



**GOVERNANCE COUNCIL OF SUPERINTENDENTS (GCS)
MEETING MINUTES**

1290 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95131
May 20, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cambrian	Kristi Schwiebert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moreland	Clover Codd
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Campbell Elem	Shelly Viramontez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MVLA	Eric Volta
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Campbell High	Robert Bravo	<input type="checkbox"/> MVWSD	Jeff Baier
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cupertino	Stacy Yao	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Palo Alto	Yolanda Conaway for Don Austin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fremont Union	Graham Clark	<input type="checkbox"/> San Jose Unified	Seth Reddy for Nancy Albarran
<input type="checkbox"/> Lakeside	Sean Joyce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCCOE	David Toston, Sr.
<input type="checkbox"/> Loma Prieta	Kevin Grier	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Clara Unified	Gary Waddell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Los Altos	Jennifer Keicher for Sandra McGonagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saratoga	Kenneth Geisick
<input type="checkbox"/> Los Gatos	Paul Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sunnyvale	Michael Gallagher
<input type="checkbox"/> Los Gatos-Saratoga	Heath Rocha	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Union	Carrie Andrews
<input type="checkbox"/> Luther Burbank	Ladislao Lopez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SELPA	Leo Mapagu

OTHERS PRESENT: Heather Wellendorf (Campbell Elem), Megan Fincher (parent-SCUSD), Susan Salop (parent-FUHSD), Tanya Shevnina (parent-Lakeside), Tina Chang (parent-Cambrian), Christine Case-Lo (parent-MVLA), Jane Chen (parent-MVLA), Geeta Gollakota (parent-SESD), Li-Leng Au (parent-SJUSD), Karen Santiago (SELPA), Marjorie Paeste (SELPA)

TIME CONVENED: 9:32 a.m. **TIME ADJOURNED:** 10:54 a.m. **RECORDER:** Marjorie Paeste

I. PUBLIC SESSION

A. Roll Call and Welcome of Guests

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by NW SELPA Governance Council Chair, Dr. Michael Gallagher. Attendance was taken through a sign-in sheet.

B. Hearing of persons wishing to address the Council

Ms. Megan Fincher addressed the Council regarding having parent committees at the district level, and having each district contribute to the CAC budget.

Ms. Susan Salop expressed that the new consolidated NW SELPA CAC structure limits parent engagement and advocated for parent advisory committees at the district level.

Ms. Tanya Shevnina spoke in favor of true inclusion, easier placements, and expressed support for local advisory committees.

Ms. Christine Case-Lo shared her concern that the newly consolidated NW SELPA CAC structure restricts the CAC’s capacity to support families. She advocated for the establishment of local advisory committees within individual districts.

Dr. Jane Chen spoke about more meaningful participation by parents and face-to-face interaction with district administrators.



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Ms. Geeta Gollakota spoke about occupational therapy, and the need to incorporate more evidence-based practices in the classrooms.

Ms. Li-Leng Au addressed the Council regarding her experience with the Deaf-Hard of Hearing program at her district and the importance of having more inclusive school placements.

Ms. Tina Chang also spoke about the Deaf-Hard of Hearing program, emphasizing the need for greater collaboration among districts and the establishment of a local forum for parents.

II. CONSENT ITEMS

A. **Setting the Agenda**

The order of the agenda was revised to reverse items VI: Closed Session and V: Information/Discussion. Action Item IV.C: Approval of the updated NW SELPA Administrative Unit Agreement will be tabled to the first GCS meeting in 2025-26. Dr. Shelly Viramontez moved to approve the revised agenda and Dr. David Toston, Sr. seconded. The motion carried 13-0.

B. **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Clover Codd moved to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2025 meeting. Dr. Shelly Viramontez seconded, Dr. David Toston, Sr. abstained, and the motion carried 12-1-0.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing on the 2025-2026 Annual Budget Plan and Annual Service Plan was opened by Dr. Michael Gallagher at 9:51 a.m. No one addressed the Council. Dr. Michael Gallagher moved to close the public hearing at 9:52 a.m. Dr. Shelly Viramontez seconded, and the motion carried 13-0.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. **Approval of the following NW SELPA Local Plan Sections - A: Contacts & Certifications, D: Annual Budget Plan & Attachments, and E: Annual Service Plan & Attachments for 2025-2026**

Section A of the Local Plan includes the contact information and certification requirements for the SELPA. The Annual Budget Plan outlines the revenue sources, the breakdown of total budget by object code, and operating expenditures, while the Annual Service Plan identifies the full continuum of service options provided within the SELPA. Dr. Shelly Viramontez moved to approve the 2025-26 NW SELPA Local Plan Sections A, D, E, and Attachments as presented. Dr. Robert Bravo seconded, and the motion carried 13-0.

B. **Approval of the NW SELPA Office Operations Budget for 2025-2026**

The NW SELPA Office operations budget for 2025-26 based on an estimated revenue of \$1,987,110 includes the annual renewal cost for the SIRAS IEP system that is utilized by all member LEAs, operating expenses and supplies, and staff salaries/benefits. Dr. David Toston, Sr. moved to approve the NW SELPA Office budget for 2025-26 as presented. Supt. Stacy Yao seconded, and the motion carried, 13-0.

C. **Approval of the updated NW SELPA Administrative Unit Agreement**

This item was tabled to the first GCS meeting of 2025-26, as per item II.A above.



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D. Approval of the Elimination of the NW SELPA Special Education Inter-District Transfer Procedure and Revision of the Budget Allocation Plan for IDT Billing

The Council discussed the potential impacts of retaining the current NW SELPA inter-district transfer procedure or eliminating it in alignment with CA Ed Code 48204(a)(1)(B)(3), which states that once a student is released by the District of Residence (DOR) and admitted to the District of Acceptance (DOA), the student is deemed to have complied with residency requirements in the DOA, and the DOA is fiscally responsible for that student's education. Dr. Robert Bravo moved to table the item until the June GCS meeting to allow for additional review. Dr. Kenneth Geisick seconded, and the motion passed 13-0.

E. Approval of updated SELPA Private School Policy

The California Department of Education recently released updated guidance stating that a preschool student with a disability who is parentally placed in a private school may receive special education services through either an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a Service Plan. In contrast, a preschool student with a disability attending a public school may receive services through an IEP. As such, the SELPA Private School Policy was updated accordingly with the help of legal counsel to clarify that a preschool qualifies as a private school if it also serves elementary school students, including those in transitional kindergarten. Supt. Eric Volta moved approve the updated SELPA Private School policy. Dr. David Toston, Sr. seconded, and the motion passed 13-0.

F. Approval of the NW SELPA Governance Council of Superintendents 2025-26 Meeting Dates

Dr. Robert Bravo moved approve the NW SELPA Governance Council of Superintendents 2025-26 meeting dates. Dr. David Toston, Sr. seconded, and the motion passed 13-0.

G. Nomination and Election of Governance Council Vice Chairperson for 2025-2026

Dr. Shelly Viramontez moved to nominate Supt. Stacy Yao as the next Vice Chairperson of the NW SELPA Governance Council of Superintendents for the 2025–26 school year. As the current Vice Chairperson, Dr. Viramontez will assume the role of Chairperson in the new fiscal year, in accordance with the SELPA Local Plan. The motion was seconded by Dr. Clover Codd, and the motion passed 13-0.

V. CLOSED SESSION (at 10:36 a.m.)

A. Evaluation of SELPA Executive Director

VI. OPEN SESSION (at 10:47 a.m.)

A. Report on Action/s taken in Closed Session

No reportable actions were taken.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. SELPA Executive Director's Update

Director Leo Mapagu provided updates on the following:

- 1. CA Children's Services (CCS) Medical Therapy Units (MTUs)** – the Vargas MTU in Sunnyvale will close in 2025-26, and CCS also indicated the possible non-renewal of lease for the Juana Briones MTU in Palo Alto in 2027. SCCOE will be moving the special ed program from Chandler Tripp to Ridder Park, however, CCS-MTU would like to remain at Chander Tripp. Director Mapagu shared that



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there will be a need for a district/s to host the displaced MTUs and any cost of CCS facilities maintenance and supplies will be cost-shared by LEAs.

2. **CDE IEP Implementation Activity** – this is to fulfill CDE’s monitoring and enforcement responsibilities under the federal IDEA and help the state identify LEAs that are not providing the services specified in Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). NW SELPA developed an IEP Implementation calculator as part of its technical assistance and guidance provided to member LEAs. SELPA requires LEAs to complete an Assurance Form prior to certifying online submissions.
3. **NW SELPA Committees and Meetings** – Director Mapagu provided an updated on the following meetings held throughout the school year: Budget Allocation Plan meetings, Collaborative meetings, Private School Forms Committee meetings, Private School Consultation (proportionate share), Alternate Pathways to a High School Diploma Action Group, LCAP Consultations, and the Community Advisory Committee (parent education, budget, and communications subcommittees). He also shared the NW SELPA CAC’s recommended priorities for 2025-26.
4. **SELPA Activities:**
 - Fiscal – quarterly federal IDEA expenditure reports have been submitted to CDE. 2025-26 special ed revenue projections to districts, 2025-26 SCCOE Special Ed costs projections, calculation of SELPA Base Grant funding, Federal IDEA Part B Grant calculation, distribution and quarterly reporting of expenditure reports, calculation and distribution of State Special Ed Apportionment, and CCEIS budget review for districts identified as Significantly Disproportionate are all ongoing.
 - Data – Personal Data Report CDE data submissions and certification, District of Special Education Accountability (DSEA) review on SIRAS and CALPADS with LEAs, Timeline Compliance Data submission and review for Prong I for 2024-2025, reports for fiscal to calculate CDE’s new proportionate share process, and new updates to SIRAS IEP 8 form have all been completed. SIRAS Private School Service Plan forms implementation and testing, IEP implementation data collection and certification, Spring 2025 DRDP data collection and certification, EOY 3 and EOY 4 Siras and CALPADS trainings and data submissions, and 2025-2026 Siras rollover are all ongoing.
 - Professional Development – a recap of trainings/events hosted by NW SELPA was presented: there were 32 trainings held, with 1,712 combined registrations from district staff and parent participants.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Michael Gallagher moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m. Dr. Shelly Viramontez seconded, and the motion carried 13-0.