

**North Orange County Special Education Local Plan Area  
Superintendent Cabinet  
Minutes of Meeting August 22, 2025**

**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. Robert Pletka, Superintendent, Fullerton School District  
Dr. Mario Carlos, Superintendent, La Habra City School District  
Mr. Jim Coombs, Superintendent, Lowell Joint School District  
Dr. Stefan Bean, Orange County Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Rhonda Overby, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Lowell Joint School  
District  
Mr. David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services Division, Orange  
County Department of Education  
Dr. Robin Gilligan, Executive Director, North Orange County SELPA  
Ms. Anjanette Pelletier, North Orange County SELPA Funding Model Consultant

**I. Call to Order:**

Superintendent Dr. Steve McLaughlin called to order the North Orange County (NOC) Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Superintendent Cabinet Meeting at 9:50 a.m.

**II. Approval of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for August 22, 2025.**

The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for August 22, 2025 was presented.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Meeting Agenda for August 22, 2025 was initiated by Dr. Stefan Bean. Dr. Julianne Lee seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried.

**III. Open Session:**

Superintendent Dr. Steve 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 May 23, 2025**

The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Meeting May 23, 2025 were presented for approval.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Meeting May 23, 2025 was initiated by Mr. Jim Coombs. Dr. Stefan Bean seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried.

##### **2.0 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Special Meeting July 2, 2025**

The NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Special Meeting July 2, 2025 were presented for approval.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Minutes of Special Meeting July 2, 2025 was initiated by Dr. Julianne Lee. Mr. Jim Coombs seconded the motion.

Vote: 4 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain

Motion carried

##### **3.0 NOC SELPA Participation in the PIES Program Income Agreement**

The cost for the NOC SELPA infants (0–3 year-olds) who are placed in the Orange County Department of Education Parent Infant Education and Support (PIES) program is funded with the NOC SELPA Early Start Part C Grant. NOC SELPA Executive Director Dr. Robin Gilligan confirmed that the cost per infant per month to be served in the PIES program in 2025-2026 will be the same as the rate for 2024-2025, which was \$1,851.58.

A motion to approve the NOC SELPA Participation in the Parent Infant Education and Support Program Income Agreement at a monthly cost per infant of \$1,851.58 was initiated by Mr. Jim Coombs. Dr. Julianne Lee seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried

#### **4.0 Proposed Modification and Reallocation of OCDE's Special Schools NOC SELPA Funding**

NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet Chairperson Dr. Steve McLaughlin shared a brief overview of the process that the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet has undertaken starting in the 2022-2023 school year to update the funding model.

NOC SELPA Executive Director Dr. Robin Gilligan shared [a presentation](#) that began with a historical roadmap showing key points in this process as well as the next steps moving forward. NOC SELPA funding model consultant Ms. Anjanette Pelletier continued the presentation with an overview of the current formula used to distribute AB602 funds to NOC SELPA member LEAs, followed by a proposed formula based on funded ADA that would align with how CDE calculates LEA allocations, and showed what the allocation amounts for NOC SELPA LEAs would be under this proposed model. At the conclusion of the presentation, there was a Q&A session during which the consultant addressed the positive and negative impacts of moving to the proposed model based on funded ADA.

It was recommended that the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet approve the proposed model based on funded ADA, and Dr. Steve McLaughlin indicated that a timeline for implementation would need to be included with the proposal.

An open discussion followed, and several Superintendents emphasized the importance of maintaining positive relationships between the NOC SELPA members and collaboratively approaching all discussions with the intent to find mutually agreeable solutions for all NOC SELPA LEAs, grounded in the core values of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet. It was further noted that each LEA in Orange County has an obligation to fund their own students, and other LEAs in Orange County are inequitably benefitting from reduced County program costs that are being underwritten by NOC SELPA member LEAs under the current funding model.

There was consensus around the need for a collaborative approach to all decisions, as each discussion sets a precedent for future conversations moving forward, and there was acknowledgement that updating the NOC SELPA funding model has been a long, but well-thought out, process. Orange County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Stefan Bean indicated that the timeline for implementation of the proposed funding model change is critical in order to allow time for conversations with both the Orange County Board of Education as well as local LEA Boards. With this in mind, he suggested a 35% discount on county Special Schools program fees for NOC SELPA member LEAs if the funding model change was implemented in Fall 2026 for the 2026-2027 school year.

Dr. Steve McLaughlin reiterated the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet's statement of shared values, and noted that this process was originally scheduled to be completed in May 2025 to allow sufficient time for the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) to communicate any changes to all Orange County LEAs. Given that the original timeline was not met, he then suggested retroactively implementing the proposed funding model as of July 1, 2025. There was discussion to clarify OCDE's proposal, and it was

noted that process and timeline must be balanced when making decisions in order to ensure transparency.

[OCDE's proposal](#) was reviewed, and Dr. Stefan Bean motioned to approve the proposal as presented and to be implemented as of July 1, 2026 with a one-time discount of 50% for NOC SELPA member LEAs on the Special Schools base fee. The additional NOC SELPA funds that Special Schools receives under the current funding model would then be reallocated to the other NOC SELPA member LEAs under the proposed funded ADA-based model. This motion was not seconded.

Dr. Steve McLaughlin expressed concern about how the NOC SELPA funds that Special Schools would receive in 2025-2026 would be reallocated to the NOC SELPA member LEAs if the proposed funding model was not implemented until July 1, 2026. Dr. Stefan Bean acknowledged this concern, and a collaborative discussion on possible solutions to support both OCDE and the NOC SELPA member LEAs was held. Following discussion of several options, Dr. Steve McLaughlin motioned to approve the proposed funded ADA-based model as codified below:

*“Motion to approve the NOC SELPA Funding Model, as presented, to commence July 1, 2026 and to continue with the analysis of Low Incidence, Out of Home Care, Program Specialist/Regionalized Services funds, and AU costs to be acted upon no later than January 2026 with information to be shared at the November 21, 2025 Superintendent Cabinet meeting. Furthermore, utilizing the information shared at today's Superintendent Cabinet meeting (August 22, 2025), by the consultant, the Orange County Department of Education agrees to distribute the difference (\$1,560,420) in allocation between the current funding model and the proposed funding model to five member LEAs (BPSD \$53,290, FJUHS \$768,816, FSD \$300,741, LHCS \$353,854, LJS \$82,193). The aforementioned amount for each of the five LEAs will be divided into four equal annual distributions, to be deposited as a LEA Reserve, beginning in the 2025-26 school year and completed by June 30, 2029.”*

This motion was seconded by Dr. Stefan Bean. Dr. Steve McLaughlin shared appreciation for the members' commitment to implementing the proposed funding model in a collaborative way while upholding the shared core values of the NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet. Dr. Julianne Lee expressed gratitude for the various perspectives that helped guide the discussion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried

## **V. Discussion/Information Item(s):**

### **5.0 2024-2025 NOC SELPA Regionalized Services and Mental Health Reserves**

The 2024-2025 NOC SELPA Regionalized Services and Mental Health Reserves balances were presented. No comments or feedback were shared.

**6.0 2025-2026 NOC SELPA Directors and Business Officials Meeting Dates**

The 2025-2026 NOC SELPA Directors and Business Officials Meeting schedule was presented. No comments or feedback were shared.

**7.0 2025-2026 NOC SELPA Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings and Members**

The 2025-2026 NOC SELPA CAC meeting schedule and member information were presented. No comments or feedback were shared.

**8.0 2025-2026 NOC SELPA Staff Members**

The 2025-2026 NOC SELPA staff member list was presented. No comments or feedback were shared.

**9.0 Above and Beyond Award Celebration Date**

The 2026 NOC SELPA Above and Beyond Award Celebration will be held on April 23, 2026 at the Buena Park Community Center.

Input regarding recipients for this year is welcomed.

**10.0 NOC SELPA Member Report or LEA Information Sharing**

All NOC SELPA members reported a positive start to the new school year.

**VI. Suggested Items for Next Agenda**

Future NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting agendas for November 2025 and/or January 2026 will include items regarding funding for Low Incidence, Out of Home Care, and Program Specialist/Regionalized Services, as well as Administrative Unit costs.

**VII. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the August 22, 2025 NOC SELPA Superintendent Cabinet meeting was initiated by Mr. Jim Coombs. Dr. Robert Pletka seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes, 0 No

Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.