



Student Services and Special Education
Friday, April 23, 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Minutes

A. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was opened by Jean Martin with a welcome and introductions. Each person was asked to share what you are about for 2021-2022.

Eli Gallup will be the new President of the SSSE Council beginning the 2021-2022 school year. Here is his email: egallup@nevco.org

Attendees: Jean Martin, Darla Beeson, Eli Gallup, John Calandro, Laura Preston, Charity Hennings, Alice Petrossian, Jazmine Dawson, Anjanette Pelletier, Benay Loftus, Barbara Brown, Christine McCormick, Christine McDaniels, Doug Siembieda, Alana Hughes-Hunter, Felicia Stuckey Smith, Ginese Quann, Kim Bryant, Kirsten Zazo, Leslie Coghlan, Marian Chiara, Tammy McKean, Terri Lynne Ricetti, Lela Rondeau, Joanne Godfrey,

B. Council Business

a. [Review & Approval of minutes](#)

Approved (Moved; Eli Gallup, Seconded: Marian Chiara)

b. Review & Adoption of agenda (Motion made by: Charity Hennings/Seconded by Anjanette Pelletier)

c. Purpose Statement

Reviewed by Jean Martin

d. Dates for 2021-22 SSSE Council Meetings

Reviewed by Jean Martin

i. Friday, September 17, 2021(Virtual)

ii. Tuesday, January 11, 2022 (In-person)

This meeting will be in Palm Desert at the J.W. Marriott. Every Child Counts conference still to be held in person as of now.

iii. Friday, April 22, 2022 (Discuss)

Time: 9:00 – 1:30 (with travel)

Determination of whether meetings/conferences are in person, virtual or blended is not finalized and will continue to be evaluated. Communication will be made as meetings/conference locations are finalized to assist with planning and flight needs.

e. [ACSA SSSE Council Bylaw Approval](#)

Jean Martin

Jean Martin led a discussion regarding the recommendations from State ACSA to align the bylaws to current ACSA practices. Recommendations were discussed and changes made. Leslie Coghlan moved and Terri Lynne seconded, to approve the

revisions/corrections. The updated bylaws will be resubmitted to the ACSA State Board for approval.

Discussion re: term limits for representatives. Should we have them? Would they create more opportunities for members to serve on council? What if regions had term limits? Most Councils have them. Anjanette- wants there to be room for folks who want to be involved. Two three-year terms was suggested. Laura: term limits with an exception perhaps? As a fail-safe if the Region can't find anyone else? John found in the ACSA Leadership Handbook - "terms for council shall be decided by the council's rules" - we currently have 3-year terms. Jean- perhaps we take this part out and revisit it later. Charity- it does take a year to learn what we are doing here. If we have term limits, 2 three-year terms individuals can become more familiar with their duties. John- suggests we keep it looser on the Council bylaws. A problem is having retirees make decisions for those who are still serving. Perhaps worth bringing to Leadership Development Committee. Laura will do that. We will do that instead of holding up our bylaws again. Bylaws- with approval we can take these to the board for approval.

ACSA Leadership Manual: <https://content.acsa.org/i/1267937-leadership-manual-2020-2021/0?>

f. Appoint Council Secretary (2 Year Term) - Christine McCormick and Lela Rondeau will share the responsibilities.

g. Service Certificates *Jean Martin/Laura Preston*

Laura has a list of who gets recognized- service certificates for those who served the full term will be mailed to your home. At the first meeting in September you can hold them up. Laura will send an email to us so we can tell the local board re: terms ending. Members termed out are Kim Bryant, Eli Gallup, Anjanette Pelletiere, Tammy McKean, Christina McDaniels-Gomez, and Charity Plaxton-Hennings.

C. Invited Guests: California Department of Education

Heather Calomese shared current updates from the Department of Education and answered questions from the group.

Heather Calomese's email: hcalomese@cde.ca.gov

Highlights:

CDE launched an English Learners with Disabilities webpage. One stop for dually identified students. Building out from practitioners' guides.

Masks- collaborating with LA County to have one piece of guidance.

Vaccines- there will be guidance.

AB86 funds- there will be guidance.

Stimulus funds- working to determine how to use the state level funds. Looking at increased Social Emotional Learning supports. Look at current Technical Assistance provided to the field and access to resources- may expand.

Anjanette: Would be great if CDE put clear guidance on how expenditures are coded and cleared. Lots of concern about supplant/supplement. LEAs having Maintenance of Effort obligations causing confusion. The federal requirement is for each LEA to ensure they maintain spending on special education year over year in order to receive federal funds. Lots of LEAs are struggling as they had "savings" this year from things like Transport, and not all spent all the new funds, existing funds and many CBOs thought - Sweet! I can save \$\$- or even wanted to capture CUTS - which require planning in terms of MOE. How about planning ahead for the dramatic decrease in enrollment that is coming. California Department of Education Releases 2020-21 Statewide School Enrollment Data: https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr21/yr21rel32.asp?mc_cid=b980d8a163&mc_eid=544062324a

Doug: If CDE is putting guidance on Extended School Year together, the sooner it is released the better as districts are deep in planning. Heather acknowledged.

Workgroups on IEP and Alternative Pathways continue.

Increase in state complaints- most complaints are centered on assessments and child find.

State Systemic Improvement Plan sent and approved to OSEP.

IDEA Part B application posted on website- open for comment through 4/30. Our allocation is 1.3 billion dollars. Public comment is open.

Monitoring this upcoming year: we still consider this a unique situation. Looking for high quality IEPs. Positive behavior support is a need. Assessments- being thoughtful and problem solving with LEAs.

Shiloh and Heather are attending assessment coffee talks with CDE every Thursday. Assessment division of CDE holds the meetings. Heather will send Jean information on that.

SB98 is sunseting June 30, 2021. That is causing concerns and confusion about how services will be provided for ESY. The expectation is that instruction is provided in person. CDE is looking at addressing that. SB98 provided an extension of ESY for summer of 2021. Claiming ADA between school closures and beginning of 2021. Language allowed for "value of pupils work" instead of instructional mins- to be continued this year as well. (SB 98 sunsets as of June 30 - so the guidance of how we count instructional minutes when done virtually or hybrid ENDS - and most ESY goes into July - where there is no new guidance and AB 86 prioritizes in person learning - so it seems that there may not be formal approval for virtual or hybrid ESY). Funding for this year has been captured by multiple sources from

State: SB 98 - LLM - \$540 M - which has guided our work this year. SB 117 - \$100 M. In Person Instruction Grant for reopen \$2B, Expanded learning for summer - Sept 22 - \$4.6 B and Federal Sources which extend out to Sept 2024. LLM Corona Relief (\$4.4 B, LLM - GEER Gov's fund - \$355M, ESSR 1 - Elem and Sec School Emergency Relief - \$1.48 B, ESSR 2 - \$6 B, and ESSR III - \$13.6 B. School services has a GREAT handout for these various funds:

<https://www.sscal.com/sites/default/files/2021-03/COVID%20Resources%20Updated%203-26-21.pdf>

Charity: SEP revisions not received until last week. Feedback is very different depending on FMTA. Felt very stream of consciousness. Heather requests email from Charity so Heather can look at it.

Alana: Facemasks- push back from teachers. Teacher prepopulated notes in IEP to show she is not in agreement with the mask. Anticipates a spike in CDE complaints but Alana is insisting that students have a right to attend per CDE.

Darla: Thank you for considering extending SB98.

Anjanette: Thank you to great FMTA (Focused Monitoring and Technical Assistance Consultant). Accountability monitoring: Tone of letters should vary depending on severity and acknowledge improvement.

D. Presentation: ACSA Partner for Purpose

Christian McDonald and Chandler from Athlos shared their platform and answered questions. <https://athlos.org/special-education-logs/>, www.athlos.org
cherdt@athlos.org

Progress monitoring and service tracking capacities.

E. Advocacy & Legislative Update

Laura Preston's email: lpreston@acsa.org

a. State

Laura Preston

\$ 300 million coming to CA via increases in IDEA. Mental health bills in pipeline (mental health of students and staff). Need to be brought together so there is holistic implementation. There is a potential for professional Development or curriculum changes. One-time money for this- if we want it to be ongoing we need to consider how we pay for it. Many of the bills call for Professional Development. Looking to see if a day can be added to the end of year for Professional Development.

Laura prepared a list of bills introduced in our arenas so we can be aware. Some are being pulled right now- one bill would have made school police and security guards mandated reporters not happening now.

AB 104: Regarding Student retention (parent driven) based on COVID related learning loss (probably will be held because of timelines - it would go in effect immediately).

SB 237 calls for Dyslexia screening every year K-2. ACSA has concerns with that. Portantillo is author. ACSA working with teachers' unions re: concerns.

AB 967 is a special education COVID relief bill to work on ways to partner with and provide sped stream of funding to go with the work of AB 86. There is a lot of AB 86 money for GE and while our students qualify, that money will likely be encumbered. AB 967 is for comp ed, settlements, due process, attorney fees. Incentives for using lowest level possible to prevent disputes. Current proposal is \$ for \$ match (\$1 billion). Prevents total due process fees/attorney fees of \$3 billion. Whatever we get is potential backfill for what you have done specific to special education. Passed policy hearing with no dissent. Co-sponsored by ACSA and disability organizations. No attorney fees, using alt dispute resolution. There will likely be a letter writing campaign for this through SELPA directors. [Fact sheet](#) on AB 967.

Are we allowed to be only in-person next year or do we need to do hybrid? Right now, legislature feels all students back except medically fragile. ACSA thinks in-person is best, however there are parents who do not want to send students back. What does that option look like? Working with Leg to keep them from doing something that will not be workable for districts.

- b. Federal *Laura Preston*
President Biden's skinny budget proposed this week- in that is the same allocation for IDEA.

F. Every Child Counts Symposium

- c. Summarize Surveys
Danelle Buckley provided a summary of the feedback from last year's symposium. Overall, a successful conference in the "virtual" setting. Positive response. An in-person event is the plan for the future with planning to meet the local county health and venue guidelines. Considerations need to continue to be made as we learn what requirements will be needed (i.e. social distancing, masks, etc.). Reviewing survey data from the in-person event in Palm Desert from the prior in person event. Using AV company extremely expensive to live stream. Looking to put together a recordings package with perhaps a live event in the morning but record keynotes and featured sessions. Could be offered as an option for those who are not able to attend in person. Had a lot on equity last year but lacked on special education- that was feedback. We will get more specific on the strands. Title: Staying On Course In Real Life. (on a golf course) Event dates: January 12-14, 2022
- d. Review the ECC Symposium Planning Committee in Bylaws *Jean Martin*
 - i. Appoint 1 new member to planning committee

Current planning committee members are heavy in Sped background. Would like a student services individual if anyone is interested in jumping on. Leslie Coghlan was appointed.

G. Representative & Committee Reports: Reports are linked for your reference

- e. [Board Report](#) *John Calandro*
- f. [SELPA](#) *Benay Loftus*
- g. [Charter Schools](#) *Ginesse Quann*
 - i. [Charter School Renewal Chart](#)
- h. CASE & CEC (no report) *Shean Hosie*
- i. [CA School Psychologist](#) *Doug Siembieda*
- j. CA Pupil Personnel Administrators *Felicia Stuckey-Smith*
Next meeting tentatively scheduled for May 14 meeting. Details will be posted on www.cappaonline.net

10. Hot Topics

All

11. Wrap Up & Adjourn

- k. **Next meeting: September 17, 2021, Zoom**

Student Services Special Education Council
Purpose Statement

The Student Services and Special Education Council supports administrators in the areas of special education, student services, and coordinated youth services by:

- Advocating best practices, policies, and legislation to ensure positive student outcomes.
- Improving collaboration and communication between general education, student services, special education, and other support agencies and organizations.
- Facilitating the development and understanding of current trends and financial issues related to their impact on student programs and services.
- Planning and coordinating timely and meaningful professional development offerings for new and experienced school administrators.
- Championing equity and inclusive practices to ensure access for each student.
- Assisting in ACSA membership recruitment.