

Minutes in Brief SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

Open Session and Call to Order A regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held in the downstairs conference room of the SOESD administration office in Medford and by video conference on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

Attendance Board members in attendance: Board members absent:
Rosie Converse (joined at 6:47 PM) Corbin Morell
Jessie Hecocta Maud Powell
Ana Mannenbach Annie Valtierra-Sanchez
Mary Middleton
Robert Moore
Justin Wright

SOESD staff members and guests in attendance:
Mark Angle-Hobson Howard George Matthew Reynolds
Ryan Aydelotte Gabe Gilham Emily Santiago
Jessica Bach Kylee Harrison Dawn Stephens
Scott Beveridge Brian Hungerford Jewel Stone, CPA, Isler Medford
Shannon Bilbao Liz Littleton Amy Szeliga
Celine Buczek Taryn Nugent Daniel Weaver
Teresa Cisneros Heidi Olivadoti Jeanetta Woodside
Stephanie Cossey Amanda Panda

Executive Session At 6:13 PM, Chair Wright announced the SOESD board would convene in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with counsel concerning legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Open Session At 7:07 PM, Chair Wright reconvened the board into open session, read an excerpt from the SOESD’s Land Acknowledgement and led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from Representatives of the Association Amy Szeliga, president of the licensed association, yielded her time for comments to the classified association.

Teresa Cisneros, president of the classified association, read a statement from the OSEA Chapter 104 executive board members regarding the executive board’s recommended steps related to implicit bias, equity, and compliance-based operations.

Requests to Address Agenda Items *Taryn Nugent, Request to Address Agenda Items 1) Open Session/Roll Call; 2) Executive Session; 4) Preliminary; and 5) Consent Agenda*
Ms. Nugent shared her experience with being provided ADA accommodations in the workplace, and suggestions for the board regarding training and policies.

Teresa Cisneros, Request to Address Agenda Items 2) Executive Session; 3) Open Session; and 4) Preliminary

Ms. Cisneros described her experience at a community powwow and desire for SOESD to hire security for the event. She also expressed her concern that policy excluding political activities in the workplace censors her advocacy for Indian Education families.

Jasi Swick: Request to Address Agenda Item 9) Miscellaneous

Ms. Swick was not in attendance.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, October 16, 2024
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Financial Report

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON, SECONDED BY MEMBER MOORE TO:
Approve all items on the consent agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Communications

- A. Board Member Reports: OAESD Summit and OSBA Annual Convention
Member Wright attended both the OAESD Summit on November 6, 2024 and the OSBA's 78th Annual Convention in Portland from November 8-10, 2024. Chair Wright shared key takeaways from the conferences where he received information on advocacy, working with elected officials, and refining the message of what the ESD does. He encouraged members to attend future conferences if their schedules permit.

- B. SOESD Superintendent's Report

SOESD Strategic Initiatives

Superintendent Beveridge referred board members to the reports in the recent *SOESD Cruise Log* newsletter highlighting accomplishments from the strategic plan, positive feedback from staff, and positive ratings from component districts regarding SOESD services. In addition, Mr. Beveridge noted that the newsletter highlighted new members joining the SOESD team this year and several winter activities planned with staff to celebrate the season.

Best Wishes to CFO Daniel Weaver

Superintendent Beveridge acknowledged Daniel Weaver, who was in attendance for his final board meeting as SOESD's Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Weaver has accepted the position of CFO with Central Point School District. Superintendent Beveridge expressed his appreciation for CFO Weaver's seven years of dedicated service to SOESD and for his continued support of SOESD during this period of transition.

SOESD Full Faith and Credit Loan

Mr. Beveridge shared that he expected SOESD would close the next day on the loan that, along with insurance and other proceeds, will fund construction of the SOESD Phoenix Campus and the purchase and remodel of the Ramsey Campus in Grants Pass.

2025-2026 SOESD Local Service Plan Update

Development of the 2025-2026 SOESD Local Service Plan (LSP) is underway. Mr. Beveridge referred board members to an article in the SOESD newsletter for more information on the process to develop the LSP, including feedback received during meetings last spring with senior leadership teams of the component districts. Superintendent Beveridge explained possible additions to the LSP, including 1) Emergency Preparedness and Management Services, 2) a new Regional Career Center, and 3) Substance Use Disorder Services with plans to support opening a Recovery High School. Mr. Beveridge anticipates the draft plan will be approved on schedule in December by the region's superintendents, followed by a request for the SOESD board's support when the plan is presented for approval in January.

Special Education Educator Stipends

Senate Bill 5506 directs ODE to provide stipends to licensed educators and classified employees working in special education during the 2024-2025 school year. The funding allocated by the legislature does not provide for matching the employer payroll costs. SOESD will need to determine where to allocate funds in the budget to pay for those costs when the stipends are provided to eligible staff.

Legislative Session

Superintendent Beveridge reported that he continues to facilitate monthly meetings with legislators and superintendents to discuss issues impacting education. Many from the region have participated in state-level work groups to help inform the priorities for the next biennium. Those priorities include adequate funding for special education and appropriate service levels for Regional Inclusive Services (RIS).

Governor Kotek's proposed budget for 2025-2027 includes an increase of \$515 million to the State School Fund allocation, representing calculations for current service levels (CSL). The Governor's office has clarified the CSL estimate included increased costs for PERS but is about \$85 million below current projections. An increase to the Governor's previous CSL estimate is apparently being considered.

Southern Oregon Regional Career Center

Superintendent Beveridge reported that the Regional Career Center continues to progress as planned. Community health partners are meeting as an advisory group with SOESD staff, with the medical assisting program on track to launch Fall 2025. Staff are currently exploring the feasibility of launching a behavioral health program that will provide students with a Qualified Mental Health Associate (QMHA) certificate. The primary investor for the project remains committed to acquiring a suitable building in the area for the Regional Career Center.

Business Affairs

A. 2023-2024 SOESD Audit Report

Jewell Stone, of Isler Medford, LLC, presented the results of the SOESD audit for fiscal year 2023-2024. An electronic copy of the audit report was emailed to board members in advance for review during the meeting. Ms. Stone stated an unmodified opinion on the financial statements and reported there

were no issues with the schedule of expenditures. She reviewed each section of the report, summarizing that no issues of non-compliance or deficiencies were found in the audit and the agency was determined to be in compliance in all areas. At the conclusion of the audit report, CFO Weaver recognized the Business Services staff and expressed his appreciation for their service.

- B. Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Transition
Superintendent Beveridge reported on the status of the Chief Financial Officer position vacancy. CFO Weaver explained that in the interim while the district seeks to fill the CFO position, Mark Angle-Hobson will oversee the SOESD Phoenix Campus reconstruction project, Jeanetta Woodside will manage the day-to-day functions of the business office, Liz Littleton will be the point of contact for contracts, and Kylee Harrison will oversee Medicaid claiming and the remodel of the Ramsey Campus.
- C. 2024-2025 SOESD Resolution 6: Interim Appointments
Superintendent Beveridge explained that Resolution 6 names Director Mark Angle-Hobson as Interim Deputy Clerk and Interim Safety Officer so that business operations can continue while the CFO position is vacant. The superintendent expressed full confidence in recommending Dr. Angle-Hobson, noting the depth of understanding and knowledge of the agency he brings to the role.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MANNENBACH, SECONDED BY MEMBER CONVERSE TO:

Approve 2024-2025 SOESD Resolution #6.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Administration

- A. Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) Election
 - 1) The SOESD Board of Directors has one consensus vote to cast to elect a candidate to the OSBA Board of Directors Position 5. Southern Region. Dawn Watson has been nominated by the board of Phoenix-Talent Schools. Ms. Watson’s nomination form and candidate questionnaire were provided to board members in advance of the meeting for their consideration.
IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON, SECONDED BY MEMBER MANNENBACH TO:
To cast the SOESD Board of Directors’ vote for Dawn Watson, OSBA Board of Directors, Position 5.
MOTION CARRIED 6-0
 - 2) OSBA Resolution 1 – Dues Schedule
In advance of the meeting, the board received OSBA Resolution 1 that, if passed, amends the OSBA dues schedule. The board discussed the dues increase and the services received from OSBA.
IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER CONVERSE, SECONDED BY MEMBER MOORE TO:
Cast the SOESD board’s vote in favor of OSBA Resolution 1.
MOTION CARRIED 6-0

- 3) OSBA Resolution 2 – PRIDE Caucus
Chair Wright provided background on OSBA Resolution 2 that creates the Oregon School Board Members PRIDE Caucus and designates a seat on the OSBA Board of Directors and Legislative Policy Committee.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MANNENBACH, SECONDED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON TO:

Cast the SOESD board's vote in favor of OSBA Resolution 2.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

- 4) OSBA Resolution 3 – OSBA Bylaws
OSBA Resolution 3 adopts the proposed amendments to the OSBA Bylaws. The bracketed language included in the proposed bylaws amendments pertaining to the addition of the Oregon School Board Members PRIDE Caucus is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2. If Resolution 2 does not pass, the bracketed language will be removed from the OSBA bylaws.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MANNENBACH, SECONDED BY MEMBER HECOCTA TO:

Cast the SOESD board's vote in favor of OSBA Resolution 3.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

B. Contract for Services with Nick Alexander Films

Karla Clark, CCL/STE(A)M Program Manager, reported on the program's work with Nick Alexander Films to produce video content and training modules for a number of projects under SOESD's grant with ODE to support STEAM Hubs statewide. Ms. Clark presented a video highlight of the most recent project, Team Oregon Build, and shared its positive impact. The expenditures for the current projects during 2024-2025 total \$60,900. Ms. Clark received confirmation that day that additional funds have been approved through ODE, and the thirteen STEM Hubs in the state have agreed to spend the dollars on a statewide videography project. The additional funds would be added to the Southern Backbone Grant to contract with Nick Alexander Films to produce a series of videos, including an overarching statewide branding video for the STEM Hubs and thirteen separate videos showcasing each of the STEM hubs in each of the thirteen regions. The cost of all projects combined for the fiscal year exceeds \$100,000 and requires board approval. SOESD will act as the fiscal agent for the project.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MANNENBACH, SECONDED BY MEMBER MOORE TO:

Approve contracting with Nick Alexander Films at a cost not-to-exceed \$180,000 in combined projects for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, pending approval of funding from ODE.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

C. Phoenix Campus Reconstruction Update

Director Mark Angle-Hobson provided an update on the SOESD Phoenix Campus reconstruction project. Dr. Angle-Hobson reported that he and former Business Manager Howard George attend weekly onsite meetings with the architect and contractor to review the previous week's work, learn what is planned for the week forward, and finalize selection of building materials. A workgroup has been established to provide input on a mural to be commissioned for display in the lobby. The board received the October 2024 end-of-month project report from HMK Company in advance of the meeting.

Miscellaneous Next Regular Meeting: January 15, 2025, 6:00 PM, SOESD Administration Office, Medford, Oregon.

Adjournment There being no further business, Chair Wright adjourned the meeting of the Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors at 9:05 PM.