinary costs and Legal fees

Discussion – Dr. Patz emphasized the need for a more robust extraordinary cost pool and suggested eliminating the legal fee pool as it has been unused for several years, and is difficult to meet requirements of SELPA wide implications. The goal is to get funds into district hands to help with unique students with unique expenses and circumstances. Dr. Patz suggested a standing committee to meet and review once / twice annually – possibly including EXCEL placements. Rate smoothing for interpreter assignments and how students fall in timing of interpreters for in-person vs. virtual should also be considered.

8g. Court School

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated the \$108k is excess covered by OOH funds after AB602 allocation

Dr. Patz also suggested a change in the process of Low Incidence to have LEAs directly purchase equipment under \$1k in value with a \$50k pass through of low incidence funds, and anything over \$1k would continue to be purchased and tracked by the SELPA. The median purchase for 2022-23 was \$645. A revised process would save time and create an easier purchase process. All members agreed this would be beneficial and suggested to try a \$1k threshold and re-evaluate next year.

8h. Remote

Discussion: Dr. Patz reminded members that Fall River JUSD currently receives a \$83,500k remote subsidy. The SELPA Governing Board previously approved a slow subsidy reduction to zero. Dr. Patz encouraged members to provide input and ideas, and will provide redline versions of the proposed 2024-25 Local Plan to members.

Additional discussion included Dr. Patz offering to verify if CHYBA can still join Shasta SELPA if they are sponsored by Trinity County SELPA. Otherwise they have to wait a year until charter up is for renewal to be sponsored by Shasta COE.

9. MOE Policy - Discussion / ACTION

9a. MOE Policy, redline and revised draft

Discussion: Dr. Patz provided members copies of the proposed new MOE policy, a redline version and fully revised draft for consideration. Ms. Chambless voiced support as the new version is straightforward and follows Ed Code. Members agree the new policy is just a clean-up.

ACTION: De’An Chambless motioned to approve the new MOE policy as presented. Cathleen Serna seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 5-0-2, no opposition, no abstentions, David Flores and Teresea Spooner were absent.

10. Future Agenda Items

- Medi-Cal reserves spend down
- OOH funding – RTC policy mental health funds

11. Next meeting: December 18, 2023, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, SELPA Conference

12. Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.