

Minutes in Brief SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

Call to Order A regularly scheduled meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held by video/audio conference on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. Chair Valtierra-Sanchez called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

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

SOESD staff members in attendance:
Jessica Bach Donna Hernandez Amy Szeliga
Scott Beveridge Patty Michiels Daniel Weaver
Gabe Gilham Susan Peck

Comments from Representatives of the Associations Amy Szeliga, President of the SOESD Education Association, commented on labor-management meetings taking place every other week to discuss issues related to COVID-19 and returning to in-person instruction.

Gabe Gilham, President of OSEA Chapter #104 Classified Association, greeted the board.

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: Regular Meeting, February 17, 2021
C. Personnel Report
D. Financial Report

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

Approve the consent agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Communication Superintendent's Schedule of Meetings– March, April, and May 2021
Superintendent Beveridge reviewed his schedule of meetings for the three-month period, noting that he meets weekly with CFO Weaver to analyze legislative bills and prepare the budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. Mr. Beveridge facilitates video conferences every other week with legislators and superintendents from

Southern Oregon to consult on legislative activities that impact education. Superintendent Beveridge also receives legislative updates during weekly meetings with COSA.

Additionally, Superintendent Beveridge highlighted the following meetings and ongoing projects scheduled during the three-month period:

- Superintendent Beveridge has facilitated meetings with SOESD's Special Education Management Team to discuss organizational restructuring in special education administration.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work is moving forward through trainings and workgroups to establish metrics, goals, and assessment tools. Superintendent Beveridge's schedule includes several DEI planning meetings and workshops on Centering Equity in Human Resources in which SOESD staff attend to help inform and develop a work plan.
- Superintendent Beveridge and Chief Human Resources Officer Patty Michiels meet every two weeks with representatives of the licensed association.
- Work continues with the classified association to reach agreement on a successor contract to the 2017-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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.

- Local school districts expect to receive funds for summer programming, childcare, and credit recovery. SOESD may serve in facilitating consortium summer programming for the districts in Southern Oregon. Districts have expressed that it would be helpful and beneficial to students if school districts were granted an extension to use those funds to provide services to students beyond summer 2021.
- School districts in Oregon expect to receive federal COVID relief funds, spendable through 2024, to be distributed similarly to CARES2 in allocations to districts. It is unclear if ESDs will receive any of these federal funds.
- Governor Brown's proposed budget for the 2021-2023 biennium recommends \$9.1 billion in State School Funds (SSF); data shows \$9.6 billion is needed to maintain current service levels. It is too early to know what the Ways and Means Co-chairs' budget or other legislative outcomes will be for specific funding areas, but it appears overall K-12 school districts will receive strong funding through various sources. Funding could be challenging for ESDs if the SSF does not reach the \$9.6 billion target and other sources of funds available to school districts are not available to ESDs. CFO Weaver explained that a revised SSF estimate is expected to include additional dollars for K-12 school districts.
- SB 53 created a study of funding for Regional Inclusive Services (formerly Regional Programs). Superintendent Beveridge is hopeful that this may result in increased funding in a future legislative session.

B. Local Service Plan Update

Superintendent Beveridge reported that the boards of SOESD's component school districts unanimously approved the 2021-2022 Local Service Plan. Mr. Beveridge reiterated that the Local Service Plan drives the SOESD budget.

C. Phoenix Campus Update

CFO Weaver reported on meetings with the insurance adjuster and Construction Management Group (CMG) to review preliminary estimates for rebuilding the SOESD's Phoenix Campus that was destroyed in the Alameda wildfire on September 8, 2020. The insurance replacement cost coverage to rebuild is considerably higher than a cash payout settlement that might be used instead to relocate, with an estimated construction timeframe of 24-36 months. Final numbers will be received from the adjuster in the coming weeks. CFO Weaver explained that consolidating or selling SOESD-owned properties would be unlikely to generate enough funds to build in one location. Mr. Weaver reported administration will next consider any other potential changes in the delta between rebuilding vs. relocating, then prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for design schematics. Administration will seek approval of the RFP from the Board of Directors once it is prepared.

There is an immediate need to secure temporary office space. This may require two or three leases, and CFO Weaver is exploring several commercial spaces in the area. A waiver has officially been requested to the one-year limit on temporary office lease coverage in the insurance policy. A combination of program dollars and insurance relief funds may be needed to secure the additional spaces, with careful consideration given to terms so the agency is not locked into a time beyond what is needed.

Space issues have been compounded by the need to relocate a program currently housed in a component district's school building. Mr. Weaver anticipates that relocation of this program will take time to make considerable structure improvements that will be required in order to have the program operational at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

D. Authority to Layoff/Reduce in Force

Superintendent Beveridge explained that, as a yearly proactive process, administration annually requests authority to layoff/reduce in force for the next fiscal year. 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. Mr. Beveridge noted that no layoffs are anticipated for fiscal year 2021-2022.

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

Authorize administration to layoff/reduce in force for fiscal year 2021-2022.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

E. SOESD Board Policy Review

Per Board Policy 1100, a portion of at least one regular board meeting shall be designated for policy review/adoptions. Board members were asked to review SOESD Board Policies prior to the meeting and bring questions for revisions to the April board meeting. The Board discussed exploring options for completing a full policy review and potential re-write. Superintendent Beveridge will contact OSBA to request a quote and estimate of the time commitment to conduct a policy review and update.

F. Ready Schools, Safe Learners Guidance

Superintendent Beveridge provided a PowerPoint presentation review of the year leading up to the current version of ODE's *Ready Schools, Safe Learners* guidance. Mr. Beveridge highlighted SOESD's role in supporting staff and the community beginning in March 2020 when Governor Brown issued her first executive order to "Stay Home, Save Lives" and subsequent announcements regarding school closures. Superintendent Beveridge described how SOESD shifted from its strategic planning goals to focus on the health, safety, and delivery of essential services to the community. He reviewed the chronological timeline and provided a summary of support provided by SOESD to staff and component school districts in delivering Distance Learning for All and Comprehensive Distance Learning, meeting the requirements of ODE/OHA's *Ready Schools, Safe Learners* guidance (twelve versions have been issued to date), and returning to in-person instruction as permitted by state-defined county health metrics. Mr. Beveridge noted that, in addition to supports for school districts during the pandemic, the school year included supporting staff and community members greatly affected by the Alameda wildfire. Superintendent Beveridge concluded his presentation by acknowledging the SOESD team, without whom the mission for the school year would not have been accomplished.

G. Date for Evaluation of the Superintendent, 2020-2021

The board discussed setting the date for the superintendent's evaluation and the measures it would use to complete the annual evaluation, given that the 2020-2021 school year has been anything but normal. In previous years, the superintendent's evaluation focused on meeting the agency's strategic planning goals set for the year. This year, meeting the state mandates in response to the global pandemic has been the necessary work. The board will evaluate the superintendent on his leadership by reviewing activities to meet state mandates, protect the health and safety of staff and students, and support the needs of component districts throughout the 2020-21 school year.

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

Set June 16, 2021 as the date that the board will meet with the superintendent in executive session to conduct his evaluation.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Business Services

- A. 2020-2021 SOESD Resolution 9: Adopt and Appropriate
CFO Daniel Weaver explained that this resolution adopts and appropriates funds for expenditures related to the loss of SOESD’s Phoenix Campus that was destroyed in the Alameda wildfire on September 8, 2020.
IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER HECOCTA, SECONDED BY MEMBER MANNENBACH TO:
Approve 2020-2021 SOESD Resolution #9.
MOTION CARRIED: 7- 0
- B. 2021-2022 Budget Committee Membership
The SOESD Budget Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM. CFO Weaver reported on budget committee membership.
 - The following individuals are currently appointed to serve on the SOESD Budget Committee:

Zone 5 (Districts 4, 5, 94)	Sam Alvord	Term Expires June 2021
Zone 6 (Districts 549C)	Bret Champion	Term Expires June 2022
Zone 7 (District 549C)	Jim Horner	Term Expires June 2022
Zone 9 (Districts 9, 59, 91)	Ray Williams	Term Expires June 2021
At Large	Phil Long	Term Expires June 2021
 - There is one expired term on the SOESD Budget Committee, as listed below:

Zone 1 (District 7, Three Rivers)	Garry Penning	Term Expired June 2020
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There are four vacancies on the SOESD 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 January 28, 2021 to superintendents requesting nominations from their boards to serve on the committee. No nominations were received to fill the expired term or vacancies.

Miscellaneous

- A. Next Regular Meeting: April 21, 2021, 6:00 PM
- B. Budget Committee Meeting: May 12, 2021, 6:00 PM
- C. Regular District Election – Important Dates
 - February 8, 2021: First day a candidate can file
 - March 18, 2021: Last day for a candidate to file or withdraw
 - March 22, 2021: Voters’ Pamphlet filing deadline (candidate statements)
 - May 18, 2021: Date of next regular election

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Valtierra-Sanchez adjourned the meeting of the Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors at 7:48 PM.