

**SELPA FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Standing Committee of the Consortium**

**February 9, 2026  
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 3:02 pm.

SELPA Finance Advisory Council members roll call:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ● David Flores, Shasta UHSD - Region1                            | ABSENT                               |
| ● Jennifer Parks, 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                              |
| ● Lyndsey Gilstrap, SCOE – Region 6                              | ABSENT ( <i>Present at 3:04 pm</i> ) |
| ● Morgan Nugent for Danniell Hampton, Fall River JUSD – Region 7 | Present                              |

Others present:

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ● Christian Patz, SELPA  | ● Rachel Peetz, SCOE        |
| ● Hilary Schwartz, SELPA | ● Beth Roberts, Gateway USD |
| ● James Glover, SELPA    |                             |

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

**ACTION:** Robert Fellingner motioned to approve the Agenda as presented. Jennifer Parks seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 5-0-0-2, no opposition, no abstentions, David Flores and Lindsey Gilstrap were absent.

**3. Public Forum / Hearing of Persons 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 December 8, 2025

4b. Low Incidence Equipment Requests

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 4b1. LI Equip. Request #111 – Cottonwood UESD (OI Equip) | \$1,070.23        |
| 4b2. LI Equip. Request #112 – Fall River JUSD (OI Equip) | \$5,398.20        |
| 4b3. LI Reimb. Request #113 – Redding ESD (OI Equip)     | <u>\$1,088.55</u> |

TOTAL: \$7,556.98

Discussion: None.

**ACTION:** Deborah Williams motioned to approve the Consent Items as presented. Robert Fellingner seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 5-0-0-2, no opposition, no abstentions, David Flores and Lindsey Gilstrap were absent.

## **5. SELPA Director's Report**

5a. ASL Interpreters – Update

5b. REMINDERS:

- ESY waiver requests – Board review: Feb. 24, 2026
- Extraordinary Cost Subsidy – DUE April 20, 2026
- LCAP Review – Board review: March 24, 2026

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated the update for ASL interpreters will be presented during the budget presentation, and the Governing Board will be considering ESY requests at their next meeting. The extraordinary cost subsidy request are due now and must include proof of expenditures. LCAP review dates will be provided at the Chief's meeting, providing a 45 day window for SELPA review.

5c. SIRAS Update

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members that SIRAS will be discussed again at the next Board meeting, as they and SEIS will both be making presentations to members.

## **6. Fiscal Update – Discussion**

6a. Budget vs. Actual

Discussion: None.

## **7. 2026-27 Budget**

*(Lindsey Gilstrap present at 3:04 pm)*

Discussion: Dr. Patz provided a handout of the unduplicated SpEd count, and strongly encouraged members to take an MOE exemption if possible. Hilary Schwartz, SELPA Accountant, confirmed the handout was emailed to districts today. She is also reviewing SMAIs and If there is no communication from her, then there is nothing to report or a benefit to taking a reduction not previously taken. Dr. Patz urged members to take the time to use exempt reductions and back out expenditures for MOE.

Dr. Patz provided a slide presentation and referred to 2026-27 state budget projections, noting a \$509 million increase for Special Education equalization, bringing the statewide ADA base rate to approximately \$999, up from the current \$917, including a 2.41% COLA. Modoc County is the only one not receiving a significant increase, as they are already at \$998 base rate. Overall, ADA is down across the state and may or may not shift numbers.

Dr. Patz continued his presentation as we focus on maintaining a flat budget by leveraging the "We Can Work" grant to protect pass-through funds. Projections are based on the 2.41% COLA, not ADA to be safe. Significant federal changes were made to the We Can Work contract regulations, which now limit student employment to 120 hours over a lifetime rather than 300 hours annually. The SELPA anticipates an inability to fully expend those specific funds due to these new regulations.

Federal funds have small increases to some SpEd grants, while state numbers and overall enrollment is down, causing reduced federal contributions. Shasta SELPA will stay near the same numbers. Total SELPA funding is just

over \$30m with MediCal funds excluded. Dr. Patz continued regarding distribution, confirming that the SELPA distributes approximately 90% of the distributable revenue to districts.

Operationally, Dr. Patz confirmed the SELPA hired one new ASL Intern to help with the increased demand for interpreters, and one deaf mentor may move into a teaching role once their credential is attained. Dr. Patz's slide presentation reflected how the SELPA utilizes funds with the majority of funds passed through. Ms. Schwartz stated personnel costs and budget codes have been streamlined, and SELPA's contribution from reserves for Interpreter costs will step down from \$500k this year to 250k next year, keeping impact negligible. Districts can expect to receive an MOU for the remainder of the Interpreter expenses soon.

Discussion continued regarding Off the Top (OTT) funds, which were budgeted for a worse case scenario. The pool is set for \$250k, but only \$25k was awarded last year, so reimbursement of the pool is small. ERICS is reduced due to Mountain Valley JPA closing both classrooms. Dr. Patz stated only four districts are participating and questioned whether the subsidy should be continued.

Current estimates for Out-of-Home (OOH) residential placements are between \$1.3M and \$1.4M, with three RTC placements currently active and three more being considered. The OOH reserves are still healthy, but will be used by students in RTCs. Total cost estimates equal \$435k per year, per student, and surpass the subsidy allocation. All three currently placed students in RTCs are in high school with very different needs. Dr. Patz confirmed the OOH subsidy budget was built on two full placements, with SELPA paying 100% of room and 35% of tuition.

Projected reserve summary included GoalBook, paid with MediCal funds. Although an alternative is being considered, cost would likely be comparable.

**8. Future Agenda Items**

- 2026-27 Annual Budget Plan / Local Plan
- LCAP Review

**9. Next meeting:**

- Next meeting: March 16, 2026; 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, SELPA Conference Room

**10. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm