

**WEST ORANGE COUNTY CONSORTIUM FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE WOCCSE SUPERINTENDENTS' COUNCIL**

**March 16, 2016**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

Dr. Carol Hansen/OVSD  
Gregg Haulk/HBC  
Dr. Mark Johnson/FVSD  
Dr. Greg Plutko/HBUHSD

**COUNCIL MEMBERS  
ABSENT**

Dr. Marian Phelps/WSD

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
PERSONNEL ABSENT**

Nancy Finch-Heuerman, Director/WOCCSE

**PLACE AND DATE OF  
MEETING**

Huntington Beach Union High School District  
Board Room  
March 16, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER  
(I)**

The meeting was called to order by Gregg Haulk.

**FLAG SALUTE  
(II)**

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Mr. Haulk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
(III)**

It was moved by Dr. Plutko, seconded by Dr. Hansen, that the minutes of the WOCCSE Superintendents' Council meeting on December 16, 2015 be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST  
(IV)**

None were presented.

**PRELIMINARY  
FUNCTIONS  
WOCCSE Recognition  
(V-A)**

Anne Delfosse, WOCCSE Executive Director, introduced the honoree for the "Above and Beyond" recognition award - Kathy Dryden.

Anne had the following to say about Kathy: "Kathy is a speech pathologist in OVSD. Her expertise reaches far beyond the typical, as she is gifted as an Augmentative-Alternative Communication Specialist.

**WOCCSE Recognition -  
continued**

When we speak of life-long learners, Kathy is at the top of this list. She is constantly searching out the latest research, trialing new methodologies, and talking with professional colleagues to gain new perspectives. Kathy is not content with simply learning, however, she takes what she learns and shares it.

Her contributions to students in need go far beyond her assignment and district. She has become a trusted coach and mentor throughout the SELPA. She is as generous with her time as she is with her expertise.

She is a professional leader, and through her mentoring, coaching, and training has contributed vastly to the professional growth and expertise of other educators and specialists. The relationships that she has developed with interns, colleagues, and administrators have endured over the years.

Kathy's colleagues describe her as being an effective communicator - providing generous support, with logic, sensitivity, kindness and honesty. This gift fares well with all who have the pleasure to work with her and be part of her team. Her dedicated service and outreach certainly has served our students well.

Please join me in recognizing Kathy Dryden for going above and beyond in service to students with disabilities."

On behalf of the Superintendents' Council and WOCCSE, Kathy was presented the "Above and Beyond" recognition award.

**REPORTS  
WOCCSE Budget  
(VI-A)**

Anne Delfosse introduced Caroline Larson, from Vtd (Vavrinek, Trine, Day, and Company.), WOCCSEs contracted accounting agency since November. Caroline provided the Council with the latest data to the WOCCSE LEA members for the 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 years. The specific items of interest were the distribution of 2015-16 awards and the closeout of the 2014-15 awards. The 2016-17 budget will be based upon the latest data available and would be similar to the 2015-16 year. Caroline stated that there was a decline in enrollment SELPA wide which impacted the funding. Caroline also stated that this same report was given to member District Special Ed and Fiscal Directors.

**REPORTS  
Legislative Update  
(VI-B)**

Mrs. Delfosse first brought to the attention of the Council a ten page document which is an excerpt addressing Special Education from the Prop 98 Legislative Analyst Office Report, released on February 18th.

**Legislative Update –  
continued**

Anne stated that following the release of the Governor’s proposed State Budget, the LAO prepares an analysis of the overall budget plan and provides recommendations to the Legislature as they begin their own budget planning process through the Budget Hearing Process, which begins this month.

Relative to Special Education, recommendations by the LAO included:

- That the Legislature adopt statute stating intent to equalize special education funding rates to the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of existing rates, and to close the special education funding gap at the same rate as LCFF. Using this approach would involve 2 steps: *calculating the funding gap* (the difference between the 90% rate and the current rate), and *requiring that any funds set aside for LCFF transition funding be applied proportionally to the remaining gaps in both LCFF and special education.*  
*This would involve adding the total special education funding gap for all SELPAs to the statewide LCFF gap and using the new ‘LCFF plus special education’ gap level to calculate a gap closure rate. The gap closure rate would then be applied equally to every SELPA and LEA. Under this approach, the state would close 46 percent of gap for both LCFF and special education (rather than 49 percent of the gap for LCFF only).*
- **Re: Infant Funding:** Because the funding for infants is complex, outdated and unequal, the LAO is recommending the legislature forego increases, and consider undertaking a comprehensive review of the state’s programs for infants and toddlers with special needs with the goal of addressing flaws in the existing system and ensuring that funding is equitable across the state.
- **Re: School wide Systems of Support:** The LAO is recommending that the legislature reject the expansion of the current grant amount, which would free up 30 million in Prop 98 funding that the Legislature could use for other one time purposes, such as paying down more of the existing mandate block grant.

Other items in the overall report that are relative to special education including the following:

- **Preschool Block Grant:** The LAO is complimentary of the Governor’s general approach to consolidate existing preschool programs and prioritized the funding for the neediest children, including students with exceptional needs.

**Legislative Update –  
continued**

- **Mandate Backlog:** The LAO recommends retiring the backlog over the next 2 or 3 years, with participating districts receiving a per pupil funding based on the median claim. As a condition of accepting funding, participating LEAs would be required to “write off” all existing claims through 2015-2016.
- **Teacher Workforce:** The LAO stressed the shortage of special education teachers in California. They recommended that, rather than creating policies to address shortages within the broad market of teachers, to instead focus on perennial teacher shortage areas (special education, science, and math) and difficult to staff schools.

In addition to the budget, over 2,000 bills were introduced to the legislature in February. State SELPA and the Coalition are just beginning the process of monitoring and identifying bills that need to be tracked.

Anne provided a brief review of a few weekly introduced bills, including:

**SB1071** - sponsored by the Coalition, ACSA, and CASBO...introduced by Senator Allen, this bill would establish a new formula for a permanent one-time total adjustment to the SELPA base funding calculation to support special education and related services as required under the IDEA for 3 and 4 year olds.

*Teacher shortage bills* are hot topics this year – a limited review follows:

**AB 2122** - revises the provisions in the California School Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program to instead establish the California Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Program for the purpose of recruiting classified school employees to participate in teacher training programs.

**AB 2336** - sponsored by ACSA, specifically focuses on the substitute teaching permits.

**AB 2815** - requires alternative certification programs to address the shortage area of special education.

**SB62** - APLE (Assumption Program for Loans for Education) - amends current law to require program participants to demonstrate financial need and teach in a field with critical shortage.

**Legislative Update –  
continued**

**SB915** - another recruiting bill, would establish a Center on Teaching Careers to create, expand, and coordinate a referral database for qualified teachers seeking employment in the public schools.

**SB933** - Would establish school based teacher prep programs where a candidate would teach alongside an experienced mentor teacher, while receiving instruction in a credentialing program.

**Subsequent to the AB114 (Mental Health Services Audit), there were several bills related to MH.** Some “Spot Bills” related to MH introduced were:

**AB1644** - This bill expands the definition of eligible pupils and establishes a 4 year pilot program for School Based Early Mental Health Intervention and Prevention Services Support.

**SB884** - provides a place holder for enacting legislation related to the provision of mental health services to pupils with exceptional needs.

**SB1113** - would require counties to enter into agreements with SELPAs to allow access to EPSDT funding through the county mental health programs by providing services as vendors. (early and periodic screening, diagnosis, treatment)

*Anne advised of some additional legislative issues of interest and focus with the following:*

**AB1369** – “Dyslexia Bill” (chaptered): the Superintendent’s stakeholder task force to establish procedures has been established. State SELPA does have representation on that task force. WOCCE included some reminders about this in our spring procedure review.

**AB277** – “Vaccination Bill” (chaptered): there continues to be discord relative to how this affects students with disabilities. Some are seeking clarity of intent from the legislature.

Other issues that may be addressed through legislative strategy that are on the radar:

- Services to previously eligible 18-22 year olds in jail.
- California Children Services (CCS): currently, there is an overlapping systems of care (medical and educational) - the 2 systems are not working well together.

**REPORTS**  
**WOCCSE Strategic Plan**  
**(VI-C)**

Lindy Leech-Painter presented an update on WOCCSE Staff Development.

Beginning with “*recent and on-going trainings*,” Lindy shared the following:

**Common Core State Standards-Trainer of Trainers** – this training was on-going over a two year period and focused on the specialists’ role in implementing the CCSS. The focus was on the practical application of new concepts and having teams go back to their Districts and share their knowledge. Teams have presented workshops within their districts on such topics as Universal Design for Learning, and Executive Functioning Skills. The Live Binder that was created over the two years remains open to all participants to use as a reference and to assist in further workshop development.

**Administrators’ Focus Group** – On February 15 a “WOCCSE Legal Panel” presented a very successful training that was open to all administrators in the SELPA. In addition to education attorneys that are currently working with Districts in WOCCSE, Nancy Finch-Heurman presented as well. The presentations were well received and during the Q & A session at the end, there was some great discussion generated.

**Assistive Technology (AT) Certificate Program** – Melissa Pattullo hosted her first training in January and will conclude the first week in April. Melissa is assisted by her colleagues within the SELPA and has 25 participants.

**Pro ACT Training – Professional Assault Crisis Training** – Lindy stated that WOCCSE is very fortunate to have Trainer of Trainers Billy Wilson and Leigh Perales.

**Procedure Reviews** – Lindy is meeting with 2 to 3 staff groups a week right now. Topics include CASEMIS take-aways from the Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> count, new forms such as the Procedural Safeguards and Release of Information, how AB 1369 (The Dyslexia Bill) impacts the districts, and the new template for academic reports by our specialists.

***Upcoming Offerings:***

**Supporting Transgender Students March 24** - open to administrators and other interested staff within the SELPA. Dr. Lamar Smith will be presenting.

**WOCCSE Strategic Plan -  
continued**

**Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis April 4-8** - the shift is going from straight Discrete Trial to embedding Applied Behavior Analysis principles in classes. Discrete trial will be taught as a strategy but the focus is more on teaching teachers and aides how to engage, motivate, and reinforce our students with autism in the classroom group environment.

**Trauma Informed Practices April 13** – this training provides an understanding to school personnel about the baggage some of our students carry to school and gives them ideas on how to work with these students and help them become more successful. All Districts/SELPA are seeing an increase in the number of behavioral students at a younger and younger age.

**Better Speech & Hearing Month (BSHM) Training May 26**  
WOCCSE is offering a full day of training with morning and afternoon sessions taking place at different locations within the SELPA. AAC, Executive Functioning, Auditory Processing, and Service Delivery Models are among the offerings that day, enabling our SLPs to earn CEU/certificates.

**REPORTS  
Orange County Special Ed  
Alliance Update  
(VI-D)**

Anne Delfosse shared with the Council the following updates:

The Orange County Special Education Alliance Review Committee met on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Recommendations were provided from the budget ad hoc committee to keep the per ADA cost consistent at .10.

The Alliance provides county wide LEA legal support, AB490 transportation support, county wide professional development, and support for legislative advocacy.

Anne stated that in the near future, the Alliance will be supporting:

- a. State SELPA Legislative Day on May 4: 2 teams from districts in Orange County will be attending.
- b. In May, there will be an Educational Leader training called: “Toward Educating All Students in the Twenty First Century,” facilitated by attorney, Miriam Freedman.

**NEW BUSINESS:  
WOCCSE Community  
Advisory Council  
(VII-A)**

Anne Delfosse presented for the Council’s ratification a slate of voting members and officers for the newly established WOCCSE Community Advisory Council.

**WOCCSE Community  
Advisory Council - continued**

Anne recognized the following members:

**FVSD**

Jennifer Weimer

**HBC:**

DeeDee Hangartner

Kari Cone

Amy Thompkins

Loraine Dressler

Kevin Dressler

Dulce Sanchez

**OVSD**

Treva Gaffney

Gina Connors

**WSD**

Laury Creyaufmiller

Jennifer Wheeler

Long Ho

Mylinh McDonald

Olivia Ortega

**HBUHSD**

Dave Yencso

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

Diane Hall/WSD

Linda Stame/HBC

Hilary Gathmann/WSD

Doug Siembieda/HBUHSD

Donna Odell/WOCCSE

These members elected the following as the officers of the  
WOCCSE Community Advisory Council:

Treva Gafney – Chair

DeeDee Hangartner - Vice-Chair

Donna Odell – Secretary

Mrs. Delfosse recommended that WOCCSE Superintendents’  
Council approve these individuals as voting members and  
officers of the WOCCSE CAC.

The motion was made by Dr. Johnson and seconded by Dr.  
Plutko to approve the voting members and officers of the CAC.

Motion unanimously carried.



**PUBLIC  
COMMUNICATION  
(VIII)**

None

**CLOSED SESSION  
(IX)**

Gregg Haulk adjourned the WOCCSE Superintendents' Council meeting in order to move into closed session.

The Council adjourned into the Superintendents' office to discuss Education Code 44896 and 44951.

No action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT  
(X)**

Gregg Haulk adjourned the public meeting at 4:35 p.m.