

**SELPA Governing Board
Minutes
December 20, 2022
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

**Shasta County Office of Education
Shasta County Office of Education – Board Room
1644 Magnolia Avenue; Redding, CA 96001**

1. Call to Order, Roll call.

Rob Adams (Region 3), Chairperson, called the public hearing to order at 8:00 a.m.
Roll call:

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| ● Jim Cloney, Shasta UHSD - Region1 | Present |
| ● Victor Hopper, Anderson UHSD – Region 2 | Present |
| ● Rob Adams - CHAIRPERSON, Redding ESD – Region 3 | Present |
| ● Heather Armelino, Enterprise ESD – Region 4 | Present |
| ● Doug Geren, Cottonwood UESD – Region 5 | Present |
| ● Jim Harrell, Gateway USD – Region 6 | Present |
| ● Merrill Grant, Fall River JUSD – Region 7 | Present |

2. Approval of Agenda

Discussion: None.

ACTION: Jim Harrell motioned to approve the Agenda as presented. Jim Cloney seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 7-0, no opposition, no abstentions, no absentees.

3. Public Comment

Discussion: None.

4. SELPA Director’s Report

4a. NPS Update

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members that Spectrum Center is now fully staffed though still having growing pains. Enrollment currently 6-7 students but transitory. Next steps will be discussed in February as the SELPA still has need. IEP School’s status remains unchanged for now, with 24 students remaining plus 3 from Tehama Co. They are still not accepting new students and have named Kim Bryant as Executive Director.

4b. Butte County Visit - BASES Program

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated he visited the BASES program in Butte County which was created out of an urgent need from NPS closure. Butte Co SELPA was noticed of closure in May, and got BASES up in August. The County ultimately provided a comprehensive site with a gym, play structures, and FFE funding. BASES charges \$250/day per student lead by a General Education Principal with curriculum specialty. Program has strengthened with time to grow and flourish with on-going training – including power outage days to train all staff after two months and discuss

strengths/weaknesses. Dr. Patz indicated he met with Judy Flores, SCOE Superintendent, on December 19th regarding differentiated support for districts. If they choose two areas for SpEd, they can get the COE and SELPA to help.

5. 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.)*

5.a Approval of Meeting Minutes from 10-25-22

5b. ESY Waivers

5b1. Fall River JUSD

5b2. Shasta UHSD

5b3. EXCEL Academy

5c. Low Incidence Equipment Requests

5c1. LI Request #58 – Black Butte ESD – Black Butte Jr. High – HH Equipment \$ 951.31

5c2. LI Request #59 – SCOE – North Cow Creek – HH Equipment \$1,747.26

5c3. LI Request #60 – SCOE – Rother Elem. – HH Equipment \$ 255.94

Total: \$2,954.51

Discussion: None.

ACTION: Jim Cloney motioned to approve the Consent Items as presented. Heather Armelino seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 7-0, no opposition, no abstentions, no absentees.

6. Bridges Presentation – Joy Garcia, Director of Special Projects; SCOE

Discussion: Joy Garcia, SCOE Director of Special Projects, provided members a slide presentation regarding the Bridges to Success program and stated that due in part to SELPA’s ongoing financial support, the program has increased from 3 clinicians to 13, providing services to all students and families across the county, not only SCOE students.

Ms. Garcia presented on Community Connect (see Referrals by Program slide) as their largest program, receiving 600 referrals in 2021 for services to the entire family with follow up for referrals to other services and target case management included. 1,975 families served to Dec 6th. Triple P service is provided to families for free - court ordered families, etc. and further provided data per program. 18% of students referred to Community Connect had IEPs with 462 referrals in 2022 to Community Connect.

Ms. Garcia continued her slide presentation concerning the Bridges to School Success program, which included 27% of referrals having IFSPs / IEPs and are still working to identify if a student has an IEP when not informed initially. Numbers are increasing annually. 113 total referrals from the county, 12.5% w/ IEPs though the number may increase.

Mr. Cloney inquired about data by grade level. Ms. Garcia stated the rate of referrals for high school are similar to PreK - 6th, with Bridges having more referrals in K-8 for clinical services. When asked if the programs can serve Fall River JUSD or Castle Rock, Ms. Garcia stated clinical staff are itinerant and can serve where families need. While Community Connect can be served via telephone, they have visited outside areas. Community Connect is based on linking families to school, community, and county based services. They do struggle to find services to link for remote areas though they make just as robust effort.

When asked about their impact on retention and suspension rates, Ms. Garcia stated they look at social work logic models with attendance/behavior secondary, and look for changes in behavior with primary outcomes to be family stability.

7. Enrollment - Update

Discussion: Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation and stated data reflects a big increase in speech/language of 4% SELPA wide, with elementary schools having the largest increase. (“MOE Year to Year” slide) Census Day ADA numbers reflect Shasta County has over 3400 students w/ IEPs as of October 2021, and continues to increase. New census information pending the end of January. Service counts provided (Agenda attachment) fresh numbers for budget development in January.

Mr. Cloney voiced concern over the 32% increase in students with autism. Dr. Patz indicated we’re seeing more students who didn’t get early services due to COVID restrictions, though Shasta County autism numbers are still low overall. The challenge is parent preference in identifying autism and that unfortunately most diagnosis are coming from schools.

8. SELPA Fiscal Update – Discussion

8a. AB130 Update

Discussion: Calli Coleman, SELPA Accountant, continued the slide presentation and provided a general update of the AB130 funds, and stated that district updated plans and proposed spending numbers are due to SELPA by January 15th. Approximately 50% of Dispute Prevention funds have been expended, encumbered or budgeted, and about 90% of the Learning Recovery funds. Business Departments and SpEd Directors all have this information, with the SELPA office having alternate plans in mind if any funds remain – ideas include some dispute prevention funds for a parent center in the new SELPA building, more trainings or other contingency plans.

Mr. Geren voiced confusion after speaking with his CBO regarding how funds are allocated to districts and why spending must be cleared with SELPA first. Dr. Patz confirmed the AB 130 funds are restricted and he wants to ensure proper spending in order to provide accurate data to the state for reporting of funds use. So far all districts have done a good job spending and tracking use of funds. Dr. Patz confirmed districts have until June 30, 2023 to spend and encouraged districts to spend their funds accordingly.

8b. 2022-23 Budget Summary

Discussion: Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation, referring to the “Fund Distribution Summary” slide for AB602 funds less OTT spending, and used 2019-20 as a comparison to see the increase in SpEd funding of almost \$7m in last three years going straight to districts. The “Contingency Pool” slide referenced funds extraordinary costs / legal fees are paid from. “Reserve Summary” slide does NOT include the purchase of the SELPA Rancho Road property due to a pending decision as to where those funds should come from. Reserve balance of over \$9.4m includes \$2.8m in general unrestricted OOH funds, though we still don’t have OOH numbers for the current year. OOH likely \$8.8m when done with the new building, but wanted fresh numbers for budget consideration going forward.

9. Staffing for Budget Plan – Discussion

9a. Off the Top – Itinerant

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members that current OTT funds are paying for staffing (see “OTT Staffing (Itinerant)” slide), with some OOH used for Admin and clerical. The COE only employs the lead interpreter, while hiring interpreters is a “big ticket” item for some LEAs. If SELPA added itinerant positions, Dr. Patz would recommend interpreters. The JPA is looking and the COE is also looking for some. We have FTE, but don’t have the personnel. Dr. Patz indicated the PAC recommended no changes to these positions.

9b. SELPA Staffing

Discussion: Dr. Patz introduced Autumn Ervin, the new Administrative Program Assistant specializing in data and student records for the SELPA office. All members welcomed her.

Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation and addressed all current SELPA staff positions – including the vacant Data Analyst position. The funding and position closes in June. The BCBA is ERMHS funded and will find other funding if funds are cut. The Support Services Consultant position greatly assists districts, especially smaller districts, and provides para-educator trainings, expands capacity for SELPA, IEP meetings, and visits any school or district in need. Dr. Patz proposed a new position to assist the SELPA with recruitment and coordination for private schools, ERMHS, OOH and foster youth services. FAC had no quorum and did not meet. The PAC did not support this position, however, Dr. Patz brings it to the Board for consideration in building into the budget with alternate funding. Dr. Patz informed members he did hear support and need for assistance with private school coordination and believes the position is needed for program support in a SELPA this size.

Dr. Patz inquired of member requests for items to be addressed at a budget meeting. Mr. Adams inquired about the reduction in OTT Itinerants in the earlier fiscal update. Ms. Coleman stated it previously included classrooms, and court school which is now paid using OOH funds. Mr. Adams indicated the DHH teachers are not fully staffed, but we contribute to SCOE using SELPA OTT funds. We have 4 DHH itinerant teachers and lead interpreter positions filled. Others have banks of interpreters they rent out. SELPA doesn't have allocated funds to hire another. SELPA itinerants serve 66 students spread out including pre-school.

Mr. Adams stated he does not support the proposed extra SELPA staff support services consultant position.

Mr. Cloney inquired about SELPA funds for students at juvenile hall and inquired why districts don't received those funds. Dr. Patz confirmed SELPA spent \$50k of OOH funds last year. De'An Chambless, SCOE Director of Business Services, confirmed SCOE gets ADA and OOH funds from SELPA. Dr. Patz stated it was a Board decision regarding funds, and he has provided all budget information now in order to budget plan for next year.

Mr. Hopper inquired about MOE and why staff isn't under the SELPA Director since he works for the AU. Dr. Patz referred to the "OTT Staffing" slide, and suggested if the Board wants SELPA to manage the Itinerants, we can bring them in house and develop a plan regarding outsourcing to SCOE costs, or in-house costs, or a LEA managed program. SCOE staff currently reports to Gina Murphy, SCOE SpEd Director, but would answer to Dr. Patz if management moved to SELPA.

10. Budget Planning – Discussion / ACTION

10a. ERMHS – Discussion / ACTION

Discussion: Dr. Patz reminded members that the state will be distributing ERMHS funding directly to districts beginning next year and believes the Board, PAC and FAC want funds direct to LEAs anyway. Of the approximate \$2m in ERMHS funding ("ERMHS Funding" slide), Dr. Patz requested SELPA retain the \$280k in Federal funds to continue BCBA position. PAC supported but split 4-2 with 1 absentee. If requested, Dr. Patz will bring a formal budget for the federal funds. If distributed to LEAs, estimated 20% to SUHSD, 1/20th to Fall River. Mr. Cloney suggested it would total approximately \$13 per student in federal funds.

Mr. Geren stated his region does not support SELPA retaining federal funds.

Mr. Hopper inquired if the SELPA's BCBA has time allocation across the SELPA. Dr. Patz confirmed the BCBA does serve some smalls, and a fair amount of time to larger elementary schools in town, but will collect more data as to

who and how the SELPA BCBA is used, including providing AT services with Nick Syrrist. The BCBA has not served the high school or JPA due to having their own BCBA's available.

10b. Other Funds

Discussion: Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation and reminded members that PAC does not support continuing \$139k OTT annually to the Bridges program. Mr. Cloney agreed since only 15% of students served have an IEP. Ms. Armelino inquired if the amount of SELPA funds provided are proportional to the number of students with IEPs being served, and what percentage of the Bridges budget is the SELPA contribution.

Dr. Grant stated Fall River does not use the program enough to support. Mr. Adams stated it is difficult to know the impact of a program that serves younger students or measure the impact of service, but would be an impact if funding removed. Mr. Harrell reminded members Dr. Patz stated PAC felt they could use \$139k funds better themselves.

Judy Flores, Superintendent of SCOE, stated that SELPA's \$139k contribution is one part of well over \$1m budget for Bridges, and the SELPA funds only students with IEPs. Sustainability of the program focused across several funding streams, including serving preschool children blowing out of current programs with success.

Discussion continued among members regarding the lack of data/outcomes provided for specific districts and how the program supports all of the SELPA. Mr. Hopper sees an increase in mental health and behavior and inquired if funds should be allocated there instead. Mr. Cloney agreed, as there are many other funding options for early intervention. Mr. Adams suggested districts could contribute directly with their own funds.

Dr. Patz continued with the "Fall River" slide regarding their \$190k mental health subsidy, confirming PAC elected not to continue OTT pass throughs, although federal funds at SELPA level could be used instead. Mr. Cloney reiterated that the Hill Country contract serves Fall River students, and is balanced with all other districts using the Dunamis contract. Dr. Grant agreed and reminded members that Fall River's services due to remote area are more costly than services in the basin. Page 29 of the Agenda shows remote subsidies from budget packet last year. PAC recognized that other funding streams are available.

Dr. Grant is willing to take hit on other pass throughs, but would like to see the Hill Country contract covered by SELPA. Discussion among Dr. Patz and members included Fall River losing the \$60k pass through but keeping 1 FTE. SELPA would retain all federal funds and Fall River's state dollars, while Fall River keeps his FTE and SELPA pays for Hill County.

Mr. Geren suggested that if the Dunamis contract is discontinued, the JPA may use all of their funds to establish their own contracts, including pooling funds to contract with Dunamis. SELPA could still maintain a NPA master contract for ISAs, but no SELPA funding.

Dr. Patz continued to the "Counseling Services" slide, stating one PAC member voiced concern. Items inclusive in Dunamis - juvenile hall, EXCEL, NPS, LEAs. EXCEL also hired their own, billing per day costs to LEAs. About \$25/day/student - \$50/day increase. SELPA could create some counseling positions for districts that are currently provided by Dunamis.

Mr. Adams referred back to Fall River, and reminded members that it's difficult for them to consolidate with other districts for services due to remoteness of the area and not only a funding issue for them. Agrees SELPA BCBA should continue to be funded due to newness and unknown usage.

Mr. Harrell stated that Dunamis could contract separately with districts. Juvenile Hall has no communication with districts, and it is unknown if SELPA would have to include funding with an independent Dunamis contract for Juvenile

Hall students. Agrees they can give direction without action. Ms. Armelino confirmed students are no longer enrolled with the district once placed in Juvenile Hall.

Members agreed to schedule a budget study session and requested macro data for the \$139k for Bridges over all districts, and all funding sources. Mr. Harrell suggested regions individually contact Bridges about their districts' interests. Ms. Flores will request Ms. Garcia send out individual district data.

Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation referring to slide "Other Direction for Budgeting" and asked members for guidance on extraordinary costs for interpreters, low incidence funds, preschool subsidies etc. and what items they would like to "deep dive" into during a budget meeting. Mr. Cloney requested further discussion on OTT funds and funding silos, broader base of AB602 spending OTT and other revenues to LEAs.

No action taken.

11. SELPA Office Costs – Discussion / ACTION

11a. Rancho Rd. Closing Statements

Discussion: Dr. Patz provided members with copies of the escrow final closing statements for the Rancho properties reflecting closing costs over the previously approved amount by \$5k. All members agree that is acceptable. Dr. Patz referred to the "Funding Approval" slide showing total costs of \$605k, and Reserves including \$75k in ERMHS for the BCBA, and \$30k for AB130 Disp Prev Funds.

ACTION: Jim Cloney motioned to approve the funding items in the amount of \$605,329.00 as presented. Victor Hopper seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 7-0, no opposition, no abstentions, no absentees.

11b. Lease – Neves - \$800.00 / month, 12-12-22 through 4-11-23

11c. Lease – CHYBA - \$1,800 / month, 12-12-22 through 6-30-23 (*pending signature*)

Discussion: Dr. Patz provided members copies of the lease agreements for the Rancho properties. Neves lease includes rent & HOA funds. The CHYBA lease runs through June 30, 2023 and is the same as their current lease amount.

11d. Moving costs

Discussion: Dr. Patz referred to slides "One-time Costs" and "Future Costs" concerning the SELPA move into the Rancho properties. He is in possession of keys to the units and will inspect all for flooring, expecting about \$7,500/unit, plus paint and furnishings. Dr. Patz requested allocation of \$60k for FF&E from reserves or possible one-time funds and will bring an accounting of expenses.

ACTION: Heather Armelino motioned to approve the allocation of \$60,000.00 for FF&E as presented. Victor Hopper seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 7-0, no opposition, no abstentions, no absentees.

12. Report of Closed Session

Discussion: Chairman Adams reported that no action was taken in closed session, and members directed Dr. Patz to fund the possible litigation and settlement options accordingly.

13. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

Discussion: Dr. Patz and members scheduled a special budget study of the Board for February 8, 2023 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm with a catered lunch.

14. Next meeting date: February 28, 2023 – Budget and Regular meeting - 8:00 a.m., Shasta COE **BOARD ROOM**

15. Adjourn – Jim Cloney motioned to adjourn. Victor Hopper seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.