



South County Consortium for Special Education

Board Agenda Regular Meeting

06/03/2025

200 Douglas Street | Petaluma, CA 94952

Petaluma City School District Office, Board Room

1. CALL TO ORDER – 1:00 PM

2. ROLL CALL

Verification of District Representatives to the Consortium Council Roll Call:

Cinnabar School District	Not Present
Dunham School District	Present
Liberty School District	Present
Old Adobe Union School District	Present
Petaluma City School District	Present
Two Rock Union School District	Not Present
Waugh School District	Present
Wilmar Union School District	Not Present

3. ADOPTION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Changes to agenda :

Approval of agenda 06/03/25. Motion: 1st - Ani Larson; 2nd - Mike Gardner

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Approval of the minutes of May 13, 2025

Motion: 1st - Ani Larson ; 2nd - Mike Gardner

5. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS, REPORTS, and PRESENTATIONS

5.1.1 Director's Report: Melinda Susan, Director of South County Consortium

Staff Update/Staff Openings (for 25/26 school year)

- Interviewing for OT position.
- Staffed for teachers
- Still in need of a few IA's

Current Counts

- Intensive Program: 192 with 14 pending.

Good Bye Message

- Reflections were shared on leadership transition. This meeting marked the outgoing Director's final board meeting. Appreciation was expressed for their decade-long service, creation of a collaborative culture, and development of strong educational programs within a cost-effective structure.

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- Colleagues acknowledged the Director's ability to guide the Consortium through complex legal and staffing challenges, including the pandemic and structural changes in special education.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - Appreciation Message for Melinda Susan

7. REPORT on ACTIVITIES and CORRESPONDENCE of SoCC BOARD MEMBERS

a) SELPA Advisory Committee - No meeting this month.

b) SUPES Council

Policy Discussion-Fiscal Responsibility for Out of District Placement.

- A policy item was introduced regarding financial responsibility when students are placed in consortium or non-public settings.
- Some member districts provided feedback requesting changes to the current language. Prior conversations about the concern of placing full financial burden on a single district, even when other districts may have available capacity.
- Because there was no full agreement on how to proceed, it was suggested that the item be returned for further discussion.
- The consensus was that the impact of this proposal is too significant to approve through a single board vote. The item will return as a discussion topic in Fall 2025 following further investigation and stakeholder input.

8. ACTION ITEMS:

Amended MOU

- **Page 3: Preschool Program Clarification**

The preschool program never formally included the NIPP program.. The amended MOU requires that districts notify the Consortium Director by December 5th of the prior school year if they plan to run or adjust a non-intensive preschool program.

- **Page 6: ADA Revenue and Specialized Healthcare Funds**

Students who receive specialized healthcare allocations and are served within the consortium will have that funding reinvested to offset fee-for-service costs.

- **Item 21: Staffing Impact and Program Transfers**

- If a participating district creates a class requiring a new teaching position, it is considered a permanent transfer and must follow program transfer procedures.
- If students are served in existing classes without hiring new staff, this does not qualify as a program transfer under current definitions.
- Both conditions—creation of a position by the receiving district and reduction of a position in the consortium—must be met for a transfer to qualify.
- This interpretation was clarified by multiple districts (Liberty, OAUUSD) and will guide future decision-making.
- Consensus: If there is no new hire and no reduction of SoCC staff, the action does not meet the threshold for a formal transfer.
- It was recommended that a study session be held during summer 2025 to continue to review transfer language.

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Set fee for non-consortium members (attached)

- Review of the estimated fee for consortium members. Council agreed to fee + 50% (appx. \$76,500)
Approval of non consortium fee for service Motion: 1st - Mike Gardner; 2nd Ani Larson

Vote for Chair and Vice Chair

- Cindy Friberg nominated for Chair
- Petaluma automatically Vice Chair
Approval of nominees Motion: 1st - Ani Larson; 2nd Tony Hua

9. DISCUSSION INFORMATION ONLY

TK data from the past three years: (attached)

- The average age of students transitioning to TK has decreased due to the expanded age window..
- Nine additional students exited the program this year compared to previous years.
- Overall student service numbers remain consistent year-to-year.
- WAUGH is expected to serve SoCC students after **August 1**, prompting a **0.2 FTE reduction** in NIPP staffing.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Evaluation Protocols (attached)

- Mara Mayock, SoCC School Psychologist presented an updated protocol to determine evaluation responsibility for students transitioning to TK.
- The protocol aims to ensure evaluations are completed by the appropriate agency and to prevent delays during the summer.

CSI Update

- The plan was developed and in place, however, we were just notified that SoCC is no longer under CSI.
- SoCC is still moving forward hiring the Behavior Intervention Specialist to support reduction of suspensions and behavioral support in TSP (since we have money in place for that).
- SoCC is moving forward with a .3 program manager funded through CSI for 2 years (supporting curriculum development and state testing improvement).

10. FUTURE BUSINESS:

- MOU
- FCMAT -Fiscal Audit
- Class Space-purchase of portables

11. ADJOURNMENT and move into Closed Session : 1:51 PM

Motion:1st - Cindy Friberg; 2nd Tony Hua

12..REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION - Nothing to Report

Adjournment on closed session

Motion:1st - Mike Gardner; 2nd Tony Hua