

DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

May 18, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.

Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allegiance STEAM Academy – Jacque Williams, ASA Charter Schools – Kari Ramos, Aveson Global & School of Leaders – Kelly Jung, Elite Academic Academy – Jen Edick, Susana Waisman, Adam Woodard all via Web Ex, Encore Jr/Sr High – Tanya Herchelroath, Julia Lee Performing Arts Academy – Hannah Morales via Web Ex, Leonardo da Vinci Health Sciences Charter – Anne Laird via Web Ex, Pathways to College – James Connell, Taylion High Desert – Karen Ware, and Virtual Prep-Lucerne – Malia Lovell, Stephanie Van Epps.

CAHELP, DMSELPA, & DMCC STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Adkins, Daniel Anchondo, Sam Barker, Pam Bender, Ivan Campos, Heidi Chavez, Danielle Cote, Peggy Dunn, Colette Garland, Linda Llamas, Isaac Medina, Angela Mgbeke, Sheila Parisian, Kathleen Peters, Karina Quezada, Linda Rodriguez, Veronica Rousseau, Deborah Sarkesian, Adrienne Shepherd-Myles, and Jessica Soto.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions, Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA) Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pam Bender at 1:06 p.m., at the Desert/Mountain Educational Service Center, Apple Valley.

2.0 ROLL CALL

3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Karen Ware, seconded by Malia Lovell, to approve the May 18, 2023 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote 10:0:0 Ayes: Connell, Herchelroath, Jung, Laird, Lovell, Morales, Ramos, Waisman, Ware, and Williams, Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

5.0 CONSENT ITEMS

It is recommended that the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee consider approving several Agenda items as a Consent list. Consent Items are routine in nature and can be enacted in one motion without further discussion. Consent items may be called up by any Committee Member at the meeting for clarification, discussion, or change.

5.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by James Connell, seconded by Malia Lovell, to approve the following Consent Item be approved as presented. The motion carried on the

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MINUTES

following vote 10:0:0 Ayes: Connell, Herchelroath, Jung, Laird, Lovell, Morales, Ramos, Waisman, Ware, and Williams, Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

5.1.1 Approve the April 20, 2023 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Legislative Update

Pam Bender provided a legislative update, highlighting some of the bills that are currently active.

- AB 1340 (Garcia) School Accountability: pupils with exceptional needs - post statewide data based on disability on CDE website is moving forward,
- SB 323 (Portantino) Pupils with exceptional needs: IEPs: emergency safety procedures-include in the IEP accommodations needed to support comprehensive school safety plan is moving forward,
- SB 445 (Portantino) IEP Translations: requires translation of the IEP, assessments and progress reports used to determine IEP into the native language of the parent, or communication type; within 30 days of the meeting; top eight languages; amendments have been submitted so it could change,
- AB 611 (Weber) Nonpublic School (NPS) Certification: requires the LEA to notify parents within 14 days of a change in certification status. Pam said DMSELPA notifies LEAs of these changes but not parents,
- AB 723 (Quirk-Silva) Foster Youth: NPS: School of Origin- makes an NPS the school of origin for foster students,
- AB 381 (Blanca Rubio) Teacher Credentialing: OT/PT: allows OT/PT as a services credential in health. California School Employees Association (CSEA) is opposed to the bill,
- AB 438 (Rubio) Pupils with exceptional needs: IEPs: postsecondary goals and transition services - change age to 14,
- SB 483 (Cortese) Pupil Rights: Prone Restraint: eliminates all prone restraint within the school system,

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May 18, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.

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MINUTES

- AB 1466 (Weber) Pupil Discipline: Restraint and Seclusion: requires restraint and seclusion data to be posted on the LEA website and submitted to CDE,
- SB 691 (Portantino) Dyslexia Risk Screening: by June 2024, School Board of Education (SBE) provides list of screening instruments so that in 2024-25, all K-2nd graders are screened for dyslexia within first 90 days of school, new students screened within 30 days of enrollment. Within 45 days of screening, administration must notify parents of results and provide resources. LEAs are to provide evidence-based literacy instruction, progress monitoring, and interventions within general education programs. There are two agencies opposing the bill but 49 others that are supporting it,
- SB 88 (Skinner) Pupil Transportation: Driver Qualifications: drivers who operate a vehicle with a maximum of 10 students must undergo a criminal background check, fingerprinting, and mandated reporter. They must also test for tuberculosis, drugs, and alcohol testing, as well as training and classes,
- AB 447 (Arambula) Public postsecondary education: Students with Disabilities: inclusive college pilot programs: requires Cal State and University of California systems to create college pilot inclusive program for students with intellectual disabilities (ID) and developmental disabilities (DD),
- AB 248 (Mathis) Individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities: removes obsolete terminology including “mentally retarded persons” “mentally retarded children” “retardation.

6.2 Risk Pool Contributions and Obligations to Desert Mountain Charter SELPA (DMCS)

Pam Bender reviewed the member Risk Pool Contributions and the member obligations to DMCS. Pam explained charter members can be in different levels of the risk pool but currently all are in level 1. This means 5% of the LEA funding is contributed to the risk pool. Other aspects are attendance at Steering Committee meetings and DMCS Executive Council meetings. Pam said there have been issues with having quorum this fiscal year at the Executive Council meetings with today being the first of the four meetings where there was quorum. She shared she will be meeting with the CEOs regarding their obligations to DMCS and providing information regarding risk pool standings. Pam continued that costs for due process are rising and there are more parents filing high-cost claims along with higher attorney costs.

6.3 2023-24 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Schedule of Meetings

Pam Bender presented the 2023-24 Desert Mountain Charter Steering and Finance Committee Schedule of Meetings for feedback. After discussion among the attendees, the majority agreed that meeting at 9:00am for 2023-24. Pam confirmed teleconference will continue to be offered in

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MINUTES

2023-24 in accordance with Brown Act. Pam will contact DMCS Executive Council to see if they are willing to meet at 10:30am.

6.4 Desert Mountain Children's Center Client Services Reports and Update

Linda Llamas presented the Desert Mountain Children's Center Client Services monthly reports and update. She asked to be notified of contact changes and student changes so the reports can be updated. Linda then presented a research article on Mental Health Awareness and said it can be shared with staff or parents.

6.5 Professional Learning Summary and Update

Heidi Chavez presented the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA's Professional Learning Summary. She shared she and the program specialists are continuing to meet with directors of special education for next year's planning. Heidi asked committee members who have not completed the 2023-24 Directors' Training Survey to take a few moments to do so. It will be emailed to the committee members again for convenient access.

6.6 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

Kathleen Peters presented the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA's Resolution Support Services Summary and update. She said the current pattern is attorneys are asking for high dollar services that students do not qualify for to be written in IEPs. Kathleen said if that happens, the costs can hurt other districts if the student moves.

Kathleen shared that she attended a training recently facilitated by an attorney group. They discussed how to get ahead of due process during this time of staff shortages. Kathleen said it was suggested a Prior Written Notice to report the LEA is short staffed and what the plan is for making up services missed. Kathleen reported that some verbiage is being reviewed by an attorney but she will share it with the LEAs once she receives the approval.

6.7 Compliance Update

Peggy Dunn presented an update on compliance items from the California Department of Education (CDE). She reported the last phase of Small School Cyclical Monitoring is Student Records Review which is due June 9, 2023. She continued that IEP Data Collection and Implementation is due June 30, 2023. It was requested that the data be entered in the system by June 28, 2023 so Pam Bender can review and certify the information by June 30, 2023. Peggy said there are charter LEAs in targeted Compliance Improvement Monitoring (CIM) having check-ins with CDE FMTAs. The final date for submission is November 30, 2023. Peggy stressed the importance of continuing to get the overdue IEPs completed and up to date.

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May 18, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.

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MINUTES

Colette Garland reported it is the End of Year (EOY) 4 June Pupil Count. The first certification July 28, 2023 which will open the amendment window for any changes with the final certification being August 25, 2023. Colette reminded the committee of the importance of completing pupil count so the data can be moved in to SEIS. Personnel Data Reports have been mailed, refer to the memo dated April 10, 2023 and are due to Colette on May 19, 2023. Colette continued that the Year End Users Meeting was held on May 5, 2023 with good conversation on the administrative side of how SEIS will look. There was an administrative training on April 26, 2023 by SEIS administrative staff that was recorded. Colette again encouraged the LEAs to complete all IEPs that are due July 1-August 30, 2023 before June 30, 2023 so the data is transferred to SEIS. Otherwise, the IEP will have to be completed on fillable SEIS forms.

Pam Bender said there are more compliance items now than in her 30 years in special education. She added the program specialist are working hard to support the LEAs during this busy time.

7.0 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Learning Recovery Support, Dispute Prevention and Resolution Funding Updates

Sam Barker provided the Learning Recovery Support, Dispute Prevention and Resolution Funding Updates. Sam reminded the committee members that funds must be encumbered no later than June 30, 2023 and expended by September 30, 2023. The reporting deadline for CASHELP to submit documentation is October 1, 2023.

Pam Bender reminded the committee members that if they have questions on how to spend the funds to contact Heidi Chavez or Kathleen Peters. Marina has spoken to the Chief Business Officers and fiscal consultants of the LEAs about how to use the funds to cover prior year expenses as well as about Maintenance of Effort (MOE). Pam asked for LEA that will not be using their funds to notify Heidi or Kathleen so the funds can be accessed by other charter LEAs.

8.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

8.1 Monthly Occupational & Physical Therapy Services Reports

8.2 Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

9.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS / REPORTS

None.

10.0 CEO COMMENTS

Pam Bender said to keep IEP Implementation data accessible at all times of year and not lost with change

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MINUTES

of teachers or staff. The IEP Implementation is to be signed off by the superintendent or CEO then submitted to Pam for approval. Pam shared that when she receives the information, she sees only the number of students in each percentage range and no other data. Because of that, Pam will also be sending an assurance for the CEO or designee to sign and return to her confirming they have reviewed the information.

Pam encouraged the committee members as they handle compliance requirements, end of the year testing, celebrations, and activities. Then Pam read the poem, “Take a Moment to Appreciate All You Mean to the World” by Irina Vasilescu.

11.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC

None.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Malia, seconded by Jacque, to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 pm. The motion carried on the following vote 10:0:0 Ayes: Connell, Herchelroath, Jung, Laird, Lovell, Morales, Ramos, Waisman, Ware, and Williams, Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering Committee will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Aster/Cactus Room, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley, CA 92307.

Individuals requiring special accommodations for disabilities are requested to contact Jamie Adkins at (760) 955-3555, at least seven days prior to the date of this meeting.