

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
GOVERNING BOARD OF THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room  
4:00 p.m., Thursday, November 7, 2019

**Committee Members**

Mr. Scott M. Schmerelson, Chairperson  
Ms. Jackie Goldberg, Board Member  
Dr. George J. McKenna, III, Board Member

**External Representatives**

Ms. Candace Kennedy, Parent  
Ms. Claudia Lozano, Parent  
Ms. Hilda Rodriguez-Guzman, Parent  
Ms. Gloria Martinez, UTLA

**District Members**

Ms. Deneen Cox, Chief Compliance and Performance  
Monitoring Counsel  
Ms. Niru Jayaraman, Assistant Budget Director  
Mr. Aaron Jeffrey, Co-Lead Director, Division of  
Special Education  
Mr. Ryan Morse, Principal, Leichman Career Preparatory  
and Transition Center  
Mr. Marco Tolj, Co-Lead Director, Division of  
Special Education

**NOTES**

The meeting convened at 4:03 p.m. Ms. Jackie Goldberg arrived at 4:08 p.m. Dr. George McKenna, III arrived at 4:15 p.m.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Committee Chair Scott Schmerelson welcomed everyone and asked that committee members introduce themselves. Mr. Schmerelson highlighted the agenda items.

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Ms. Lisa Mosko, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Chairperson, stated one of the main tasks of the CAC is to review and advise on the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) and the Local Plan. She briefly explained the SELPA and Local Plan. She discussed the purpose and structure of the CAC. In addition she discussed other duties of the CAC such as assisting in parent education, recruiting parents who may want to contribute to implementation of the plan, encouraging community involvement in the development and review of the local plan, supporting activities on behalf of individuals with exceptional needs, and supporting community involvement in the Parent Advisory Committee.

Ms. Mosko spoke of trainings and presentations offered by the Division of Special Education based on the sections and topics in the Local Plan. She highlighted a presentation related to Behavior Support and how CAC members provided feedback to the presentation such as the need

for more training for special education teachers; training for families to support behavioral needs in the school and in the home; and, easier access of information to parents for online workshops.

Ms. Mosko responded to comments and questions from committee members.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION FISCAL OVERVIEW

Ms. Niru Jayaraman, Assistant Budget Director, discussed enrollment trends in the District over the past 16 years. Although enrollment is declining, the number of students with disabilities is increasing. Ms. Jayaraman presented a graph showing how the number of students with moderate to severe disabilities is rising. Students with mild to moderate disabilities is declining. She discussed the cost of educating a general education student versus a student with disabilities. In fiscal year 2018-19, the average cost of educating a student with a disability was \$9000 more than a general education student. She spoke about the Special Education revenue sources for 2019-20 and presented a chart illustrating by percentage how the District spends its special education funds. In addition, she discussed how the General Fund contribution to the Special Education budget is rising each year.

Ms. Jayaraman responded to questions from committee members. Committee members discussed advocates for students and the services available to parents.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA (SELPA) STRUCTURE

Mr. Dixon Deutsch, Director, Charter Operated Programs, defined the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). He discussed the three primary types of SELPAS: Single District, Multi-District, and Charter. The District is a Single District SELPA. He discussed SELPA options for charter schools and described options 1, 2 and 3. In addition, he spoke about the support LAUSD provides to charter schools that choose to partner with the LAUSD SELPA. The two LAUSD offices that work with charter schools to provide oversight and support are the Charter Schools Division and the Charter Operated Programs office. Mr. Deutsch highlighted some of the supports provided by each office.

Mr. Deutsch discussed the staffing structure of LAUSD Charter Operated Programs which is comprised of four sub teams: School Supports, Tier 1, Tier 2, and Data and Compliance. Ms. Joasia Garza, Specialist, and Ms. Daphne Zacky, Specialist, briefly discussed the Tier 1 team and the supports they provide. Ms. Lenore Pallares, Organization Facilitator, briefly discussed the Tier 2 team and the supports they provide.

Mr. Deutsch discussed data of charter schools within the LAUSD SELPA. He spoke about alternative SELPA options and highlighted California Education Code § 56195.3 (b). He stated there are nine independent charter schools that are authorized by LAUSD who chose to have another SELPA provide supports to their school. Ms. Goldberg requested that the list of charter schools and their SELPAs be made available online.

Mr. Deutsch responded to questions from committee members. *Mr. Morse requested data of the number of students at charter schools with multiple disabilities or orthopedic impairments.* Mr. Deutsch will provide the information at a later time.

CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION RESEARCH BRIEF  
STATE OF DENIAL: CALIFORNIA CHARTER SCHOOLS AND  
SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Mr. Anthony LeClair, Data Specialist, United Teachers Los Angeles, discussed the enrollment analysis of the percentage of special needs students enrolled in charter schools compared to LAUSD traditional public schools. Mr. LeClair stated they chose the three authorizers with the greatest number of charter schools in California and pulled data for every single school. He stated the American Institute of Research published a report last November finding the disparity in total percentage of enrollment between charter schools and LAUSD schools. The District schools are enrolling students with disabilities at a higher percentage than the independent charter schools. He presented a chart showing the disparities in severity, and highlighted the under enrollment of students with the most severe disabilities. The average percentage of special education students with a mild to moderate disability is 85% for Independent Charters and 71% for District schools. He compared the percentage of students identified in moderate to severe categories for independent charters and District schools.

In addition, Mr. LeClair discussed data and transparency issues, the fiscal impact of disparities in LAUSD if it were equalized, and the LAUSD subsidy to Special Education from the General Fund. Mr. LeClair stated if the students of LAUSD are those with the highest needs and it continues to compound, and if the students from the charter schools have less of a severe need, this then requires more effort of the District. He stated the District has to make sure that this money is recouped and students have the services they need. This requires that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) needs to be fully funded at 40% or higher, and Assembly Bill 602 (AB 602) needs to be reformed. The District needs to monitor all of its authorized schools.

Dr. McKenna said staff needs to work with the Office of Government Relations to work on legislation for additional resources. Committee members discussed AB 602 funding.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speakers addressed the committee on the subject indicated:

Ms. Kate Dove, California Charter Schools Association	Charter School Special Education Options
Ms. Courtney Vickers, Alliance College Ready Public Schools	Special Education Services at Alliance College Ready Public Schools
Ms. Myra Salinas, Larchmont Charter School	Special Education Services at Larchmont Charter School

Mr. Allan Kakassy, Human Relations  
Commission  
Mr. Carl Petersen, Parent

Special Education Native American  
Students  
Under Enrollment of Special Education  
Students at Charter Schools

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schmerelson adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

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Materials related to an item on this Agenda distributed to the Board of Education are available at:  
<http://laschoolboard.org/11-07-19SpEd>