

Minutes in Brief

**SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019**

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held Wednesday, April 3, 2019, in the downstairs conference room of the ESD’s Medford office located at 101 North Grape Street, Medford, Oregon. At 6:05 p.m., Vice-Chair Norton-Cotts called the meeting to order at which time she led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Board members in attendance:

Dave Jensen
Jamie Jennings (via video conference)
Mary Middleton
Christine Norton-Cotts
Maud Powell
Annie Valtierra-Sanchez

Board members absent:

Rosie Converse
Doug McKinley

SOESD staff members in attendance:

Jessica Bach	Agnes Lee-Wolfe	Susan Peck
Scott Beveridge	Kim Hosford	Joyce Van Anne
Melia Biedscheid	Patty Michiels	Daniel Weaver

Guests in attendance:

Daniel Burdis, OEA Representative
George Kramer

Comments from the Association

Melia Biedscheid, president of the SOESDEA, spoke regarding the “Red for Ed” campaign and asked board members to join her in wearing red on Wednesdays to show support for education. Ms. Biedscheid expressed concern regarding staffing shortages and disruptive learning situations in the Early Childhood Services (ECS) classrooms. She read aloud a letter of concern from Barbara Griffin, Autism Spectrum Disorders Consultant, regarding ECS. Ms. Biedscheid also expressed disappointment with labor negotiations.

No representatives were in attendance from the Classified Association, OSEA Chapter 104.

Statements from the Audience

Joyce Van Anne, EI/ECSE Evaluation Specialist, read a prepared statement regarding her decision to retire from SOESD, her experiences working in the Early Childhood Services program, and her concerns regarding management of the program.

George Kramer made a statement regarding management of the Early Childhood Services Program.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes: February 20, 2019
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2019.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER NORTON-COTTS, SECONDED BY MEMBER JENSEN TO:

Amend the agenda to include an executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e).

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

IT WAS THEN MOVED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON, SECONDED BY MEMBER POWELL TO:

Approve the consent agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Executive Session

At 6:27 PM, Vice-Chair Norton-Cotts announced the Board would meet in executive session pursuant to:

- ORS 192.660(2)(f)
To consider information or records exempt by law from public inspection, and;
- ORS 192.660(2)(e)
To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

Open Session

At 7:55 PM, Vice-Chair Norton-Cotts reconvened the Board into open session.

Board action following the Executive Session.

A. IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER POWELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER VALTIERRA-SANCHEZ TO:

Authorize the Board Chair to communicate with the Association regarding upcoming labor activities.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

A draft of the communication will be provided to the Board before it is sent to the Association.

B. IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON, SECONDED BY MEMBER POWELL TO:

Authorize administration to execute a property transfer of Lot 1700 in exchange for lots 1900 and 2100.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Communication

Superintendent's Schedule of Meetings for March, April, and May 2019
Superintendent Beveridge reviewed his schedule for March through May, noting that his calendar included a number of meetings focused on the legislative session. In addition, he highlighted the following:

- The Superintendent is scheduled in various meetings during March and April to support the district and licensed association bargaining process.
- The Superintendent had various meetings regarding the Southern Oregon CTE Consortium (SOCTEC).
- The Superintendent continued to facilitate SOESD strategic planning activities to reach strategic planning goals.
- March 6, 2019
Superintendent Beveridge participated in a phone call with Eagle Point School District Superintendent Cynda Rickert and ODE Deputy Superintendent Colt Gill to discuss identified issues with the reporting of home school students in the region. A solution to the issues raised by Superintendents Beveridge and Rickert could result in increased graduation rates reported throughout the state.
- March 12, 2019
Superintendent Beveridge met with Andrée Johnson, Special Education Coordinator, to finalize the Youth Transition Program (YTP) grant submission. If approved, the program would expand to serve more districts and additional staff would be hired.
- The Superintendent met with an independent evaluator of the Southern Oregon STEAM Hub to review report outcomes that indicated the Hub is reaching intended goals. He subsequently had the opportunity to share that report with a state STEM Investment Council member. Mr. Beveridge has received an invitation for SOESD to present to the STEM Investment Council.
- The Superintendent will attend a number of meetings with school district and college partners in Klamath Falls to further the work of College and Career for All (CC4A) and the Southern Oregon STEAM Hub.

Education

Regional Programs

Agnes Lee-Wolfe, Special Education Coordinator, provided a report on the Regional Programs funding projections for 2019-2021. The Grant-in-Aid budget currently proposed by the legislature allocates \$22.5 million dollars for Regional Program funding in the biennium, a reduction of 18.6% from the current funding level. This would result in an approximate decrease of \$400,000 in the Southern Oregon region. Ms. Lee-Wolfe reviewed the potential impact of this revenue loss to students receiving services in the low incidence disabilities areas of Autism, orthopedic impairment, blind, deaf, hard of hearing, vision impairment, and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Ms. Lee-Wolfe presented historical data showing a continued decrease in Regional Program funding from 2007 through 2019, while the student count increased over that same period. Regional Programs throughout the state are asking the legislature to restore full funding of Regional Programs to the baseline service levels lost since 2007.

Administration

A. Budget and Legislative Update

Superintendent Beveridge provided an update on legislative activity to develop and approve the state education budget for the next biennium. The Ways and Means Committee Co-chairs' Framework outlines less K-12

funding than the Governor's proposed budget, with less specifics regarding funding for various grant in aid programs. Indications are that significant revenue reform is required to provide additional education funding. Current changes impacting SOESD programs are forecast in the following areas:

- A new network structure is being proposed by the Educator Advancement Council (EAC) that may impact the SOESD's Mentoring Program. SOESD would need to apply to be one of the new regional networks. If the new network were awarded grant funds, network members would determine the focus of work for the awarded dollars.
- The Governor's proposed budget does not include Career Technical Education-Revitalization (CTE-R) grant funding that the ESD would expect to receive as in the past. SOESD's CTE-R grant for the current biennium is about \$380,000.
- The Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub could receive increased funding for Preschool Promise supports.
- ESDs are not included to receive funding from a proposed School Improvement Fund (SIF). Efforts by COSA and OAESD are ongoing to raise legislators' awareness and advocate for ESDs to receive a percentage of the SIF.

The Joint Committee on Student Success is focusing on several areas to develop policy recommendations for legislation. Superintendent Beveridge anticipates any approved legislation that includes revenue reform may then go to voters for approval.

B. Local Service Plan Update

Superintendent Beveridge reported that SOESD's component districts had unanimously approved the 2019-2020 SOESD Local Service Plan.

C. SOCTEC Update

Superintendent Beveridge explained that an impasse is surfacing with Central Point School District (CPSD) and Medford School District (MSD) regarding equipment belonging to the Southern Oregon Career Technical Education Consortium (SOCTEC) and used by consortium members. CPSD exited the consortium on June 30, 2018. MSD provided notice of intent to exit the consortium on June 30, 2019. Per the rules of the consortium, SOCTEC equipment assigned to a district departing the consortium would be returned to the consortium or could remain in the departing district with reimbursement provided to the consortium at Fair Market Value (FMV). CPSD and MSD were informed of the consortium's rules prior to their decisions to leave the consortium. SOESD has worked with CPSD and a third-party evaluator to determine the FMV of the equipment to be purchased or returned. CPSD has decided to contest the consortium's rules. MSD has asked to return the equipment to the consortium over a three-year period or otherwise intends to contest the consortium's rules. Superintendent Beveridge explained that he has been advised there are legal barriers to this request for an extended return period. Mr. Beveridge has requested the Oregon Department of Education provide guidance on how to proceed.

D. Special Education Update

Susan Peck, Director of Special Education Services, provided a report on two potential changes within SOESD's Special Education Programs.

- 1) Students in the SOESD Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (PDHH) are currently served in district-hosted classrooms or at their home school by itinerant staff. Central Point School District (CPSD) has hosted the PDHH classroom sites in Jackson County for a number of years. About half of the PDHH students attending classes in CPSD are residents of Medford School District (MSD). MSD has stated the desire to have those students served in classrooms within the district. MSD's special education director is communicating with parents regarding options for MSD students to attend classrooms in Medford School District during the 2019-2020 school year. It is not known yet which students, if any, will change schools. Ms. Peck stated that SOESD intends to serve every student in PDHH regardless of where students attend. She reported there might be an increase in cost to serve students in classrooms at both districts.
- 2) SOESD is receiving requests from the component districts to assist in developing a program to serve students experiencing social-emotional dysregulation and presenting behavior challenges at school. Director Peck and Coordinator Lee-Wolfe have been researching models to serve these students with challenging behaviors. A subcommittee of special education directors has formed, and the group is looking at program models across the state.

Ms. Peck also reported that there were openings for educational assistants in the Early Childhood Services (ECS) program. She stated the STEPS and STEPS Plus programs were not experiencing Educational Assistant shortages or retention problems.

E. Strategic Planning Update

Daniel Weaver, Business Manager, provided a status report and PowerPoint presentation on the strategic planning targets of:

Strategic Plan Driver #2: Financially Stable Model

Initiative: Enhance and improve user-friendly financial performance metrics/measures.

F. Contracting Considerations

Patty Michiels, HR Manager, provided a presentation to address the Board's concerns regarding contracted services. Ms. Michiels reviewed national data on the shortage of Speech Language Pathologists, salary comparisons, and recruitment strategies employed by SOESD. Special Education staffing considerations and research on the use of tele-therapy was addressed. Business Manager Weaver provided historical data, noting that less than 5% of general funded special education services had been contracted over the last five years.

G. Authority to Layoff/Reduce in Force

As a yearly proactive process, administration requested authority to layoff/reduce in force for fiscal year 2019-2020. There are several reasons for this request, including district selections in the Choice & Equity model for delivery of Special Education Services, possible reductions within other ESD Local Service Plan programs, and funding shortfalls, should they occur.

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

Authorize administration to layoff/reduce in force for fiscal year 2019-2020 if needed.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0 *Member Powell was absent at the time of the vote.*

H. Date for Evaluation of the Superintendent

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

Set June 19, 2019 as the date the Board will meet with the superintendent in executive session to conduct his evaluation.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

I. SOESD Board Policy Review

Per Board Policy 1100, a portion of at least one regular Board meeting shall be designated for policy review/adoption. Administration may be bringing revised board Policies to the Board in April for first reading. Board members were asked to review SOESD Board Policies and bring questions or suggestions for revisions to the April 17, 2019 board meeting.

Business Services

2019-2020 SOESD Budget Committee Membership

The following individuals are currently appointed to serve on the SOESD Budget Committee:

Zone 1 (Districts 7 and Three Rivers)	Garry Penning
Zone 6 (District 549C)	Brian Shumate
Zone 7 (District 549C)	Jim Horner

There are three expired terms on the budget committee as listed below:

Zone 5 (Districts 4, 5, 94)	Sam Alvord
Zone 9 (Districts 9, 59, 91)	Ray Williams
At-Large 1	Phil Long

There are four vacancies on the budget committee as listed below:

Zone 2 (Three Rivers)
Zone 3 (Klamath County)
Zone 4 (Klamath Falls City)
Zone 8 (Districts 6, 35)

A memo was sent on February 13, 2019 to superintendents requesting nominations from their boards of individuals to serve on the committee. The SOESD Board will take action during the April 17, 2019 regular meeting to appoint individuals nominated by the local school boards to expired and vacant seats on the budget committee.

Miscellaneous

- A. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 6:00 PM, Southern Oregon ESD, Medford Office.
- B. SOESD Budget Committee Meeting, May 8, 2019, 6:00 PM, Southern Oregon ESD, Medford Office.
- C. OAESD Spring Conference, May 15-17, 2019, Sunriver, Oregon
Superintendent Beveridge, Coordinator Mark Angle-Hobson, Member Norton-Cotts, and Member Valtierra-Sanchez plan to attend.

D. Special District Election Calendar

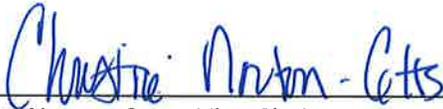
- February 9, 2019 – First day for candidates to file
- March 21, 2019 – Last day for candidates to file
- March 25, 2019 – Voter's pamphlet filing deadline
- May 21, 2019 – May Election/Regular District Election

Five board positions will be open in the Special District Election:

- Zone #1: Two-year term (completes the term due to resignation)
- Zone #2: Two-year term (completes the term of the vacant seat)
- Zone #3: Four-year term
- Zone #4: Four-year term
- Zone #9: Four-year term

Adjournment

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Norton-Cotts adjourned the meeting of the Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors at 9:55 p.m.



Christine Norton-Cotts, Vice-Chair

Scott Beveridge
Superintendent/Clerk