

**Minutes in Brief**

**SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020**

**Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, in the upstairs conference room of the ESD’s Medford office located at 101 North Grape Street, Medford, Oregon. At 6:02 PM, Vice-Chair Middleton called the meeting to order at which time she led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance**

**Board members in attendance:**

Rosie Converse  
Austin Fohnagy  
Ana Mannenbach  
Mary Middleton  
Bob Moore  
Christine Norton-Cotts  
Justin Wright

**Board members absent:**

Maud Powell  
Annie Valtierra-Sanchez

**SOESD Staff members in attendance:**

Jessica Bach  
Scott Beveridge  
Patty Michiels  
Susan Peck  
Daniel Weaver

**Staff and guests attending portions of the meeting:**

Dale Balme, Jozlyn Benton, Caitlin Biedscheid, Melia Biedscheid, Celine Buczek, Daniel Burdis, Samantha Castenada, AnnaMaria Candelaria, Lucia DeGiorgio, Erika Dreager, Steven Essig, Margay Garrity, Kim Hosford, Erin Jolliffe, Karen Rice, April Love, Kelle Lovette, Kate McFarland, Aubrey Merrill, Judy Richards, Lori Scheer-Matheson, Tessa Stewart, Amy Szeliga, Robert Wohlers

**Comments from  
Representatives of the  
Associations**

Melia Biedscheid, President of the SOESD Education Association, commented on the length of time elapsed since bargaining meetings began to negotiate a successor agreement to the licensed contract. Ms. Biedscheid stated concerns regarding recruitment of new staff and retention of existing employees without a settled agreement for compensation.

No representatives from the classified association, OSEA Chapter 104, were in attendance.

**Requests to Address  
Agenda Items**

*Celine Buczek, Request to address agenda item 7.*

Ms. Buczek spoke in support of a specialist salary schedule and settled contract for licensed employees.

*Daniel Burdis, Request to address agenda item 7.*

Mr. Burdis spoke regarding the amount of time spent to date in contract negotiations and he stated his belief that the bargaining sessions lacked productivity.

*Kim Hosford, Request to address agenda item 7.*

Ms. Hosford spoke regarding staff vacancies in the SOESD's Psychological Services department. Ms. Hosford compared the workload and pay to similar positions in SOESD's component districts.

*AnnaMaria Candelaria, Request to address agenda item 7.*

Ms. Candelaria yielded her time to Amy Szeliga.

*Amy Szeliga, Request to address agenda item 7.*

Ms. Szeliga read a prepared statement from Rowan Hill-Walko, SOESD Autism Consultant. Ms. Szeliga also spoke regarding caseloads and operating capacity of SOESD's Autism Spectrum Disorders Consultants.

**SOESD Board  
Recognition**

Board members were presented with a token of appreciation in honor of School Board Recognition month. Superintendent Beveridge expressed his appreciation for the board's commitment and service to students, teachers, school districts in Southern Oregon, and the employees of SOESD.

**Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda consisted of:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes: November 20, 2019
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Financial Report

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

Approve the consent agenda as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

**Communications**

**SOESD Superintendent's Schedule of Meetings**

Superintendent Beveridge reviewed his schedule of meetings for the months of January, February, and March 2020. Mr. Beveridge noted that his calendar included several tentative dates held for scheduling the next mediation meeting to settle the employment contract with the licensed association. Superintendent Beveridge also noted his calendar included upcoming meetings with SOESD administrators to continue strategic planning work and meetings with SOESD staff and community partners to gather input for strategic planning and Student Success Act (SSA) priorities.

**Education**

Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (PDHH) Gallaudet Academic Bowl Dale Balme, Supervisor of the Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, introduced Lucia DiGiorgio, Samantha Castenada, Aubrey Merrill, and Jozlyn Benton, who have each earned a spot to compete in Gallaudet University's 2020 West Regionals Academic Bowl. The students provided a reported on

the benefits of competing in the tournament and explained how they are studying in preparation for the competition. This year's Academic Bowl will be held in Oahu, Hawaii, from February 21-24, 2020. The students are working to raise funds to cover their travel expenses.

## Administration

- A. PDHH Academic Bowl – Travel Outside the Continental US  
Students served in SOESD's Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing annually compete in Gallaudet University's Academic Bowl. Four students have qualified to compete in this year's tournament that will be held at the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind, February 21-24, 2020. Administration sought the board's approval for travel outside the continental United States to send two SOESD teachers and four students to the Academic Bowl in Hawaii.  
**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MOORE, SECONDED BY MEMBER CONVERSE TO:**  
Approve travel to Hawaii for staff and students competing in Gallaudet University's Academic Bowl at the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**
- B. Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) Election  
The recent OSBA Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) election in the Southern Region resulted in a tie for LPC Position 5 between Dawn Watson (Phoenix-Talent 4) and Dianne Mihocko (Eagle Point 9). In accordance with the OSBA Bylaws, a run-off election must occur to have a winner declared in this race. The SOESD board has one consensus vote to cast to elect a candidate. Candidate materials were provided to the Board in advance of the meeting.  
**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER FOLNAGY, SECONDED BY MEMBER MOORE TO:**  
Cast the SOESD Board of Directors' vote for Dawn Watson, OSBA LPC Position 5.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**
- C. Employee Appreciation Weeks  
Superintendent Beveridge explained that the employee appreciation weeks are a formal opportunity to recognize the staff of SOESD.
- 2019-2020 SOESD Resolution #6 – Classified Appreciation Week, March 2-6, 2020
  - 2019-2020 SOESD Resolution #7 – Licensed Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2020
- IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER CONVERSE, SECONDED BY MEMBER MANNENBACH TO:**  
Approve 2019-2020 SOESD Resolutions #6 and #7.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**
- D. SOESD Local Service Plan, 2020-2021  
Superintendent Beveridge presented the 2020-2021 Local Service Plan for the board's approval. Mr. Beveridge noted that the plan includes the addition of coordination of the work of the Southern Oregon Regional Educator Network (SOREN) and providing all districts in the

region with support to implement Student Success Act (SSA) initiatives and programs.

Once adopted by the SOESD Board of Directors, the 2020-2021 Local Service Plan will be forwarded to each of the component school district boards for formal action. The Local Service Plan must be approved on or before March 1 by at least two-thirds of the component school districts with at least a majority of the student enrollment.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER FOLNAGY, SECONDED BY MEMBER MANNENBACH TO:**

Approve the SOESD 2020-2021 Local Service Plan.

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

- Business Services**            There were no business services topics to address.
- Executive Session**            At 6:50 PM, Vice-Chair Middleton announced the board would meet in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.
- Open Session**                 At 8:27 PM, Vice-Chair Middleton reconvened the board into open session.
- Miscellaneous**                A. Special Meeting (Work Session): Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 5:00 PM, Southern Oregon ESD, Medford Office  
B. Next Regular Meeting: February 19, 2020, 6:00 PM, SOESD's Medford Office  
C. NSBA 2020 Annual Conference and Exposition, April 4-6, 2020, Chicago, Illinois. *Members Folnagy and Norton-Cotts plan to attend.*
- Adjournment**                 There being no further business, Vice-Chair Middleton adjourned the meeting of the Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors at 8:29 PM.



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Annie Valtierra-Sanchez, Chair  
Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors

Scott Beveridge, Superintendent/Clerk