



# State Center Adult Education Consortium

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## State Center AB86 Adult Education Consortia Emergency Executive/Voting Member Conference Call Thursday, June 25, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.

### Attendees:

- Paul Birrell, *Central USD*
- Ed Eng, *SCCCD*
- Kelly Fowler, *SCCCD*
- Baljit Gill, *Caruthers USD*
- Randal Haggard, *Yosemite USD*
- Debbie Ikeda, *SCCCD*
- Rich Ishimaru, *Kings Canyon USD*
- Andre Pecina, *Fresno USD*
- David Raygoza, *Madera USD*
- Ed Schmalzel, *Clovis USD*
- Drew Sylvia, *Selma USD*
- Barbara Thiesen, *Dinuba USD*
- Sherri Watkins, *State Center Adult Education Consortium*
- Allyson Adams, *State Center Consortium*

### Welcome and Roll Call

Sherri Watkins welcomed all attendees and called the roll.

### Fiscal Agent Discussion

Sherri stated that the emergency session was called based on information learned at the CASAS conference that some board members are currently attending.

Barbara updated the group on a session she attended at the conference. Neil Kelly, SCAEC's grant monitor, and Chris Nelson from the CDE spoke at the session regarding timelines, fiscal agents, allocations, and the Governor's budget. MOEs will come out in August; however, a change in fiscal agent could possibly delay the consortium funds up until January 2016. In addition, the state asked for input from the consortiums present as to the direction adult education should take, leading some to feel that there were many decisions still to be made at the state level. Since the fiscal agent is for one year only, Barbara questioned if changing now is still a wise choice, given the unknowns.

Drew attended the same session and agreed that the possible delay of consortium funds was concerning. If the consortium does not receive funds until January, the window to spend those funds is much shorter. Drew also spoke with Neil Kelly regarding what will happen if the money is not spent. Will it rollover to the next year? Neil did not have a definitive answer as the state is not certain how that will be handled.

Andre spoke with Chris Nelson from the CDE. Chris confirmed that MOE for 15/16 will go directly to the K-12 schools. Andre noted that when speaking with Chris, the CDE already recognizes FUSD as the fiscal agent so there will be no delay of funds.

Barbara disagreed, saying at this moment, according to the state, State Center Community College District is still recognized as the fiscal agent because no face sheet has been signed. She reiterated that if we change the fiscal agency to FUSD at this point, that is what will cause the delay of funds.

Andre stated that we need more clarification from Neil Kelly and Chris Nelson, as he has been assured by both that FUSD is considered the fiscal agent. He questioned if FUSD is not going to be the fiscal agent, who will front the funds to run the consortium office? If no one fronts the funds, there will be no consortium office. He clarified that the funding is already in place at FUSD.

Ed Eng from SCCCD told the members that SCCCD is prepared to remain the fiscal agent if a change will affect funding for next year. He stressed the importance of not delaying funds.

Baljit stated that he felt the decision to change fiscal agents to FUSD was rushed, and would like the fiscal agent to remain SCCCD.

There was some discussion of staffing. Debbie Ikeda from SCCCD clarified that positions would still need to be filled by loaned employees from other districts. She also stated that SCAEC can stay in the offices being used at this time at no charge. SCCCD does not want to see any funds delayed.

Andre reiterated he has been assured no funds will be delayed.

Barbara stressed that she still thinks it would be wiser to remain with SCCCD for the next year until all the unknowns from the state are decided.

Baljit asked what the drawbacks of staying with State Center are. Andre answered perception is a big drawback. SCAEC's advocate, Dawn, is advising to keep the fiscal agent a K-12, Chris Nelson is questioning why the consortium would want to change at this point.

Regarding Sherri, Andre stated that she was on loan from FUSD only until June 30 and Fresno Adult School has been working without a full-time teacher because of the loan. Sherri may not be able to be loaned for the next year.

***Motion: Barbara Thiesen motioned to keep the fiscal agent as State Center Community College District. Ed Eng seconded.***

Ed Eng clarified that SCCCD does not want to remain the fiscal agent after this next year. The district is stepping up only to help keep the funds moving smoothly so work can continue.

Andre again stressed that Neil Kelly and Chris Nelson have recognized FUSD as the fiscal agent. Barbara disagreed, stating she has spoken to both Neil and Chris, and was told that a face sheet must be signed. She and Drew specifically asked if a face sheet had been signed for FUSD to be the fiscal agent; they both answered no.

Andre asked Sherri to clarify her conversation with Neil Kelly regarding the fiscal agent change. Sherri stated that she did not find out about the need for a face sheet to be signed until she attended the CASAS session.

Debbie Ikeda questioned why the board would take the risk of delaying funds by changing fiscal agent.

***Amended Motion: Barbara Thiesen amended her motion to read: For the 15/16 school year, State Center Community College District will remain the fiscal agent, and the fiscal agent issue will be revisited during the 15/16 school year. Ed Eng seconded.***

Randy voiced concerns about process in general. He questioned how the fiscal agent information could be in conflict and would like to get clarity from the state before moving forward. Andre agreed that following protocols in meetings has been an issue from the beginning of the consortium. He would like to get both Chris and Neil on the phone to clarify who the current fiscal agent is and get some guidance.

***Motion: Andre Pecina motioned to table the fiscal agent decision until Tuesday, June 30 after speaking to Neil Kelly and Chris Nelson. Paul Birrell seconded.***

Barbara stated she was advised by either Neil Kelly or Chris Nelson that Fresno Unified should not be the fiscal agent because they are too big and they have too many audits. A fiscal agent should be a smaller district who can put items on an agenda quickly, has not been audited and is not under the scrutiny of the state. Despite Andre's requests for clarification and transparency, Barbara would not state who made the comments.

The vote was then taken:

Voting Member	District	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Birrell, Paul	Central USD	X			
Eng, Ed	SCCCD		X		
Gill, Baljit	Caruthers USD		X		
Haggard, Randy	Yosemite USD	X			
Ishimaru, Rich	Kings Canyon USD		X		
Pecina, Andre	Fresno USD	X			
Penny, Nancy	Sanger USD			X	
Raygoza, David	Madera USD	X			
Schmalzel, Ed	Clovis USD	X			
Sylvia, Drew	Selma USD		X		
Thiesen, Barbara	Dinuba USD		X		

***The vote is 5 yes, 5 no. According to the bylaws, more discussion is necessary before a revote.***

Drew stated he sees no reason to change. Debbie does not see why State Center would risk not getting their funds. Andre feels we should hear all of the facts before deciding. There was additional discussion about transparency, and the fact that FUSD proposed a budget that was not approved by the board.

***Motion: Andre Pecina motioned to table the fiscal agent decision until Tuesday, June 30, 2015 after speaking to Neil Kelly and Chris Nelson. Paul Birrell seconded.***

A new vote was taken:

<b>Voting Member</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Birrell, Paul	Central USD	X			
Eng, Ed	SCCCD		X		
Gill, Baljit	Caruthers USD		X		
Haggard, Randy	Yosemite USD	X			
Ishimaru, Rich	Kings Canyon USD		X		
Pecina, Andre	Fresno USD	X			
Penny, Nancy	Sanger USD			X	
Raygoza, David	Madera USD	X			
Schmalzel, Ed	Clovis USD	X			
Sylvia, Drew	Selma USD		X		
Thiesen, Barbara	Dinuba USD		X		

***The vote remains at 5 yes, 5 no. According to the bylaws, the motion is dead.***

The next vote was on the amended motion by Barbara Thiesen:

***Amended Motion: For the 15/16 school year, State Center Community College District will remain the fiscal agent, and the fiscal agent issue will be revisited during the 15/16 school year. Ed Eng seconded.***

<b>Voting Member</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Birrell, Paul	Central USD				X
Eng, Ed	SCCCD	X			
Gill, Baljit	Caruthers USD	X			
Haggard, Randy	Yosemite USD	X			
Ishimaru, Rich	Kings Canyon USD	X			
Pecina, Andre	Fresno USD		X		
Penny, Nancy	Sanger USD			X	
Raygoza, David	Madera USD		X		
Schmalzel, Ed	Clovis USD	X			
Sylvia, Drew	Selma USD	X			
Thiesen, Barbara	Dinuba USD	X			

**The vote is 7 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain. According to the bylaws, more discussion is necessary before a revote.**

Randy mentioned that the board has already passed a motion to change the fiscal agent to FUSD, so the board cannot vote to have SCCCDCD **remain** as the fiscal agent.

Paul asked for clarification on the office staff. Does the current office staff stay in place or will everyone need to be rehired? When will the hiring take place? Andre stated that he needs a full-time teacher, and Pang was on loan for only 3 months so she is not guaranteed to come back. Barbara thinks we need to decide on the fiscal agent before the board can decide on a hiring process. She also clarified that the accountant is a State Center employee, and Sherri, the interim director, is a loaned employee. Sherri stated that SCCCDCD does not want to hire anyone to run the consortium. They would like all employees to either already be employed by SCCCDCD, or be loaned by another district.

Andre questioned if SCCCDCD would be fronting the money to run the consortium office beginning July 1. Ed Eng answered yes, SCCCDCD is committed to keeping the office running in any way.

**Amended Motion: Barbara Thiesen amended her motion to read: The board will rename State Center Community College District the fiscal agent for the State Center Adult Education Consortium for the 15/16 school year, and revisit the fiscal agency discussion for the following year. Ed Eng seconded the motion.**

Voting Member	District	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Birrell, Paul	Central USD				X
Eng, Ed	SCCCDCD	X			
Gill, Baljit	Caruthers USD	X			
Haggard, Randy	Yosemite USD	X			
Ishimaru, Rich	Kings Canyon USD	X			
Pecina, Andre	Fresno USD		X		
Penny, Nancy	Sanger USD			X	
Raygoza, David	Madera USD		X		
Schmalzel, Ed	Clovis USD	X			
Sylvia, Drew	Selma USD	X			
Thiesen, Barbara	Dinuba USD	X			

**The vote is 7 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain. The motion passes.**

Randy would like to request a review of the bylaws.

Barbara would still like to meet on Tuesday to discuss other issues. Agenda items should include developing a timeline for the hiring process, and revisiting the bylaws. An agenda will be posted on Friday, and Sherri will contact Neil Kelly and Chris Nelson to see if they are available.

**Next Meeting**

***Tuesday, June 30, 2015 – Herndon Campus, Room 308 - 8:30 a.m.***

A comment was made by Drew Sylvia stating that the consortium was not aware of the \$750,000 budget. Andre stated that the budget was proposed by Lori Morton in February or March as a discussion item. Drew believes that Andre got Fresno Unified to front the money for the budget without the approval of the board. Andre stated that when Fresno Unified became the fiscal agent, a placeholder was needed in the budget. The \$750,000 figure was taken from the final plan. Drew stated that no one on the board was aware that Andre was going to approach FUSD for a loan, and that Andre should not be operating independently of the board.

Drew asked for clarification on 'perception' from Andre. Andre referred to the email from Dawn Koepke, stating that he is discussing perception at the legislative level. Discussions at the legislative level include whether or not adult schools should be housed with K-12 or at the community college level. Dawn suggests in her email that the funding should flow through K-12.

Andre believes when one of the largest consortiums (SCAEC) removes fiscal agent responsibilities from Fresno Unified, it would show legislators a distrust of the consortium's K-12 partners. Drew questioned if that was the case, why was the fiscal agent ever SCCCD? Andre answered at the beginning of this process a decision had to be made right away and no K-12 district showed interest. SCCCD took on the role of fiscal agent with the understanding that the fiscal agency issue would be revisited when the implementation process was set to begin

Andre believes having a K-12 fiscal agent sends a strong statement to the legislators, and to other consortium. Kelly Fowler states that she believes SCCCD is perhaps a more unbiased partner to consider for fiscal agent. Andre states that the governor is looking at adult education models in other states. Many of those states have adult education with community colleges, leading the governor to question whether or not K-12 is needed in adult education. A K-12 fiscal agent would strengthen the perception that K-12 is an important part of adult education.