

Minutes in Brief

**SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 20, 2017**

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held Wednesday, September 20, 2017, in the downstairs conference room of the ESD's Medford office located at 101 North Grape Street, Medford, Oregon. At 6:02 p.m., Chair McKinley called the meeting to order at which time he led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Board members in attendance were Rosie Converse, Doug McKinley, Christine Norton-Cotts, Maud Powell, Annie Valtierra-Sanchez, Toni Webb, and DonnaJean Wendle. Jamie Jennings attended via web-conference.

Board member Dave Jensen was absent.

Also in attendance were SOESD staff members Jessica Bach, Melia Biedscheid, Elysia Gabaldon, Kim Hosford, Meghan Jones, Heidi Olivadoti, Susan Peck, Sovi Rosas, Joyce Van Anne, Daniel Weaver, Bob Wohlers, and Scott Beveridge, superintendent/clerk.

Guests in attendance were Garet Dean, Ahrien Johnson, Judy Richards, and Dean Wendle.

Oath of Office

Superintendent Beveridge administered the Oath of Office to Christine Norton-Cotts, Zone 5.

**Comments from the
Associations**

Kim Hosford addressed the Board on behalf of the licensed association. She expressed concern regarding administration's proposal to contract with ProCare Therapy for a licensed vision teacher and Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant. Ms. Hosford requested the board consider conducting an analysis of the cost effectiveness of contracting out versus acquiring and retaining employees.

**Request to Address
Agenda Items**

Melia Biedscheid, Request to speak to agenda item V, topics D and E. Ms. Biedscheid requested to speak to the topics of contracting for services with ProCare Therapy and PresenceLearning when the board addressed those agenda items later in the meeting.

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Member Wendle to approve all items on the consent agenda as shown. The motion was seconded by Member Converse and unanimously carried. The consent agenda consisted of:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes of the SOESD Organizational Meeting, July 12, 2017 and the Special Meeting of the Board, September 12, 2017.
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Financial Report for the period ending August 31, 2017

Communication

Superintendent Beveridge reviewed his schedule for September, October, and November 2017, noting the following activities:

- September 18: Development of the SOESD's Local Service Plan was discussed during the monthly meeting of the region's superintendents. An additional meeting is scheduled with the superintendents and business managers on September 28 to continue cost modeling analysis.
- September 21: The superintendent and SOESD special education administrators met with a Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) to discuss the possibility of developing a new program in Autism Services.
- September 22; 29: Superintendent Beveridge and members of the school improvement team will meet with Rogue Community College (RCC) administrators to discuss creating an early college high school on the RCC campus.
- September 25: Superintendent Beveridge has been asked for SOESD to co-present with staff from College Dreams during the OSBA's Annual Convention in November. They'll meet on September 25 to plan for the presentation.

Superintendent Beveridge noted that his calendar included individual meetings with the superintendents of Central Point, Medford, and Grants Pass School Districts to discuss SOESD services. Additionally, the superintendent will hold meetings with local school district superintendents and administrators to form the SOESD Local Service Plan.

Education

- A. Overview of SOESD Programs
Superintendent Beveridge provided a brief overview of the composition of programs within Southern Oregon ESD.

B. Regional Program Services

Susan Peck Director of Special Education Services, and Agnes Lee-Wolfe, Special Education Coordinator, provided an overview of the services provided through Regional Programs and shared an update on program activities. SOESD's Regional Programs serve students with autism, deaf/blindness, hearing impairment, orthopedic impairment, traumatic brain injury, and vision impairment. Direct and/or consultative services are provided to school districts and early intervention/early childhood special education providers in Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lake Counties. Ms. Lee-Wolfe briefly reviewed the state Regional Contract for 2017-2019 and explained the funding allocations per region for each disability area. A Regional Advisory Council (RAC), comprised of eleven members representing school districts, parents, and the SOESD Board of Directors, meets three times a year to advise future direction of the programs. Ms. Lee-Wolfe named the SOESD staff members who make up the team of specialists providing Regional Programs Services and expressed her admiration for each member of the team.

Administration

A. Nomination for OSBA Legislative Policy Committee

No board members expressed interest in being nominated to run for a seat on the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee.

B. Local Service Plan Process

Superintendent Beveridge reviewed the process to determine district needs and the timelines for developing the Local Service Plan for 2018-2019. The Local Service Plan (LSP) is scheduled to be presented to the SOESD Board of Directors in January for approval. The Local Service Plan establishes the services the ESD will provide for the coming year in the core areas of Special Education, Technology, and School Improvement. The criteria for approval of the Local Service Plan is two-thirds of the component districts, with at least 50 percent of the students, voting in favor of the plan.

Superintendent Beveridge noted that he began the process of holding several meetings and discussions with area superintendents early this year to develop the Local Service Plan for 2018-2019. A goal, as one of the outcomes of the ongoing discussions, is that Medford School District and Central Point School District determine not to withdraw from SOESD and that Grants Pass School District re-join the ESD.

As specified in ORS 334.015, a school district board considering withdrawing from the ESD must submit a written notice of intent to the ESD board of directors by November 1. Such a notice of intent does not mean the school district will withdraw. A school district board must then submit a notice of withdrawal to the ESD no later than March 1 of the year in which the school district plans to withdraw from

the education service district. Superintendent Beveridge further explained that ORS 334.019 provides for a withdrawn district to rejoin the ESD by providing notice to the ESD's board of directors by November 1. The withdrawn district then becomes a member of the ESD on July 1 of the following year.

Some districts do not want to buy all core services in the LSP, but rather want to be able to select those services in the core from a menu. Superintendent Beveridge explained that such a menu system could present challenges as costs could shift and fluctuate depending on what services each district selected. His goal in developing the Local Service Plan is to seek flexibility for districts while maintaining stability of services and staffing. To that end, Superintendent Beveridge and Business Manager Weaver are working to build cost models for such menu considerations which will be shared with district superintendents as discussions continue.

C. SOESD Goals

The board reviewed the SOESD goals listed in the manual of Board Policies and Regulations. Superintendent Beveridge suggested the board consider updating the goals as part of a strategic planning process and development of the Local Service Plan. He presented a draft overview of the strategic planning process which would include gathering input from the board of directors, administrative team, staff, and the region's superintendents. The board could distill key themes from the input gathered and use those to update the ESD's goals.

D. Contract for Services with ProCare Therapy

Administration requested approval to enter into two agreements with ProCare Therapy to provide contracted services of one teacher in the Program for Visually Impaired and one Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant (SLPA). ProCare contracts are based on an hourly billing process. The vision teacher's services are based on an invoiced rate of \$69 per hour and the SLPA services are invoiced at a rate of \$57.41 per hour, not to exceed \$70,000. Superintendent Beveridge reported that all efforts to fill these positions through the regular employment process had been unsuccessful.

Melia Biedscheid, SOESD Speech-Language Pathologist, spoke in opposition to contracting for such services and expressed concern that the district was having difficulty retaining and recruiting specialists.

It was moved by Member Wendle to approve entering into agreements with ProCare Therapy at a projected cost not to exceed \$174,880. Upon further discussion, the motion was seconded by Member Converse and passed unanimously by the board.

E. Contract for Services with PresenceLearning

Administration requested approval to enter into an agreement with PresenceLearning to provide live, online speech language tele-therapy services through a contracted licensed Speech-Language Pathologist. Director Peck reported that all of the Speech-Language Pathologists employed by SOESD have been deployed to districts and there are not enough specialists to meet the demand. All efforts to fill this position through the regular employment process, as well as contracting through an agency such as ProCare, have been unsuccessful. Ms. Peck reported that there is a trend within districts to move to tele-practice in an effort to address student needs as a result of the nation-wide specialist shortage.

It was moved by Member Wendle, seconded by Member Norton-Cotts, and unanimously approved to enter into an agreement with PresenceLearning to provide tele-therapy services during the 2017-2018 school year at a cost not to exceed \$60,000.

F. Preschool Promise Grant Amendments

The Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub initiated the Preschool Promise contracts under \$50,000 listed below for the first quarter of the new biennium. Funding is provided for these contracts through SOESD's current contract with The Early Learning Division (ELD) that extends through September 30, 2017. This extension was designed to allow funding for subcontractors during the time when state budgets were being finalized and while the ELD finalizes contracts for the work of the hubs for 2017-2019.

The ELD has approved funds to SOESD specifically for Preschool Promise Services in 2017-2018 at \$1,986,496.00. Funding of the contracts below has been approved by The Early Learning Division and is in accordance with Preschool Promise Funding availability and approved subcontractor budgets. However, the ELD has not yet provided a contract to SOESD for the funding amount.

Administration requested the board's approval to increase the contracts listed below to the recommended levels for the preschool subcontractors. The Board's approval would be contingent upon the receipt of a modified contract from The Early Learning Division for the October 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019 period.

Early Learning Hub Subcontractor	Current Contract Award Amount	Contract Modification Amount	New Operating Total
SOESD – Child Care Resource Network	\$28,330.00	\$489,223.00	\$517,553.00
Family Nurturing Center	\$17,516.00	\$287,004.00	\$304,520.00
Imagine That...Children’s Creative Center	\$28,330.00	\$198,195.00	\$226,525.00
Southern Oregon Child & Family Council	\$18,306.30	\$366,567.70	\$384,874.00
Kid Time Children’s Museum	\$11,149.00	\$464,832.00	\$475,981.00
Roots and Wings Community Preschool	\$ 4,813.34	\$ 72,182.66	\$ 76,996.00
Total Contracts Amount			\$1,986,449.00
Reason for Modification			
This modification increases Preschool Promise funding to support delivery of services for the program year, through June 30, 2018. This amendment also includes a CLASS training teacher wage reimbursement, for teaching staff who participate in this after-hours training requirement, to offset Preschool Promise program staffing budgets.			

\$517,553 will be awarded by SOELS to SOESD’s Child Care Resource Network (CCRN) program. As CCRN is a program internal to SOESD, a contract is not needed to disperse the funds from SOELS to CCRN. However, CCRN plans to make seven sub-contract awards with Latino child care providers to provide a total of 62 preschool opportunities. Five of those subcontracts will exceed \$50,000 and require board approval, as shown in the table below.

Provider	Operating Award 2017-2018 (Not to Exceed)
Maria Alcala (DBA Happy Faces Child Care)	\$75,000
Maria Gaytan (DBA Espial Child Environment LLC)	\$87,000
Silvia Guitierrez (DBA Alegres Sonrisa)	\$56,000
Yolanda Pena (DBA Caminito a la Escuela)	\$73,000
Candida Sanchez (DBA Candy’s Child Care)	\$85,000

It was moved by Member Converse to approve the Preschool Promise Grant amendments to subcontractors in the amounts presented, pending receipt of a modified contract from the Early Learning Division. The motion was seconded by Member Norton-Cotts and approved unanimously.

G. Grant Updates

Superintendent Beveridge provided an update on recent grant awards and applications. Funding proposals are currently being written which, if approved, will enhance and expand college and career readiness and support the Early College High School Experience. The Board will receive a complete list of grants and contracts in a future meeting.

Business Affairs

Related Party Questionnaire

Business Manager Weaver explained the purpose of the Related Party Questionnaire. The questionnaire documents any related party activities between public officials and their respective agencies and is completed annually as part of closing the audit field work. Board members were requested to complete the questionnaire and return it to Mr. Weaver.

Miscellaneous

- A. Next Regular Meeting, Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 6:00 PM, Southern Oregon ESD, Medford Office.
- B. OSBA Fall Regional Meeting, Monday, October 25, 2017, Inn at the Commons, 200 Riverside Avenue, Medford. *Please let Jessica Bach know by October 18 if you plan to attend.*
- C. OAESD Superintendents and Board Fall Summit, November 9, 2017, Portland Downtown Marriott, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- D. 2017 OSBA Annual Convention, November 9-12, 2017, Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel. *Board Members are asked to inform Jessica Bach of their interest in attending so that conference registration and lodging can be arranged.*
- E. AESA Annual Conference, November 30-December 2, 2017, JW Marriott, San Antonio, Texas. *Please let Jessica Bach know if you are planning to attend this conference*

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair McKinley adjourned the meeting of the Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors at 7:53 p.m.



Doug McKinley, Chair
Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors

Scott Beveridge
Superintendent/Clerk