
From: Coalition SWD
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 11:56 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Public comments on Items 9.3 and 11.3

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9.3 SELPA Local Plan: Connecting Special Educational Vision, Program, and Finance (Christine Baeta, Dr. Sadie Hedegard, and Giovanni Linares)

Dear Board President Pritchett, Members and Superintendent Aguilar:

The Coalition for Students with Disabilities appreciates the leadership of Christine Baeta, Dr. Sadie Hedegard, and Giovanni Linares.

The Coalition submitted comments to the Board on May 20, 2021 as to the requirements for the Special Education Local Plan planning process. In fact, this was not our first comment on local planning for special education. Over the past 10 years we have worked to create an awareness on this Board that special education is a part of this district and the Board is responsible for student outcomes. The Board must be well informed when considering whether to approve the plan. However, year-after-year we have seen plans rubberstamped with little-to-no understanding on issues or where the money is going. You as SCUSD's Board must well-versed in this area and ensure that special education goals and spending are appropriate and transparent.

In our May 20 comment, we conveyed that the Local Plan for special education "must be developed and updated cooperatively by a committee of representative special and general education teachers and administrators selected by the groups they represent; and with the participation of parent member(s) from the community advisory committee (CAC), or parents selected by the CAC".

The Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) (this district) is responsible for making certain there is adequate and effective participation and communication. The Local Planning Process also includes a schedule of "regular consultations regarding policy and budget development" with the CAC and other stakeholders. [30 EC Section 56205 (a)(12)(E)]

Revisions to the Local Plan Governance and Administration, Section B, must be reviewed by the CAC, county office of education (COE), and must be adopted by each local educational agency's (LEAs) governing board prior to being submitted to the CDE for review and consideration for approval [30 EC Section 56195.1].

The district must submit with the local plan, verification that the plan has been reviewed by the community advisory committee and that the committee had at least 30 days to conduct this review prior to submission of the plan to the Superintendent. [30 EC Section 56205 (22)(B)(6)].

It is disappointing in the last few CAC meetings that there have been no collaborative discussions about Local Planning which is CAC's primary area of focus. The District has tried to share several

updates but the committee ran out of time. The SELPA director's updates have been placed at the end of the agenda. As a result, parent members of the CAC have not been told about dates for the committee to develop the Local Plan. And now the plan is already being presented.

CAC members who are also Coalition members have asked if a committee has been formed and how to participate throughout the year. In addition, we have been denied by the current Executive team to participate in CAC Budget Subcommittee meetings. At the past few CAC meetings, the SELPA Director has attempted to share updates, but other topics consumed the committee's time and there was no time left for a discussion on Local Plans. Sadly, the district lacks the voices of CAC members on these important plans and needs to improve their efforts to engage parents and be transparent.

Not having a format with the CAC for which to review the Local Plan, our Coalition organizers will be dedicated to reviewing the plans and submitting detailed comments in the near future before the plan appears on a future consent agenda for Board approval.

Signed,
Coalition for Students with Disabilities

11.3 Public Hearing: SCUSD SELPA Local Plan – Governance, Annual Budget Plan, Annual Service Plan (Christine Baeta, Dr. Sadie Hedegard, and Geovanni Linares)

Dear Board President Pritchett, Members and Superintendent Aguilar:

This is the first year that the SELPA Director mentioned creating the committee required by CA Ed Code for Special Education Local Plan development. In past years when the question was asked about forming the committee, the administration danced around the question.

As mentioned in our comment on item 9.3, the plan which is being presented to you has lacked CAC parent participation.

This year's CAC meetings have given more time to presentations and updates by SCTA and introducing SCTA members than to the local planning process or discussions focused on improving the experiences of students. This is unacceptable.

There are several compliance issues with the Local Planning and Budget process for special education:

- 1.
2. Parent members of the CAC have not officially been
3. invited to attend the committee to develop the Local Plan. The Committee was mentioned at the last CAC meeting, but an invite did not go out yet to our knowledge.
- 4.
- 5.
6. The CAC has not had 30 days to review the Local plan
7. which is a requirement under the CA Ed code.
- 8.
- 9.
10. If the CAC did have a regular schedule of budget consultations,
11. which are required under the CA Ed code, then the schedule of meetings, information garnered, and input given to the SELPA is unbeknownst to the general membership. Members have not been allowed to join the subcommittee as the current members of is subcommittee
12. have stated they want to limit it to two members. The subcommittee is also functioning as an adhoc. Adhoc committees are meant to be short term, but this committee has spanned multiple years. Due to the ongoing and substantive nature of this subcommittee,
13. it needs to be a standing committee and meetings must be properly noticed and open to non-officer members of the CAC.
- 14.

Signed,
Coalition for Students with Disabilities