

SUPERINTENDENTS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TULARE COUNTY MASTER PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

MINUTES

October 28, 2008

The Superintendents Governance Committee met on Tuesday, October 28, 2008, in the Board Room of the Tulare County Office of Education.

MEMBERS PRESENT: **John Beck**, Superintendent, Tulare City Elementary; **Howard Berger**, Superintendent, Tulare Joint Union High; **Stan Carrizosa**, Superintendent, Visalia Unified; **David DePaoli**, Superintendent, Strathmore Union Elementary; **Tim Hire**, Superintendent, Woodlake Union; **Janet Jones**, Superintendent, Farmersville Unified; **Janet Kliegl**, Superintendent, Lindsay Unified; **Jerry Sessions**, Superintendent, Dinuba Unified; **Dr. John Snavelly**, Superintendent, Porterville Unified; **Jim Vidak**, County Superintendent, Tulare County; **Renée Whitson**, Superintendent, Exeter Union **Dr. Marilyn Rankin**, Assistant Superintendent/SELPA Administrator, Tulare County.

MEMBERS ABSENT: **Dr. Carolyn Kehrli**, Superintendent, Cutler-Orosi Unified; **Dr. Gary Mekeel**, Superintendent, Burton Elementary; **Sue Sherwood**, Superintendent, Three Rivers Union Elementary; **Dr. Marcella Smith**, Superintendent, Earlimart Elementary.

OTHERS PRESENT: ALPAUGH UNIFIED: **Rob Hudson**, Superintendent; KINGS RIVER UNION ELEMENTARY: **Ed Snell**, Superintendent; LINDSAY UNIFIED: **Suzzane Terrill**, DOSE Representative to SGC; TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION: **Patty Blaswich**, Director, Internal Business; **Norma Erwin**, Parent Liaison, **Ron Pekarek**, Program Specialist, Behavior Services, **Kaye van Gilluwe**, Administrator, Student Support Services, **Dr. Eileen Wright**, Program Specialist, Behavior Services.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Janet Jones, Chairperson, opened the meeting to public comment. No public comment was made.

INTRODUCTIONS: Janet Jones, Chairperson, introduced two visiting superintendents, Rob Hudson, Superintendent, Alpaugh Unified and Ed Snell, Superintendent, Kings River Union Elementary. Ed Snell indicated Kings River receives special education services from the County Office including services of a Resource Specialist and a psychologist. He indicated his district is using the Rtl model and student study teams to provide interventions where appropriate. Kings Rivers has approximately 500 ADA and is currently building and expanding. Rob Hudson indicated Alpaugh has 350 ADA in a K-12 setting. His district has a Neverstreaming teacher and other services provided by TCOE. Having come from a district outside of Tulare County, Rob expressed approval of the County's approach to utilizing intervening services before special education. He also indicated Alpaugh's Charter School, Connections Academy is experiencing rapid growth.

REVIEW OF SGC PACKET: Dr. Marilyn Rankin reviewed the Superintendents Governance Committee agenda packet with the Superintendents. Items included were:

- Information Sharing from the State Director of the Policy and Evaluation Division, Barbara McDonald, CDE – Impact of the CMA on the AYP Report – Marilyn indicated details will be provided to the Directors at their next meeting.
- Coalition for the Adequate Funding of Special Education (CAFSE) Bill Report as of 10/1/08.

GUEST PRESENTERS: Dr. Eileen Wright and Ron Pekarek, Program Specialists with the Bright Future for Children Program gave a presentation to the Superintendents on how the Bright Future Program is working with Districts to support students with a diagnosis of Autism or severe behavior problems who require in-home behavioral services. Ron indicated there are eight to ten other providers of in-home behavioral services (Aces, ABC, Genesis etc.), and now the **Bright Future Program**. There are several ways Bright Future can help school districts in Tulare County. If the student currently receives in-home behavior services from the **Bright Future Program**, **Bright Future** staff members are available to collaborate with the child's educational team. If the student receives in-home behavior services from another vendor, Bright Future staff members can provide program oversight and support the district's implementation of a child's behavior program by providing on or off-site staff training, and on-site supervision by highly qualified behavior intervention specialists. This training costs \$125-\$150 per hour if provided by an outside vendor, but **Bright Future** staff is available to provide training at no cost to the district. See attached fee schedule for listing of additional services available to districts.

School Districts can support the program by recommending the **Bright Future** to parents who have children that could benefit from in-home behavioral services and by asking for the **Bright Future Program** as a service provider when requesting behavioral services from CVRC. Districts could reduce unnecessary costs by using the **Bright Future Program** to provide training and consultation to district staff for the most challenging students. The program has the same vested interest with the students as do the districts and the training and certification level of staff in the program is superior to that of other vendors. The program is housed at Union School and is geared to grow to meet the demand for services. Both Ron and Eileen are Board Certified Behavioral Analysts (BCBA) and also have on staff three Behavior Intervention Specialists currently in Masters Programs working toward BCBA certification. Initial funding for the program is through CVRC who completes the initial assessment and certifies the number of hours each child may receive for services. A form will be created to allow for direct referral to the program for those students not eligible for services through CVRC. It was recommended that Eileen and Ron also give a presentation to the small school districts in the County that may be in need of services as well. Superintendents were urged to call the **Bright Future Program** at 747-3864 if they have additional questions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the September 23, 2008 Superintendent's Governance Committee Meeting were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Stan Carrizosa and seconded by David DePaoli to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

DOSE REPORT: Suzzane Terrill, representative from the Directors of Special Education Committee to the Superintendents Governance Committee, reported on the October DOSE meeting (*See October 6, 2008 minutes*). The agenda item relating to the definition of a parent brought lengthy discussion, and the Superintendents suggested Carol Laird from County Counsel be invited to a future meeting to give a presentation on the subject.

SELPA EXPENDITURES/REVENUES FOR 2007-2008: Patty Blaswich, Director, Internal Business, and Kay van Gilluwe, Administrator, Student Support Services and Assistant SELPA Administrator, presented to the Superintendents the expenditures and revenues for 2007-2008. Enclosures included three versions of the “annual report card” including the pie chart depicting expenditures for TCOE and Districts, a historical bar chart indicating that while overall expenditures are increasing in relation to revenue, the TCOE portion is down slightly from prior year as a percentage of the whole, and the spreadsheet separating expenditures and revenues by source of funding. Ending balances in SELPA and 65001 Appropriations as well as reserve dollars over and above the \$475 per ADA allocation may be available for distribution to Districts if they still hold at recertification in March.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS MEETING: Dr. Marilyn Rankin, Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, and SELPA Administrator, announced that the meeting to be held with private school representatives annually will be held Wednesday, November 19th, at TCOE. She also reviewed the proportionate share calculation for funds that must be set aside in 2008-2009 to provide these services to parentally placed private school students.

AB2040—CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM (CAHSEE) AND DISABLED STUDENTS: Janet Jones, Chairperson, reviewed passage of recent legislation, AB 2040, which will require the creation of a panel by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish alternative means for disabled students to demonstrate achievement equivalent to CAHSEE content standards in English language arts and/or math. These alternative methods are not targeted to be adopted until January 1, 2011.

STAFF CHANGES AT THE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND THE TULARE COUNTY/DISTRICT SELPA: Dr. Marilyn Rankin, Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, and SELPA Administrator, announced that Dr. Michael Stephens, Administrator, Severely Handicapped Programs, will be retiring the end of December after 37 ½ years of service with the County Office.

SELPA POLICY #2530 – DISTRICTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING FOR SERVICES FOR HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS THROUGH THE TULARE COUNTY/DISTRICT SELPA (FIRST READING): Dr. Marilyn Rankin, Assistant Superintendent, Special Services, and SELPA Administrator, reviewed changes requested to SELPA Policy #2530 which include an increase to the established rate for interpreters to no greater than \$50 per hour including benefits or no greater than the labor distribution report and addition of language to indicate a good faith effort must be made by the Districts to employ interpreters for hearing impaired students who meet the certification requirements under Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. Minor verbiage changes were suggested, and the policy will be brought back to the next meeting for a second reading and approval.

NEXT MEETING: Agenda items for future SGC meetings were requested. The next meeting of the Superintendents Governance Committee will be Tuesday, November 25, 2008, from 12 Noon to 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Tulare County Office of Education.

Jerry Sessions shared with the group that the King and Queen for Dinuba's Homecoming this year were students in the special education program. It was also noted Jerry Sessions, Superintendent, Dinuba Unified, and John Beck, Superintendent, Tulare City Elementary District, will both be retiring at the end of this school year.

HANDOUTS: AGENDA ITEM HANDOUTS: The Bright Future Program: Working with Schools to Support Students; Bright Future Example of Student Skill Tracking System; Draft minutes of the September 23, 2008 Superintendent's Governance Committee meeting; 602 Expenses 2007-2008 Pie Chart; 602 Expenses 2007-2008 Historical Bar Chart with Revenue Trend; Special Education Revenue & Expenditures Summary Spreadsheet 2007-2008; Memo to Private and Parochial School Administrators Invitation to November 19th Meeting; Estimated Private School Funding Calculation for 2008-2009; Lozano Smith Client News Brief *Governor Signs Bill Addressing Disabled Students and the CAHSEE and Creating New Partnership Academies*; AB 2040 Alternative to CAHSEE for Disabled Students Summary; Tulare County/District SELPA Policy #2530 – Districts Receiving Special Education Funding for Services for Hearing Impaired Students through the Tulare County/District SELPA (first reading).

MISCELLANEOUS HANDOUTS: Information Sharing from the State Director of the Policy and Evaluation Division, Barbara McDonald, CDE – Impact of the CMA on the AYP Reports; Coalition for the Adequate Funding of Special Education (CAFSE) Bill Report as of 10/1/08.

Janet Jones, Chairperson
Superintendents Governance Committee

Marilyn Rankin, Chief Administrative Officer
Superintendents Governance Committee