

Minutes in Brief

SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING,
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held Wednesday, November 16, 2016 in the downstairs conference room of the ESD's Medford office located at 101 North Grape Street, Medford, Oregon. At 6:00 p.m., Chair Wendle called the meeting to order at which time she led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Board members in attendance were Jim Harrington, Christine Norton-Cotts, and DonnaJean Wendle. Lorelei Goodman-Vogel attended via telephone. Jamie Jennings attended via IVC from the SOESD's Klamath Falls Office.

Board members Greg Applen, Dave Jensen, Doug McKinley, and Paul Yates were absent.

In attendance from the SOESD staff were Jessica Bach, Howard George, Susan Peck, and Scott Beveridge, superintendent/clerk.

The Board's auditor, Carolyn Ryder of Isler Medford, LLC, was in attendance for the 2015/2016 audit presentation. Dean Wendle, RCC Board of Directors, was a guest in attendance.

Comments from the Associations

There were no representatives present from either of the labor associations.

Requests to Address Agenda Items

No one asked to speak to an agenda item.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Financial Report

Member Harrington moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Norton-Cotts and passed by unanimous board action.

Communications

Superintendent Beveridge reviewed his schedule for the months of November through December 2016 and January 2017. He noted that meetings with the administrators of local school districts had been held throughout October and November to gather input in developing the SOESD Local Service Plan for 2017-2018. Also noted were the following activities:

November 1, 2016

Superintendent Beveridge met with Superintendent Kirk Kolb of Grants Pass School District to discuss buy-back of SOESD services.

November 17, 2016

Superintendent Beveridge will facilitate a meeting with the region's legislators and legislators-elect on this date.

November 21, 2016

The region's superintendents will meet on this date. Formation of the SOESD Local Service Plan for 2017-2018 will be an agenda topic. There are two more meetings after that for the superintendents to approve the plan before it is presented to the Board in January for final approval.

Business Services

A. 2015/2016 SOESD Audit Report

Carolyn Ryder, of Isler Medford, LLC, was in attendance to present the results of the SOESD audit for fiscal year 2015/2016. Ms. Ryder provided an overview of the report, noting there were no issues or items of non-compliance found in the agency's audit. The Board commended Business Manager George for an excellent report and asked that he convey their thanks to the Business Services staff.

B. 2016/2017 Southern Oregon ESD Resolution #6

Business Manager George explained that Resolution #6 was an approve-and-accept resolution to put in place the federal budgets. It was moved by Member Jennings to approve 2016/2017 Southern Oregon ESD Resolution #6. The motion was seconded by Member Harrington and carried by unanimous board action.

Education

OSBA Convention, Board and Superintendent Report

Member Norton-Cotts and Superintendent Beveridge provided a report on their attendance at the OSBA Annual Convention. Member Norton-Cotts attended sessions which addressed the rules of bargaining and recommendations for language to use during negotiations. She also attended a session presented on

the special education model in place at Hermiston School District.

Administration

A. OSBA Election

- It was moved by Member Harrington and seconded by Member Norton-Cotts to cast the SOESD Board of Directors' vote for Craig Prewitt, OSBA Board of Director Position 5. The motion carried unanimously.
- It was moved by Member Harrington and seconded by Member Goodman-Vogel to approve OSBA Resolution 1. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Licensed Association

Superintendent Beveridge provided background on the MOU with the licensed association which was brought to the board for approval. Funding from the state through Douglas ESD continues to be insufficient to operate the EI/ECSE program for the full length of the 2016-2017 academic year. However, increased funding from the contract has resulted in one less furlough day for EI/ECSE staff than in previous years. A Memorandum of Understanding with Southern Oregon Bargaining Council has been prepared acknowledging that EI/ECSE licensed staff will experience a reduction of four contract days during the 2016-2017 school year. It was moved by Member Harrington to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Southern Oregon Bargaining Council recognizing a reduction of four contract days for EI/ECSE licensed staff during the 2016-2017 contract year. The motion was seconded by Member Norton-Cotts and approved unanimously by the board.

C. Legislative Update

Superintendent Beveridge provided a brief report on recent ballot initiatives and anticipated legislative discussions impacting education. The Governor's budget will be released in December and will provide a clearer funding picture for the next fiscal year. Policy and changes at the federal level may impact the state as well.

D. Central Point School District Intent to Withdraw from Southern Oregon ESD

On November 1, 2016, the Central Point School District issued written notice of intent to withdraw from SOESD, pursuant to ORS 334.015. The district will be evaluating the value of SOESD services to determine if the district will formally withdraw by the March 1, 2017 deadline. A copy of Central Point School District's notice of intent to withdraw was provided to the Board.

E. Medford School District Intent to Withdraw from Southern Oregon ESD

A copy of Medford School District's notice of intent to withdraw was provided to the Board. The district will be conducting a due diligence study to determine if the district will formally withdraw from SOESD by the March 1, 2017 deadline.

F. 2017/2018 SOESD Local Service Plan Discussion

The superintendents will continue to discuss the formation of SOESD services for 2017/2018 when they meet on December 19. The final draft of the Local Service Plan will be brought to the SOESD Board in January for approval.

G. Buy Back of Southern Oregon ESD Services

Superintendent Beveridge explained that a district's decision to withdraw from SOESD impacts all member districts in the region. The current buy-back model, which is a fee applied to the services a withdrawn district is offered to purchase back, works as a disincentive for that district to purchase services. The current model also has had unintended negative effects on member districts, as the currently withdrawn district has benefitted from services for which they are not paying. Open and candid conversations are taking place with the region's superintendents who have expressed concern that a withdrawn district not receive benefits to which they are not contributing. Discussions are ongoing regarding whether a district should be provided an option to purchase back any services after withdrawing from SOESD.

Superintendent Beveridge has discussed alternative buy-back models with local superintendents as well as superintendents across the state. The goal of these discussions is to come up with a structure that strikes a fair balance – one that is equitable to SOESD's member districts, repairs the financial impact that a district withdraw has to the region, and is inclusive for all districts. One concept receiving some support from superintendents is a buy-back membership model where a percentage fee would be assessed on the dollars a withdrawn district receives, instead of a fee assessed on each of the services offered for the district to buy back. If there is a change to the current buy-back model, it would be beneficial to reach a decision regarding buy-back of services and communicate that decision to districts prior to March 1, 2017, so that districts can make informed decisions regarding intent to withdraw.

The Board directed Superintendent Beveridge to present a clearly defined buy-back membership model to them during

the January 18, 2017 board meeting, at which time action will be taken to approve whether a withdrawn district may purchase SOESD services.

- Executive Session At 7:46 p.m., Chair Wendle announced the board would meet in executive session pursuant to:
- ORS 192.660(2)(d) to discuss parameters for upcoming labor negotiations
 - ORS 192.660(2)(f) to consider records exempt from public inspection.
- Open Session At 8:15 p.m., Chair Wendle reconvened the board into open session.
- Old Business Superintendent's Employment Contract, 2016-2017
It was moved by Member Norton-Cotts to approve the contract for Superintendent Beveridge with the language in total as written in the communication from the agency's attorney dated November 16, 2016. The motion was seconded by Member Goodman-Vogel and approved unanimously upon being put to a roll call vote.
- Miscellaneous A. AESA Annual Conference, November 30 – December 3, 2016, Savannah International Trade and Convention Center, Savannah, Georgia. *Member Norton-Cotts plans to attend.*
B. Next Regular SOESD Board Meeting, Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 6 PM, Southern Oregon ESD, Medford Office.
- Adjournment There being no further business, Chair Wendle adjourned this meeting of the Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors at 8:23 p.m.



DonnaJean Wendle, Chair
Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors

Scott Beveridge, Superintendent