COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WENTWORTH EDUCATION CENTER | GREENWOOD 3
2707 TRANSWORLD DRIVE, STOCKTON, CA 95206
September 9th, 2026 | 10:00 A.M.
Minutes

PRESENT: Marty Remmers, Ann Siegel, Thomas Crocker, Rowena Fairbanks, Travis Manley, Jason Davis, Danyelle Gonzalez, Jamie Hughes, Bridget Deneau, NelLaine Kilgore

OTHERS PRESENT: Lexi Chalender (note taker), Eric Peters, Zachary Franceschetti,Gary Philips, Deanie Coleman, Susan Scott, Staci Johnson, Wendy Frink, Roger Goatcher, Sarah Dixson, Tami Mendel

ABSENT: Jody Burriss, Robert Bornmann

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Marty Remmers called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. **COMMENTS:**

   Public Comments: There were no comments from the audience.

3. **ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION:**

   3.1 State SELPA Update - Marty Remmers

   Marty shared the SSC (School Services of CA) News Round Up, including revised U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) guidance on student discipline issued August 18, 2026. Marty noted that the guidance is not legally binding and does not supersede California requirements. Districts should continue to follow state and federal discipline and nondiscrimination requirements. The guidance allows districts to review discipline data for disparities but distinguishes this from using race as a factor in disciplinary decisions. Marty also shared a list of interagency agreements and discussed the potential restructuring of the U.S. Department of Education.

   Marty reviewed five ways to protect Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He highlighted the example table and the five areas identified for attention. Those areas were attendance recordkeeping, short-term independent study, attendance recovery, emergency attendance relief, and the attendance reporting calendar.

   Marty shared the Legislative Update and slides presented at State Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), including the August 13 suspense file hearing. He reviewed the status of bills and the August 31 end of the legislative session, along with the Governor's bill action timeline. Marty highlighted SELPA-supported bills AB 2526, AB

2241, and AB 2555, noting that SELPA submitted a letter of support for AB 2555. State SELPA is also monitoring AB 2225, SB 1381, SB 685, and AB 2490. SB 685 was discussed as a significant Non-Public School (NPS) bill, including provisions allowing religious schools to potentially become NPS, subject to the NPS approval process.

Marty shared the Finance Report, including end-of-year District forms due to the SELPA by September 15, the fiscal calendar, monthly Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Workgroup meetings, and GovGrants updates. He reviewed the August Finance Bulletin, labor market and California labor market updates, building activity, the Monthly Cash Report, and state and federal news. Marty highlighted updates related to AB 602 special education funding, Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), pregnancy disability leave, Proposition 98, and federal special education funding. Resources, links, and additional finance updates and reminders were also shared.

Marty shared the California Department of Education (CDE) Desired Results Access Project (DRDP) presentation, including preschool and infant updates. He noted that statewide DRDP submissions have been low, although the SELPA's submissions are on track, and reminded districts to ensure all eligible children are assessed. Marty reviewed the two assessment periods and submission timelines, with fall data due to the SELPA by February 1 and spring data by July 1. He also clarified that children who turn 6 on or before June 30 of the school year are not required to complete the DRDP during either assessment period.

Staci reviewed the new DRDP (2025) training requirements, which replace the current training, and shared the required trainings for assessors, directors, and staff. Assessors are encouraged to complete the new training before conducting fall 2026 assessments, with the goal of opening the process within the first 60 days.

Marty shared the High Quality Resources Kit and reviewed the slides presented at the State SELPA meeting. He noted that the resources are not linked to the new forms but are accessible without obtaining the new forms. Marty also shared a folder in the Council of Directors Drive containing professional development (PD) training that is hosted or supported by SELPAs throughout the state and briefly reviewed the available training.

3.2 San Joaquin County SELPA Update - Marty Remmers

Marty provided an update on the Class Size Ratio Committee and discussed the goal of determining the best way to provide a continuum of services across the SELPA. He requested that districts enter their current data into the provided template to assist the committee in reviewing and comparing information across the SELPA. The goal is to establish accurate baseline information to support informed decision-making. Districts were asked to submit the completed template by September 21, with information being as accurate and current as possible. The data will be reviewed at the next committee meeting in October.

Marty also asked directors whether they utilize the 504 Compliance Advisor resource. Several directors indicated that they would like to keep the resource and plan to use it.

Marty provided an update regarding the new Individualized Education Program (IEP) forms and shared that SEIS has verified that information will transfer over to the new forms. He noted that a pilot cannot be limited to seven Districts and would need to include the entire SELPA. Marty stated that he does not anticipate being able to conduct a pilot during the current school year and is considering piloting the new forms next year. There is currently no confirmed timeline or date for when the new forms will be required.

Marty provided a link to the Licensed Children's Institution (LCI) Policy and requested that directors review the policy and provide feedback. Manteca raised a concern regarding the

language outlining SELPA case management responsibilities, specifically the responsibility to maintain ongoing verification of the educational rights holder status and promptly adjust notices and participation when a court order changes. The district expressed concern regarding ambiguity in this section. Marty suggested clarifying that the SELPA will monitor educational rights holder information through case management, receive placement information, and communicate any changes, while maintaining ongoing verification of educational rights holder status. Directors agreed with Marty's recommended changes.

Susan discussed the NPS transportation rider and how it is listed on the IEP. She noted that an NPS includes the rider with Instructional Assistant (IA). Susan asked how districts are listing services and provided an example of an NPS marking down "Yes" with curb-to-curb service with additional notes on the IA rider. Ann shared that the additional rider is indicated in the notes and that the rider rate is included with the transportation rate. Jason also noted that he includes the rider information in the notes and identifies the service as curb-to-curb.

Susan provided an update regarding NPS onsite visits and reviewed the new form, highlighting the updated sections and additional information required. She pointed out the new section addressing NPS placements outside of California. Susan also shared that, when conducting NPS visits, she will include the appropriate districts on emails regarding SELPA case-managed students placed at the NPS.

Susan also provided a link to the CDE website and pointed out the NPS Schools Unit Interview Tool. She also highlighted the workbook, which provides a list of NPS schools.

Susan provided an update on current NPS and Residential Treatment Center (RTC) case numbers. There are currently three students placed in RTC, compared to six students in September of last year. There are currently seven students placed in NPS.

Susan reminded directors of the requirements outlined in the NPS Master Contract regarding accident and incident reports. Contractors are required to submit any accident or incident report electronically to the District within 24 hours and follow the reporting procedures specified in the District's procedures. Susan asked directors to remind Nonpublic Schools that the SELPA and District need to be informed as soon as possible. She noted that incidents occurring on a Friday may require notification by email or phone call to ensure timely reporting.

Marty also reminded directors of the 20-day notice requirement outlined in the NPS Master Contract.

3.3 Finance Committee Meeting Revision - Marty Remmers

Marty provided an update regarding the Finance Committee and discussed attendance, noting that participation has primarily consisted of county-operated programs with limited attendance from other members. Marty noted that the Local Plan does not require the SELPA to maintain a Finance Committee. Based on the discussion and the recommendation to discontinue the committee, directors agreed with the recommendation. Marty shared that Chief Business Officers (CBO) are welcome to attend Council of Director meetings when finance reports or AB 602 revisions are being discussed.

3.4 Low Incident (LI) Policy Work- Eric Peters

Eric discussed how AB 602 may impact Low Incidence (LI) and shared that work is underway on an LI Policy by the SELPA while they monitor how funding may be affected

by the potential passage of the bill. Directors will discuss the bill and funding upon the Governor's approval of the bill.

Eric also discussed the goal of expediting the LI process by avoiding the need to bring every item before the committee.

3.5 Independent Educational Evaluators (IEE) Policy- Marty Remmers

Marty shared that Kathy's team from Atikson Andelson Loya Ruud and Romo (AALRR) reviewed the Independent Educational Evaluators (IEE) Policy and provided recommended changes. A District had concerns with language in Section five. Directors discussed potential changes to the IEE Policy. Marty will work on potential updates to the policy and follow up with AALRR regarding questions and concerns raised by directors during the discussion.

3.6 Program Transfer Policy- Marty Remmers

Marty shared the link to the proposed Program Transfer Policy and facilitated discussion regarding whether Education Code provides sufficient guidance when the requirements are not clear. Marty stated that he felt the Education Code addressed the issue well, but did not provide specific direction regarding how the SELPA should handle the process. He noted that the intent of the policy is to establish specific operational procedures to guide Districts and SJCOE through the process.

Directors requested additional time to review the document and discussed whether a separate SELPA policy is necessary or whether existing Education Code requirements are sufficient. Ann shared an issue that had arisen at Ripon Unified School District and explained how the situation demonstrated a potential need for additional SELPA guidance. Directors discussed potential changes to the policy and continued to consider whether a formal policy is necessary. Marty stated he will work on editing the policy and send out the revised version before the next meeting for directors to review.

3.7 Office of Administrative Hearing (OAH) Cases - Zachary Franceshetti

Zach shared the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) cases for August. He highlighted two cases involving San Joaquin County, noting that the districts prevailed in both cases. Training materials and additional resources were also provided for directors' reference.

3.8 CALPADS/ SEIS- Susan Scott & Staci Johnson

Susan shared upcoming milestone dates for CALPADS and noted that CDE is beginning the reporting process earlier this year. She provided information regarding private school enrollment, emphasizing that enrollment is mandatory for students placed in private schools and reviewed the requirements for maintaining enrollment records and properly exiting students. Susan also shared a slide deck from the CALPADS training, along with additional resource links for reference.

Susan announced that multifactor authentication will begin rolling out next week and recommended that members log in to their CALPADS accounts in advance. She also reviewed the opt-in window for the new authentication process.

3.9 Workability Update- Zachary Franceschetti

Zach shared updates regarding WorkAbility and the upcoming Expo, noting that the attendee capacity is being expanded. The Expo will include a career fair for students to explore employment opportunities, as well as a skill lab where students can try different

career-related activities to help identify areas of interest. WorkAbility is also working with Human Resources to provide mock interviews and resume-building opportunities. Delta College will provide a presentation on Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) to help students understand available supports and how they can relate to their IEPs. Jacob Pacheco will also serve as a presenter and share his personal experiences and transition from school to adulthood.

Zach shared information regarding the upcoming Special Olympics event at West High School and provided the schedule to directors. WorkAbility students will support the event by working the snack bar and ice cream station and distributing programs.

He also announced that SIP Café is now open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. WorkAbility students are gaining food-handler experience while working at the café, which is now offering new menu items, including food options, cold brew, and dirty sodas.

3.10 County Program Updates - Rowena Fairbanks

Rowena provided an update on countywide special education class size tracking, noting that 107 classes are currently being monitored. She walked through the tracking sheet, which includes data for August and September. Current enrollment is 1,013 students, with 103 referrals. Rowena compared the current-year data to the previous year and reported that there have already been 47 transfers, compared to 86 total transfers last year.

Rowena reminded members that a full IEP is required for student transfers. She also reminded members that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between San Joaquin County Office of Education and the districts regarding County-Operated Special Education Programs that was approved in June has been distributed for signatures and encouraged members to connect with their superintendents to ensure the MOU is completed and signed.

4. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION:

4.1 Minutes: The Council of Directors is requested to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2026, meeting as presented.

Motion by Travis and seconded by Thomas to approve the minutes as presented.

Yes: all
No: None
Abstain: None

4.2 The Council of Directors is requested to consider adoption of the San Joaquin County SELPA Policy for Independent Educational Evaluators as presented.

No Motion was made to adopt the San Joaquin County SELPA Policy for Independent Educational Evaluators as presented.

4.3 The Council of Directors is requested to consider adoption of the San Joaquin County SELPA Policy for Program Transfers as presented.

No Motion was made to adopt the San Joaquin County SELPA Policy for Policy for Program Transfers as presented.

5. CLOSING COMMENTS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS:

5.1 The Council of Directors may address relevant issues and concerns. Comments will be noted.

There were no comments made to be noted.

6. DATES:

6.1 Next regular Council of Directors meeting, October 14, 2026, 10:00 a.m., Wentworth Education Center, Greenwood 3. 2707 Transworld Dr., Stockton, CA 95206.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

7.1 Marty Remmers adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

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*Any writings or documents that are public records and are provided to a majority of the SELPA Council of Directors regarding an open session item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection upon request by sending an email to **sjcselpa@sjcoe.net**.*