

**SELPA Governing Board
Minutes
April 25, 2023
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 8:02 a.m.
Roll call:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------|
| ● 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 |
| ● Judy Flores, Shasta COE – Region 6 | Present |
| ● Merrill Grant, Fall River JUSD – Region 7 | Present |

2. Approval of Agenda

Discussion: Dr. Patz requested Consent Item 5e - 2023-24 NPA/S Master Contract, and Consent Item 5h – RTC form, be pulled from the Agenda. Both are pending additional information before proceeding.

ACTION: Jim Cloney motioned to pull and table Consent Item 5e - 2023-24 NPA/S Master Contract, and Consent Item 5h – RTC form from the Agenda, and approve the remaining Agenda as presented. Heather Armelino 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. SELPA Local Plan necessitates meeting in May (*meeting currently scheduled for 5/23*)
- 4b. PreK Inclusion Training – May 24, 2023 – Shasta Hall, PDC
- 4c. F3 Legal Training- June 9, 2023 – Board Room, SCOE
- 4d. Multiple Trainings - August 10-11, 2023 – SELPA Rancho

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members that the SELPA Governing Board will need to meet on May 23, 2023 as tentatively scheduled due to the necessity to review the 2023-24 Local Plan. The PreK Inclusion training on May 24th already has 33 registrants. Hot Topics legal training will be held June 9th. On August 10-11, the SELPA will host multiple trainings at the new Rancho location for behavior, IEP/SEIS and Goalbook instruction. Three levels of instruction will be provided to accommodate new hires, interns and advanced needs. August 11th will be an all-day training on the Soudy reading system which is Orton-Gillingham aligned for grades K-12. Proportionate Share funds

will be used in order to include private school teachers to keep the focus on literacy post pandemic. Nick Syrrist, Support Services Consultant, led a Paraeducator training on April 17th and had 30 attendees from many districts who provided great feedback stating “thank you for seeing us”. Dr. Patz stated that as one-time funds go away, the professional development piece becomes most important. SELPA will offer training most Mondays and Wednesdays at the new Rancho offices, including more job-alikes for school psychologists, speech pathologists and more. Dr. Patz emphasized the importance of making staff available to attend trainings.

Ms. Armelino inquired about more summer Paraeducator trainings. Dr. Patz indicated that since no one-time funds remain, he is willing to coordinate another training if districts are willing to pay. Ms. Armelino indicated a willingness to pay if scheduling can align with staff development days. Dr. Patz will work together with Annie Payne, EESD Special Education Director and plan for a training.

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.)*

5a. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 2-28-23

5b. ESY Waivers

5b1. Anderson UHSD

5b2. Cascade ESD

5b3. Bella Vista ESD

5c. Low Incidence Equipment Requests

5c1. LI Request #64 – Happy Valley ESD – Junction, VI / OI Equipment \$1,276.26

5c2. LI Request #65 – Enterprise ESD – Lassen View, HH Equipment \$1,802.38

5c3. LI Request #66 – Enterprise ESD – Lassen View, HH Equipment \$ 477.96

5c4. LI Request #67 – Cottonwood ESD – Junction, VI / OI Equipment \$ 72.92

5c5. LI Request #68 – Enterprise ESD – Mistletoe, HH Equipment \$ 745.00

TOTAL: \$4,374.52

5d. 2023-24 Meeting Schedule

5e. 2023-24 NPA/S Master Contract

5f. NPA Rate Sheets 2023-24

5f1. Communication Across Barriers

5f2. Connecting to Care

5f3. Horizon Speech Therapy

5f4. Presence Learning

5f5. Pristine Rehab

5f6. Psyched Services

5f7. Talk Path Live

5f8. The Hello Foundation

5f9. Tiny Eye

5f10. Woods Family Speech Therapy

5g. Allocation Model

5h. RTC Form

5i. Dunamis ESY Agreement

Discussion: Dr. Patz reminded members that Consent Items 5e – 2023-24 NPA/S Master Contract, and Consent Item 5h – RTC Form are both pulled from the Consent items and tabled.

ACTION: Jim Cloney motioned to pull and table Consent Item 5e - 2023-24 NPA/S Master Contract, and Consent Item 5h – RTC form from the Agenda, and approve the remaining Consent Items as presented. Heather Armelino seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 7-0, no opposition, no abstentions, no absentees.

6. SELPA Budget – Reserves – Update / Discussion

Discussion: Dr. Patz provided members a slide presentation and informed members that during the SELPA Finance Advisory Council meeting, he appreciated Donell Evans', CBO of Anderson UHSD, concern over SELPA expenses. State revenues are down and projections aren't good. Reserves are unlikely to change. OOH funds now funded 50% less with two placements pending Board consideration in today's closed session. RTC cost increases are significant, as they were previously \$250k/year, but now closer to \$300-\$350k/year, with the SELPA to receive less revenue and larger expenses. Low Incidence funds should be reviewed in two years. Mental Health funds are all passing to LEAs beginning next year, with no increase to the SELPA. Subsidies to Fall River and Bridges will go down. Medi-Cal won't generate funds since the SELPA is no longer providing ERMHS with audits still pending.

Mr. Cloney inquired about OOH funds. Dr. Patz stated the SELPA received about \$1.1m this year, and is unsure if the CDE will go back and recount beds. We received 100% of funds promised, plus some additional leftover funds, but should know more in June if the CDE will adjust funding, as the bed count is now adjusted. Dr. Patz added that he believes the CDE is building a system to count beds annually, but it depends on how many beds are actually filled, not just available. Dr. Patz believes there is predictability in the \$1.1m being made available, as he is seeing more facilities open in California, and confirmed the primary use of funds are foster youths with challenging behaviors, high school students in Spectrum from group homes, plus residential placements, including students in juvenile hall.

7. Spectrum Expansion – Discussion / ACTION

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated that Spectrum Center has been here for a year but has not been "a roaring success". He stated Spectrum will have a new Director in the Fall and emphasized the need for their program for many students. Shasta County currently has about 10 students per grade level ready to place, and Tehama County confirmed having six students with ED and three with autism they would like to enroll. Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation and suggested Spectrum would offer three consecutive grade levels - likely 5th, 6th, and 7th, plus an autism room. There are fourteen students projected for the autism classroom. Spectrum proposes to \$250 per day per student with a 40 student minimum guarantee which would be anticipated to be achieved by October. Districts could anticipate rate smoothing until then and would be billed at a higher rate of approximately \$300 per day per student until 40 students are met, then SELPA will credit or rebate districts. If districts end up paying \$300 per day all year, then SELPA could possibly increase the RRC subsidy amount to help subsidize costs. Dr. Patz stated we are "far down the path" with Spectrum, who is leasing classrooms from the Presbyterian Church on Placer in Redding but is currently having zoning issues. Dr. Patz stated the SELPA has no alternative and Spectrum promised to have their facility fully staffed and ready for students opening day. He confirmed this is only a one year contract, and the Program Advisory Council (PAC) approved in a split vote, with SUHSD and Fall River voting against, and EESD abstaining.

Ms. Flores referred to the "Next Year" slide and inquired how many of the projected students are currently at EXCEL. CP confirmed a few are currently on independent study, and that most schools already placed students when IEP School closed, while many other students are foster youth or group home students.

Mr. Cloney inquired about the financial picture of the \$3.9m in OOH reserves, and if the possibly steady stream of \$1.1m takes the total to approximately \$5m. Further inquiry continued as to what are districts are going to Pay. Dr. Patz confirmed that if we achieve 40 students enrolled, then there is no cost to the SELPA. Or, if Spectrum can't provide services due to staffing, etc., then there is no cost to the SELPA. Discussion continued regarding the use of OOH funds for students out of home, and if we exceed Regional Resource Committee (RRC) funds, we could use OOH, Mental Health or general reserve funds. If students are in district but OOH, they would still be eligible.

Mr. Cloney emphasized that our county absolutely NEEDS this program, but is very concerned with Spectrum's rapid expansion and suggested a slow growth to allow Spectrum the ability and time to hire quality staff while scaling their program. Dr. Patz questioned which classes to eliminate, as our county has high needs for both high school, and middle school students. The autism class is an option, but IEP School placed kids on the spectrum with students with ED / ID which was not a good fit as all needed different models.

Mr. Adams confirmed Dr. Patz is asking for approval to expand Spectrum to four classrooms with a guarantee of 40 students for \$2m. Dr. Patz confirmed the contract would be for one year.

ACTION: Heather Armelino motioned to approve the expansion of Spectrum Center to four classrooms, guaranteeing 40 students for \$2m as presented. Robert Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 4-3-0, (9-6-0 based on vote weights per SELPA Local Plan). Robert Adams, Heather Armelino, Doug Geren and Judy Flores approved. Jim Cloney, Victor Hopper and Merrill Grant opposed. No abstentions, no absentees.

8. Support Services Consultant Position- Discussion / ACTION

Discussion: Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation and informed members the SELPA needs to support the thirteen districts in Differentiated Assistance. SCOE agreed that sharing one position between the two duties would be most helpful. Question #1 is if SELPA could split the Support Services Consultant position as 50% SELPA, 50% SCOE Differentiated Assistance at a higher pay scale. Dr. Patz stated the PAC was a split vote, and that this is part of multiple related requests and asked that the Board consider item 9 before deciding.

9. Staffing – Discussion / ACTION

- 9a. Low Incidence Providers
- 9b. Interpreters
- 9c. Administration
- 9d. Funding

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated that Ms. Flores and SCOE proposed that SELPA to take over management of the Low Incidence itinerants. The LI staffing budget is \$1.2m with ASL interpreters included, although they are a bill for service model, and 10% of the Director's salary is also factored into that cost. Shasta UHSD also notified Dr. Patz they have two vacant interpreter positions that would be given to the SELPA. Question #2 is if the Board wants to move the LI itinerants from SCOE to SELPA. It would be an easy HR issue, as they would stay under SCOE.

Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation to discuss management challenges. Question # 3 is if the Board would authorize the SELPA to hire another full time Support Services Consultant to help manage the LI Itinerant staff. Salary is approximately \$150k/year but will also have SCOE's 8% COLA increase. The SELPA would need to identify \$50k to fully fund the position. Dr. Patz provided a list of various funding streams available, including mental health reserves suggested by De'An Chambless at the FAC meeting April 24th. FAC did NOT like the idea, but agreed SELPA could bill districts for the itinerants. Dr. Patz suggested consideration of reducing the indirect funds of \$100k paid to SCOE.

Dr. Patz reminded members of the questions for consideration:

- #1: Can we split the current SELPA Support Services Consultant 50/50 with SCOE?
- #2: Do we move management of the Low Incident Itinerants under SELPA?
- #3: Can SELPA add a new full time Support Services Consultant position to support the LI Itinerants?

If SELPA manages the Itinerant staff, we can still have challenges finding staff, although Gina Murphy, SCOE, suggested an interpreter intern option. PAC supported by a split vote 4-2-1, and FAC wanted more information on the actual financial impact on pass through dollars. \$50k could be divided by ADA. We do get AB602 funds for Program Specialists.

Discussion continued regarding the EXCEL Director currently managing the itinerants, and if she leaves, will we still need to hire a replacement. Ms. Flores indicated that depending on the SELPA decision, they may restructure EXCEL to allow a person w/out SpEd experience to manage EXCEL. Dr. Patz confirmed the 9% paid for indirects won't change.

Mr. Cloney reiterated the split position would have split funding and duties, increasing costs from 1 FTE to 1.5. Mr. Hopper stated appreciation for Nick Syrrist, SELPA Support Services Consultant, and credits him with helping AUHSD with Significant Disproportionality and is very concerned with the SELPA losing half of his support. Dr. Patz confirmed that is the reason for requesting to back fill the position, in addition to districts needing additional support due to anticipated staffing turnovers.

Discussion continued regarding SELPA taking over management of the Low Incidence providers and interpreters, as benefits would include having the ability to better manage and utilize their services. Dr. Patz suggested the purchase of another unit at the Rancho Road location would cost approximately \$200k, plus additional costs including paint, flooring, desks, etc. Ms. Armelino inquired if SELPA will be required to provide more support to EXCEL if they have a new principal without special education experience. Ms. Flores added that the position is not yet defined as it depends on the SELPA's decision. Dr. Patz confirmed SCOE would still manage and support EXCEL. Mr. Cloney added that it would be easier if the low incidence providers and interpreters didn't have to move into a new space.

Chairman Adams reminded members of the decisions before the Board:

- A/ split the current SELPA Support Services Consultant position
- B/ move Low Incidence providers and interpreters (itinerants) to SELPA management
- C/ add another full time Support Services Consultant position

Mr. Geren stated that support is needed as issues continue to grow. Dr. Patz will meet with FAC regarding funding.

ACTION: Doug Geren motioned to approve A/ splitting the current SELPA Support Services Consultant position; B/ move Low Incidence providers and interpreters (itinerants) to SELPA management; and C/ to add another full time Support Services Consultant position as presented. Jim Cloney seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 6-0-1. Doug Geren, Jim Cloney, Robert Adams, Victor Hopper, Heather Armelino, and Merrill Grant approved. None opposed. Judy Flores abstained. No absentees.

10. ERMHS Backup Staffing

Discussion: Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation and reminded members that all ERMHS funding will be distributed directly to LEAs next year, and some districts will likely have challenges to provide services. The SELPA could partner with SCOE's Bridges program to coordinate 15-20 hours per week available for counseling support, should one of our LEAs be in need. (Back to Bridges slide). Bridges could bill at an hourly rate. Dr. Patz stated he has no recommendation from PAC due to time constraints at their last meeting.

Mr. Cloney confirmed Shasta UHSD would not use such services and wants to avoid spending reserves. Districts can use their ERMHS funds for services. Dr. Patz spoke with Hill Country Clinic about interest in ERMHS. Dr. Grant confirmed Fall River JUSD is still working with Hill Country.

Discussion continued regarding Bridges ability to serve all students if needed, though concerns were raised about contributing to Bridges when they just voted to reduce funding of the program. Dr. Patz stated it would secure a counselor for an emergent need, and bill districts since they will have the ERMHS funds.

Mr. Cloney opposes using SELPA reserves and prefers districts allocate a portion of their own funds. Mr. Geren agrees.

11. Rancho Road – Building / Budget Update – Discussion / ACTION

- 11a. SELPA Building Update
- 11b. Wonderland Signs proposal
- 11c. MOU – Columbia ESD – Custodial Services
- 11d. Tech Costs funding

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members that the tenant in unit 9 is still having zoning issues with his new location and continues to pay SCOE rent. The Wonderland Signs proposal is for all three purchased units. The MOU with Columbia ESD is for custodial services for all three units. Columbia can hire another FTE and provide marginal savings for the SELPA.

ACTION: Victor Hopper motioned to approve items 11a – 11d s as presented. Jim Cloney seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 7-0, no opposition, no abstentions, no absentees.

NOTE: *Mr. Geren stated the SELPA website provides conflicting information regarding the number of votes held by Region 6 and inquired if it could affect the vote on the Spectrum matter (item 7). Further inquiry verified the SELPA Local Plan correctly listed the vote weights, Region 1- three, Region 2- two, Region 3- two.*

- 11e. Purchase additional unit

Discussion: Dr. Patz requested members approve the purchase of an additional unit at the Rancho Road location using general reserves in order to bring the itinerants under one roof with the SELPA. Mr. Cloney voiced concern the purchase and improvements wouldn't be completed by August and inquired if they would need to start the new school year where they are, and possibly stay the first year. Dr. Patz agreed that is an option, though he prefers to have them close for management purposes. Chairman Adams estimates \$20k per year if they stay at the EXCEL property. Mr. Geren agreed with Mr. Cloney. Dr. Patz reminded members the SELPA is still well over the required \$3m in overall reserves. Dr. Grant agreed with the advantages of managing all staff under one building.

ACTION: Merrill Grant motioned to approve purchasing an additional unit at Rancho Road as presented. Victor Hopper seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 6-1-0, Jim Cloney opposed, no abstentions, no absentees.

12. Bus Replacement – Discussion / ACTION

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members that now is the time to buy diesel buses as they are fading out and electric buses are not feasible for the majority of Shasta County. The total proposed investment from SCOE is \$1.7m. If SELPA pays, LEAs costs are reduced. If SELPA does not contribute, SCOE will increase their billing to LEAs using transportation services to approximately \$1,200 per student. The PAC recommends SELPA keep reserves and not contribute. The FAC agreed to allocate \$400k from reserves towards the purchase.

Ms. Armelino reminded members that SELPA recently purchased two 2023 buses. Mr. Hopper indicated Anderson UHSD is working towards their transportation. Mr. Cloney reminded members the SELPA bus purchase is used solely for special education students. Dr. Grant inquired if anyone has asked about transportation for Fall River.

ACTION: Jim Cloney motioned to subsidize \$400k towards the SCOE bus replacement purchase. Victor Hopper seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 7-0, no opposition, no abstentions, no absentees.

13. Report of Action Taken in Closed Session

13a. Public Employee Appointment/Employment and Student Discipline and Other Confidential Student Matters – Shasta High School

ACTION: After discussion, members voted by majority to subsidize the student.

13b. Public Employee Appointment/Employment and Student Discipline and Other Confidential Student Matters – Redding Elementary School District

ACTION: After discussion, members voted by majority to subsidize the student.

13c. Public Employee Appointment/Employment and Student Discipline and Other Confidential Student Matters – SELPA Director Evaluation

No action taken.

14. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

7.1 Fall River JUSD \$42k remote subsidy

Discussion: None.

15. Next meeting date: May 23, 2023 – Regular meeting - 8:00 a.m., Shasta COE **BOARD ROOM**

16. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.