



GOVERNANCE COUNCIL OF SUPERINTENDENTS
MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2025

1290 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95131

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Table listing members present with checkboxes and names: Cambrian (Kristi Schwiebert), Campbell Elem (Shelly Viramontez), Campbell High (Robert Bravo), Cupertino (Stacy Yao), Fremont Union (Nancy Sullivan for Graham Clark), Lakeside (Steve Burrell), Loma Prieta (Kevin Grier), Los Altos (Sandra McGonagle), Los Gatos (Misty Hartung for Paul Johnson), Los Gatos-Saratoga (Heath Rocha), Luther Burbank (Ladislao Lopez), Moreland (Clover Codd), MVLA (Eric Volta), MVWSD (Jeff Baier), Palo Alto (Teri Lee for Don Austin), San Jose Unified (Seth Reddy for Nancy Albarran), SCCOE (David Toston, Sr.), Santa Clara Unified (Damon Wright), Saratoga (Kenneth Geisick), Sunnyvale (Gudiel Crosthwaite), Union (Carrie Andrews), SELPA (Leo Mapagu).

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathy Alaniz (SCUSD), Heather Wellendorf (Campbell Elem), Li-Leng Au (parent), Christine Case-Lo (parent-MVLA), Tina Chang (parent-Cambrian), Jane Chen (parent-MVLA), Megan Fincher (parent-SCUSD), Karen Santiago (SELPA), Marjorie Paeste (SELPA)

TIME CONVENED: 9:32 a.m. TIME ADJOURNED: 10:36 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 of Superintendents Chairperson, Dr. Shelly Viramontez. Roll was taken by NW SELPA Executive Director Leo Mapagu.

B. Hearing of persons wishing to address the Council

Ms. Li-Leng Au advocated for support of Deaf and Hard of Hearing students and least restrictive environment for children and families.

Ms. Christine Case-Lo spoke about having a dedicated forum for discussing key issues, and that CAC meetings be more widely publicized to encourage broader participation beyond voting members.

Ms. Tina Chang pointed out that access to programs and services has become limited following the closure of many special education programs. She also emphasized that inclusive practices are being overlooked and called for more thoughtful and appropriate student placements.

Dr. Jane Chen expressed concern that the CAC priority list survey was distributed only to voting members and that only three subcommittees were established. She also emphasized the need for adequate discussion time during meetings and cited that SELPA is in violation of the Education Code for not maintaining an active priority list in 2024-25.

Ms. Megan Fincher was pleased to report that the Santa Clara Unified School District Board has approved the formation of a local special education committee to address local community-specific needs.



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### II. CONSENT ITEMS

#### A. **Setting the Agenda**

Dr. Gudiel Crosthwaite moved to approve the agenda as presented. Supt. Sandra McGonagle seconded and the motion carried, 15-0.

#### B. **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. David Toston, Sr. moved to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2025 meeting. Supt. Sandra McGonagle seconded and the motion carried, 15-0.

### III. ACTION ITEM

#### A. **Approval of Cost Limitation for Independent Educational Evaluations 2025-26**

Dr. Damon Wright moved to approve the cost limitations for assessments of Individual Educational Evaluations for school year 2025-26, as discussed with district special education administrators, and as part of the SELPA Procedural Handbook. Dr. Kenneth Geisick seconded, and the motion carried, 15-0.

#### B. **Approval of the Elimination of the NW SELPA Special Education Inter-District Transfer (IDT) Procedure and Revision of the Budget Allocation Plan for IDT Billing**

The NW SELPA special education inter-district transfer procedure has been discussed at length with district program and fiscal administrators. The most recent discussion took place on September 10, 2025, involving superintendents and legal counsel. During the meeting, a comparison was presented between [State IDT laws vs. the current NW SELPA IDT procedure](#). It was noted that 70 students across NW SELPA member LEAs are currently attending schools on an approved IDT, representing approximately \$1.4 million in revenue transfers.

Dr. Clover Codd proposed an amendment, which is to grandfather-in students already approved for an IDT during the 2025–26 school year, given that the year is already halfway through. Supt. Eric Volta moved to eliminate the current NW SELPA IDT procedure with Dr. Codd’s proposed amendment. Dr. Gudiel Crosthwaite seconded, Dr. Carrie Andrews abstained, and the motion carried, 14-1-0.

### IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

#### A. **SELPA Executive Director’s Update**

Director Leo Mapagu provided updates on the following:

- 1. California Children’s Services Medical Therapy Unit (MTU)** – two of the MTUs currently located within the NW SELPA, Chandler Tripp and Juana Briones, will need to be relocated by the 2026–27 school year. According to the state-level interagency agreement, *“The SELPA is responsible for ensuring that the MTU is provided with the facility space, equipment, and supplies necessary to deliver therapy services.”* Districts that are able to host an MTU are eligible to receive credits.
- 2. Facilities Rate** - the current facilities rate, set in the 2018–19 fiscal year at \$27,148 per classroom (based on an average of 6.92 students), has not been updated since. This outdated rate may no longer cover the actual costs incurred by hosting districts, and the current funding formula may not reflect the true expenses of facilities, maintenance, and operations. This item will be agendized at the next Budget Allocation Plan meeting for further discussion.



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3. **NW SELPA Governance** - Exec Director Leo Mapagu reviewed the NW SELPA profile along with its Governance structure.
4. **NW SELPA CAC Priorities** – the Council reviewed the recommended priorities by CAC members for 2025-26, and clarification was made between district responsibility vs. SELPA responsibility. Of the seven top priorities identified, the Council agreed that NW SELPA will focus on developing an updated website hub with parent resources, promoting parent education especially in smaller districts, and updating and translating the Parent Handbook to reflect current legislation, definitions, and to create a more user-friendly, web-based version with linked information.
5. **SELPA Activities:**
  - Fiscal – quarterly federal IDEA expenditure reports have been submitted to CDE; SELPA year-end closing activities, special ed revenue projections, special ed costs projections, special ed Maintenance of Effort reports, NPS Extraordinary Cost Pool claims, CCEIS budget review are all ongoing/completed.
  - Data – IEP Implementation data collection and certification, spring 2025 DRDP certification, EOY3 and CALPADS data collection and certification; SIRAS rollover for 2025-26, CCS data review and distribution have all been completed. SIRAS private school service plan forms implementation and testing, fall 2025 DRDP data collection and certification, Prong II timeline compliance data submission and review, Fall-1 SIRAS and CALPADS training and data submissions are all ongoing.
  - NW SELPA meetings – Director Mapagu shared the dates for all the scheduled NW SELPA meetings this school year, including private school consultation meetings, collaborative meetings, data chats, budget allocation planning, Community Advisory Committee and subcommittee meetings.

### **V. CLOSED SESSION at 10:26 A.M.**

#### **A. Approval of NW SELPA Executive Director Goals for 2025-26**

### **VI. OPEN SESSION at 10:34 A.M.**

#### **A. Report on Action/s taken in Closed Session**

Dr. Shelly Viramontez reported that proposed Goals #1 and #3 were accepted, with the Council recommending that the Facilities Rate be integrated into Goals #1 and #2. Additionally, the Council suggested adding shared objectives for regional programs throughout the county.

### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Shelly Viramontez moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 a.m. Dr. Kenneth Geisick seconded and the motion carried, 15-0.

*Minutes approved by GCS on 3/24/26.*