

Minutes in Brief SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, February 19, 2025

Call to Order A regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at the SOESD's administration office in Medford, Oregon. Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Chair Wright read the SOESD land acknowledgement and led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance Board members in attendance: Board members absent:
Jessie Hecocta Rosie Converse
Ana Mannenbach
Mary Middleton
Robert Moore
Corbin Morell
Maud Powell
Annie Valtierra-Sanchez
Justin Wright

SOESD staff members and guests in attendance:

Mark Angle-Hobson	Nikki Donnelly	Jenni Jones
Ryan Aydelotte	Forest Evergreen	Liz Littleton
Jessica Bach	Isobel Evergreen	Desiree Meza
Matthew Bergland	Gabe Gilham	Taran Myatt
Raquel Bergland	Kylee Harrison	Kevin Noreen
Scott Beveridge	Rita Johnson	Heidi Olivadoti
Celine Buzcek	Jeff Johnson	Amy Szeliga
Stephanie Cossey		

Comments from Representatives of the Associations Forest Evergreen, vice president of the classified association, shared desired qualifications of the next superintendent, emphasizing the importance of communication, respect, responsiveness, accountability, integrity, upholding SOESD's mission, and acknowledging concerns by the union.

Amy Szeliga, president of the licensed association, noted bargaining had begun, and interests in compensation, a three year agreement, and working conditions, with licensed proposals driven by member survey data reflecting positive changes since the last bargaining three years ago. The president encouraged board member participation in bargaining sessions as their schedules allow.

Requests to Address Agenda Items There were no statements from the audience or requests to address an agenda item.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes: January 19, 2025, Regular Meeting
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Financial Report

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MOORE, SECONDED BY MEMBER VALTIERRIA - SANCHEZ TO:

Approve the consent agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Communications

- A. SOESD Superintendent's Report

Focus on Student Success:

Students in the SOESD Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing participated in the Western Regional Academic Bowl in San Francisco. The quiz tournament fosters academic excellence and sportsmanship with up to 16 teams participating. The SOESD team did exceptionally well progressing to the quarter finals. Students showcased their academic skills, connected with their deaf and hard of hearing peers, and gained hands-on skills navigating the large city, while exploring local educational opportunities. Based on interest, two full teams are expected next year.

Additional Student News:

Student Services Coordinator Agnes Lee-Wolfe facilitated presentations by student representatives from the student resource centers of local university and community colleges in Jackson, Josephine, and Klamath counties on accessibility services and eligibility requirements for students with diverse abilities at KCC, OIT, RCC, and SOU. The target audience was educators assisting students with transition to college.

Work with Schools and Districts:

Directors Mark Angle-Hobson and Kylee Harrison joined Superintendent Beveridge to attend the Ashland School District Board meeting last week and answer questions about the SOESD Local Service Plan that the Ashland School District Board subsequently approved that night. Superintendent Beveridge has been invited to the Phoenix-Talent Schools Board meeting for their vote on the Local Service Plan tomorrow.

Staff Updates:

Meetings with the licensed association have begun for bargaining the successor contract. Superintendent Beveridge shared his appreciation for everyone being present in person to build relationships and work together. He also shared his appreciation for the association sharing the positive feedback from their member survey about what is going well, to build upon together. Mr. Beveridge is looking forward to meeting with the classified association tomorrow.

- B. Board Required Training
Chair Wright reminded Board Members about the required training on public meetings needs to be taken during their tenure. There are new laws for public meetings, and we want to maintain compliance.

Administration

- A. Election of Chair-Elect, OAESD Officer Council
Willamette ESD board member Dr. Jeffrey Crapper has been nominated by the Willamette ESD Board. The SOESD board discussed the opportunity for regional representation with Dr. Crapper as the sole nominee.

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

Nominate Dr. Jeffrey Crapper for the OAESD Chair Elect position

MOTION CARRIED 8-0

- B. SOESD Superintendent Search
 - i. Qualities and Qualifications of the Superintendent
 - ii. Salary Range

Kevin Noreen, OSBA search consultant, reviewed survey results for the qualities and qualifications for the next superintendent, and presented a recommended salary range. There was discussion about streamlining the list to strengthen the language while respecting the characteristics identified by those who took the survey. The salaries of other ESDs were presented with a recommended range balancing the local cost of living with attracting an excellent out of area candidate pool.

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

Approve the proposed qualities, qualifications, and salary range of \$188,000 to \$208,000 for the SOESD superintendent position posting.

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Mr. Noreen shared next steps will include posting the position and selecting a screening committee, and that he had followed up on the discussion at the last board meeting regarding implicit bias training, to determine there is an implicit bias component included in the screening team training.

- C. Local Service Plan Update
Superintendent Beveridge shared that ballots had been received from about 50% of the component districts representing about 30% of student population. Mr. Beveridge noted the remaining ballots are due March 1st with expectation that the LSP will be approved.
- D. Legislative Update
The 2025 legislative session started in January. While there are several bills that would impact education and specifically special education funding, it is anticipated there won't be clarity on final budget allocations

until near the end of the session. SOESD is planning to build the budget based on the governor's and co-chairs' proposed state school fund amounts. Adequate funding for Regional Inclusive Service and Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education programs remain areas being watched closely. There are also proposals to change the cap on special education funding in the State School Fund formula, and for increasing funding for the High Cost Disability grant.

Business Services

- A. SOESD Phoenix Campus Reconstruction Update
Director Angle-Hobson shared updates from his reviews of the job site. All concrete is poured, and the steel girders are going up, with the building taking shape. While the project was delayed about a week due to snow, the project manager has no concern about making up that time. Director Angle-Hobson stated the project is on budget and no additional value engineering is expected.
- B. Authorization for Staff to Sign Checks

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

Approve the recommendation by the Administration to add Liz Littleton during the fiscal year 2024 – 2025.

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Miscellaneous

- A. Next Regular Meeting: March 19, 2025, 6:00 PM
- B. OAESD Spring Summit, May 7-9, 2025, Sunriver, Oregon
- C. SOESD Budget Committee Meeting, May 14, 2025, 6:00 PM
- D. Special District Election – Important Dates
 - February 8: First day a candidate can file
 - March 20: Last day for a candidate to file or withdraw
 - March 24: Voters' pamphlet filing deadline (Jackson County)
 - May 20: Special District Election