

**North Orange County Special Education Local Plan Area
Superintendent Cabinet
Minutes of Meeting May 22, 2026**

Location/Time: North Orange County SELPA Office / 9:30 a.m.

In Attendance:

Dr. Steve McLaughlin, Superintendent, Fullerton Joint Union High School District, and
Chairperson of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet
Dr. Julianne Lee, Superintendent, Buena Park School District
Dr. Chad Hammitt, Interim Superintendent, Fullerton School District
Dr. Mario Carlos, Superintendent, La Habra City School District
Dr. Rhonda Overby, Superintendent, Lowell Joint School District
Dr. Stefan Bean, Orange County Superintendent of Schools
Mr. David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services Division, Orange
County Department of Education
Ms. Analee Kredel, Associate Superintendent, Connections, Orange County Department of
Education
Dr. Robin Gilligan, Executive Director, North Orange County SELPA
Ms. Patricia Banuelos, Executive Director of Fiscal Services, Orange County Department of
Education

I. Call to Order:

North Orange County (NOC) Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Superintendent
Cabinet Chairperson Dr. Steve McLaughlin called to order the NOC SELPA Superintendent
Cabinet Meeting at 9:40 a.m.

II. Approval of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for May 22, 2026

The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for May 22, 2026 was presented.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for
May 22, 2026 was initiated by Dr. Rhona Overby. Dr. Mario Carlos seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent

Motion carried. Dr. Chad Hammitt and Dr. Stefan Bean arrived after the approval of this item.

III. Open Session:

Dr. McLaughlin called for any communication from the public. No communication from the
public was provided.

IV. Action Item(s):

1.0 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Meeting March 27, 2026

The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Meeting March 27, 2026 were presented for approval.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Meeting March 27, 2026 was initiated by Dr. Rhonda Overby. Dr. Mario Carlos seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent

Motion carried. Dr. Chad Hammitt and Dr. Stefan Bean arrived after the approval of this item.

2.0 NOC SELPA 2026-2027 Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Schedule

The NOC SELPA 2026-2027 Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Schedule was presented for approval.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA 2026-2027 Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Schedule was initiated by Dr. Rhonda Overby. Dr. Mario Carlos seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent

Motion carried. Dr. Chad Hammitt and Dr. Stefan Bean arrived after the approval of this item.

3.0 NOC SELPA 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 Superintendent Cabinet Chairperson

The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Chairperson serves for a term of two years, and Dr. Steve McLaughlin noted that this is his last meeting as Chairperson for this term. NOC SELPA Executive Director Dr. Robin Gilligan noted that the current rotation schedule in the NOC SELPA Local Plan reflects a shift in the order of districts due to Superintendent changes. To ensure continuity of leadership, it was recommended La Habra City School District Superintendent Dr. Mario Carlos serve as Chairperson of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years. There was also consensus that the rotation schedule will be discussed at a later time to determine which district will be next.

A motion to approve Dr. Mario Carlos as the next Superintendent to serve as Chairperson of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years was initiated by Dr. Steve McLaughlin. Dr. Rhonda Overby seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent

Motion carried. Dr. Chad Hammitt and Dr. Stefan Bean arrived after the approval of this item.

4.0 NOC SELPA 2026-2027 Local Plan Sections (A) Contacts and Certifications, (D) Annual Budget Plan, (E) Annual Service Plan, and Attachments

Dr. Robin Gilligan reviewed the CDE-required sections for approval of the NOC SELPA Local Plan Submission for 2026-2027. She noted that this information is posted on the NOC SELPA website and was shared with the NOC SELPA Community Advisory Committee (CAC). A feedback form was also shared with the NOC SELPA CAC, but given the nature of the information in the sections being submitted, there isn't much that can be changed.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA 2025-2026 Local Plan Sections (A) Contacts and Certifications, (D) Annual Budget Plan, (E) Annual Service Plan, and Attachments was initiated by Dr. Stefan Bean. Dr. Julianne Lee seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

Motion carried. Dr. Chad Hammitt arrived after the approval of this item.

5.0 NOC SELPA 2026-2027 Parentally Placed Private School Student Proportionate Share Service Model

Dr. Robin Gilligan noted that this item is approved annually and is calculated based on individual district Parentally Placed Private School Student (PPSS) counts. Districts are required to set aside funding for students who are eligible for special education but are attending private school, and the services continue until the funds are fully expended.

The current services model of speech and language consultation continues to be recommended with added audiological consultation services. The service recommendation is based on input from private schools, parents and district administration. It was also noted that funding may be used for resources to support the consultation services.

Dr. Gilligan noted that NOC SELPA staff will provide the audiological consultation service while districts will be responsible for purchasing recommended resources.

Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

Motion carried. Dr. Chad Hammitt arrived after the approval of this item.

6.0 NOC SELPA Participation in the PIES Program Income Agreement

The Parent Infant Education and Support (PIES) Program is run by the Connections

division at OCDE and provides services to deaf and hard-of-hearing infants and toddlers and their families. Dr. Robin Gilligan noted that NOC SELPA staff also serve infants and toddlers with low-incidence disabilities, but when services are more intensive, the NOC SELPA will contract with OCDE PIES program based on the intensity of required services. It was confirmed that the cost per infant per month to be served in the PIES program in 2026-2027 will be \$1,302.12, which is a decrease of \$549.46 from the current monthly rate of \$1,851.58 per infant. Ms. Analee Kredel shared that the rate had been fairly consistent for the last few years, and the decrease in rate is a result of an effort to balance a variety of considerations.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA Participation in the Parent Infant Education and Support Program at a monthly cost per infant not to exceed \$1,302.12 was initiated by Dr. Rhonda Overby. Dr. Julianne Lee seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

Motion carried. Dr. Chad Hammitt arrived after the approval of this item.

7.0 Recruitment and Hiring for NOC SELPA Teacher of the Visually Impaired Vacancy

Dr. Robin Gilligan shared that one NOC SELPA Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) will be retiring on September 30, 2026, and she would like to start the recruitment process now, given the challenge of filling certain vacancies after the school year has started. This timeline would also allow some crossover with the current TVI before the end of September.

It was acknowledged that the timing of hiring this replacement is important in ensuring the vacancy can be filled, as well as the value of having crossover time. If a new TVI is hired to start in August at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year, there will be 38 days of crossover time. Dr. Gilligan shared the cost for these days and the allocation of the cost to the NOC SELPA districts.

Dr. Steve McLaughlin motioned to approve the cost of the TVI crossover at the 38-day level. Dr. Rhonda Overland seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

Motion carried. Dr. Chad Hammitt arrived after the approval of this item.

8.0 Recommendation and Approval of the Proposed 2026-2027 NOC SELPA Regionalized Administration (RA) Budget and Estimated Itinerant Services Billing

Dr. Steve McLaughlin noted that the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet has been on a journey with the NOC SELPA funding model over the past year, which has resulted in the implementation of a model that is much clearer and more transparent.

Dr. Robin Gilligan then shared the proposed RA budget and estimated Itinerant Services billing. The RA budget supports NOC SELPA administrative operations and, following the previous approvals made by the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet this year, will now be funded by Program Specialist/Regionalized Services and Out of Home Care Proportionate Share of Savings funds. Dr. Giligan noted that the proposed budget includes the addition of OCDE fiscal support services and the increase to the indirect cost rate that were approved at the March NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting. In the event that the available funding sources are insufficient to cover RA expenditures, the overage will be invoiced to the NOC SELPA districts.

Ms. Patricia Banuelos confirmed that the AB 602 funding amounts reflect the newly approved allocation model and noted that there will only be a small amount expected to be left over at the end of the 2026-2027 school year. This will need to be reviewed going forward, as there will be a need for district contributions if funding doesn't increase and accrued interest isn't sufficient to cover potential overage. The Out of Home Care Proportionate Share of Saving amount is based on remaining funds in the shared pool at the Annual reporting period. The remaining pool of funds are not generated by any LEA or students. The 2026 Annual report of the proportionate share pool is reporting lower this year. She noted that the amount will vary from year to year and may impact the RA budget coverage. OCDE fiscal advised that it will maximize available opportunities such as accrued interest prior to invoicing LEAs to fully fund the RA Budget.

Dr. Gilligan then shared the 2026-2027 estimated Itinerant Services billing. She noted that this information is used by district staff to budget for the upcoming year, and districts are invoiced only for exact costs at the end of the year. The estimated billing also reflects a recommendation to reallocate the NOC SELPA Assistive Technology Specialist position from the NOC SELPA RA budget to Itinerant Services billing and a reallocation of one Coordinator position from the Itinerant Services billing to the NOC SELPA RA budget. The purpose of this reallocation is to align grant funds that are part of the RA Budget to the position implementing the grant work. The second Coordinator position under Itinerant Services billing will be vacant going into the 2026-2027 school year. Dr. Steve McLaughlin asked how the cost for that position would be reallocated if it were not filled or if the service changes, and Dr. Gilligan confirmed that no costs would be invoiced to districts if the position is not filled. Dr. Gilligan asked for direction from the Cabinet to recruit for this position now or wait for further information based on district feedback. It was noted that some services will no longer be provided while this position is pending.

Dr. Julianne Lee asked how long the Superintendent Cabinet would hold off on filling the vacancy, as it greatly impacts planning for her district, specifically with professional development and consultation services as well.

There was conversation regarding this topic and the value in having more information before proceeding; however, a delay in recruiting would likely mean a reduction in the services that the NOC SELPA is able to provide. It was acknowledged that the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet is a collective group, but its members also have

individual needs, and Fullerton Elementary will want to participate in the discussion as well.

Following the consideration of multiple options, Dr. Steve McLaughlin made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 NOC SELPA RA budget and estimated Itinerant Services billing as presented, with the understanding that Fullerton Joint Union High School District and Buena Park School District will fund up to 100% of the vacant Coordinator position while allowing all other NOC SELPA members time to evaluate if they want to participate in this service. Dr. Julianne Lee seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

Motion carried. Dr. Chad Hammitt arrived after the approval of this item.

V. Discussion/Information Item(s):

9.0 NOC SELPA Membership Inquiry from Brea-Olinda Unified School District

Dr. Gilligan shared that Brea-Olinda Unified School District (BOUSD) is looking to align with the NOC SELPA funding and service model and potentially join the NOC SELPA. Not much information is available at this point, as the next steps are dependent on feedback from the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet.

There was a question regarding timeframe, and Dr. Gilligan indicated that a decision would need to be made by November or January at the latest in order to allow time to update funding and budget information and recruit for additional staff if needed.

Mr. David Giordano indicated that OCDE could create a projection that incorporates BOUSD and confirmed that this work would be part of the support services covered under the recommendation that was approved at the March 2026 Superintendent Cabinet meeting.

There were questions regarding whether change would harm Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD), who is the other member of the Northeast Orange County SELPA with BOUSD, and whether there is a requirement regarding the number of LEAs in a SELPA. Dr. Gilligan confirmed that there is no such requirement, but there is a prohibition on the formation of any new SELPAs. CDE has also confirmed that if BOUSD were to join the NOC SELPA, PYLUSD would either need to find another district to join their SELPA or PYLUSD would need to join another SELPA. The Superintendents were in agreement that they would need to know what the impact on PYLUSD would be and affirmed their commitment to approaching any decision with a “do no harm” mindset, especially given the effect of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet’s decision on PYLUSD. Some hesitation was expressed regarding the proposition of taking on more member districts at this time, and Dr. Gilligan was asked if it would be possible to gather only preliminary information for the August Superintendent Cabinet meeting and what resources she would need to facilitate that

process. She affirmed that she can gather information in June and July and would not require any additional resources, as she would work with CDE, BOUSD, and PYLUSD directly.

After confirming approval from the Superintendent Cabinet members, Dr. Steve McLaughlin directed Dr. Gilligan to compile preliminary information on the topic of adding a new member to the NOC SELPA for presentation and discussion at the August NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting.

10.0 Governor's May Revise Budget for Special Education Update

Dr. Gilligan reviewed the information pertaining to special education funding that was shared at yesterday's May Revision workshop presentation by SSC. During the presentation, SSC Consultant Anjante Pelletier emphasized the historic nature of the proposed base rate increase and encouraged districts to look at investing for longevity. Inclusion programs were cited as one example, along with Early Learning initiatives, stating that "investing in the future will yield better outcomes and return on investment." She also cautioned districts to be mindful of the potential impact on Maintenance of Effort when considering how to utilize the additional funds.

There was conversation regarding the additional COLA of 1.44%, and it was noted that there are requirements to qualify for this add-on. OCDE also confirmed that funding information will be updated once the state budget is approved and signed.

11.0 NOC SELPA 2026-2027 Vision Planning

Dr. Gilligan shared items that have been suggested as topics for the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet during the 2026-2027 school year. Regarding the "SELPA Role, Services, and Supports" item, there was a request for more clarity on the impact of the SELPA's support and services on students, which Dr. Gilligan confirmed will be part of the information shared. There was also conversation regarding best practices and resources for compliance, particularly in the area of significant disproportionality.

12.0 NOC SELPA Member Report or LEA Information Sharing

The Superintendents shared updates regarding various topics, including Special Olympics events, bargaining unit negotiations, program improvements, and staff updates.

Ms. Analee Kredel shared that she will be retiring this summer, and expressed her appreciation for the support she's received. Agreement with this sentiment was shared, and all noted their gratitude for the collaborative effort and support from everyone in attendance at the end of a successful year.

VI. Closed Session

The closed session began at 11:16 a.m. and concluded at 11:25 a.m.

VII. Suggested Items for Next Agenda

No additional suggested items were discussed beyond those noted above.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the May 22, 2026 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting was initiated by Dr. Stefan Bean. Dr. Julianne Lee seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.