

**Minutes in Brief** SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 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, April 21, 2021. Chair Valtierra-Sanchez called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

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

SOESD staff members in attendance:  
Jessica Bach Coree Kelley Amy Szeliga  
Scott Beveridge Patty Michiels Daniel Weaver  
Donna Hernandez Susan Peck Pam Wurzell

**Comments from Representatives of the Associations** Amy Szeliga, president of the SOESD Education Association, commented on bi-weekly labor-management meetings to discuss issues related to COVID-19 and in-person instruction. Ms. Szeliga noted with sadness the passing of Rebecca Mead, a dedicated teacher in SOESD’s Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing who served students and families in the community for many years.

Donna Hernandez, treasurer of OSEA Chapter #104 Classified Association, noted that work is moving forward on negotiating a successor agreement to the Classified Bargaining Agreement.

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

**Amendment to the Agenda** Chair Valtierra-Sanchez reported that the terms of a lease agreement for temporary office space were finalized after the agenda for the evening’s meeting had been distributed. She asked the board to consider either amending the agenda or scheduling a special meeting to approve the lease agreement.  
**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON, SECONDED BY MEMBER WRIGHT TO:**  
Amend the agenda to include an item under #5-Business Services for Office Lease Agreement.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

## Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, March 17, 2021
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Financial Report

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

Approve the consent agenda as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

## Communication

Superintendent's Schedule of Meetings– April, May, and June 2021

Superintendent Beveridge reviewed his schedule of meetings for the three-month period, noting that his calendar included many meetings with CFO Weaver to develop the proposed budget, COSA weekly legislative updates, and bi-weekly conference calls with legislators and superintendents from Southern Oregon to consult on legislative activities impacting education. Also highlighted were the following:

- Superintendent Beveridge and Chief HR Officer Patty Michiels continue to meet every other week in labor-management meetings with the licensed association. The superintendent has also been involved in meetings to review the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the classified association and move the expedited process forward for reaching a successor agreement.
- Meetings are ongoing with the Special Education Management team to analyze the need for increased administrator support and discuss organizational restructuring in special education administration.
- On April 14, 2021 Superintendent Beveridge participated in interviewing a candidate for the EI/ECSE Coordinator position.
- The SOESD Budget Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

## Administration

A. 2021-2022 Chamber Memberships

Administration recommended renewal of chamber memberships in SOESD's three-county service area for 2021-2022.

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

Approve the renewal of chamber memberships for fiscal year 2021-2022.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

B. 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 superintendent highlighted bills related to funding that, if passed, will have positive impacts on local school districts including investments in childcare, Student Investment Account, Student Success Act, and Measure 98 – High School Success.

Areas of funding challenges exist in State Grants in Aid for Regional Inclusive Services (RIS) and Long Term Care and Treatment (LTCT). SB53 creates a study of funding for RIS that may result in budget increases in a future

legislative session. SOESD has not received the RIS contract yet, but ODE has committed an additional \$450,000 in one-time funds that will help mitigate the shortfall next year.

The proposed education budget recommended by the governor and the Ways and Means Co-chairs for the 2021-2023 biennium is \$9.1 billion in State School Funds (SSF). Data shows that \$9.6 billion is needed to maintain current service levels. School districts and ESDs will experience budgetary challenges if the gap between the two amounts is not closed. Superintendent Beveridge noted that the SOESD's budget for 2021-2022 will be developed as more information is received. The Local Service Plan defines the SOESD's budget based on service selections made by component school districts.

The board discussed state testing requirements and local districts' requests for waivers. SOESD staff work with the needs of each individual school district in providing accommodations for state assessments, following school district processes.

C. SOESD Board Policy Review

Superintendent Beveridge reported that the fee for the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) to conduct a full policy review and rewrite is \$15,000 for contracts in place before July 1, 2021. The service is currently being provided in virtual format over multiple meetings. Travel and related expenses would be an additional cost if OSBA staff travel to Southern Oregon for in-person work sessions.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON, SECONDED BY MEMBER WRIGHT TO:**

Authorize administration to enter into a contract with OSBA for conducting a board policy review and rewrite, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

D. STEPS Plus Classroom

Superintendent Beveridge, CFO Weaver, and Special Education Director Peck reported the need to relocate the STEPS Plus classroom for the 2021-2022 school year. The classroom is currently located at the Medford Education Center (Central Medford High School). Medford School District has provided notice to SOESD that the campus will undergo construction this summer to become the district's third middle school. Parents with children enrolled in STEPS Plus have been informed through ongoing written communication about the need to relocate the classroom. Director Peck described the current classroom space of approximately 6000 square feet and the intensive support services provided to students. The goal of STEPS Plus is to provide behavioral supports and successfully return students to less restrictive programs in their home schools.

CFO Weaver reported that in addition to working with districts to identify an alternative location on a school campus, administration is working with realtors searching for a unique location, in proximity to an educational setting and with comparable square footage, where program services can be safely replicated. Administration also continues to communicate with local school

districts in the event space becomes available in one of the region's schools. Mr. Weaver noted that a special meeting of the board might need to be convened if a suitable location is found to lease.

E. Transition Classroom

Superintendent Beveridge, CFO Weaver, and Special Education Director Peck reported the need to relocate the Transition Classroom for the 2021-2022 school year. The Transition Classroom provides functional services to help students age 18-21 in making the transition from high school to supported living arrangements. The classroom is temporarily housed at the Medford Education Center after being displaced from the SOESD Phoenix Campus due to the Alameda fire. It will need to be relocated at the conclusion of the current school year due to Medford School District's construction project to convert the site into a middle school. Administration is working with local realtors to locate a suitable site for the classroom.

F. Phoenix Campus Update

CFO Weaver provided an update on the process to rebuild the SOESD's Phoenix Campus that was destroyed in the Alameda fire on September 8, 2020. HMK Company, the construction management group, has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for architectural design schematics. An overview of the RFP process and timelines will be provided during the board meeting on May 19, 2021. Administration continues to work with the administrative team to solve space needs, meet the needs of dislocated staff, and rebuild for the future.

**Business Services**

Office Lease Agreement

CFO Weaver requested board approval to lease office space of approximately 6000 square feet in a building located close to the SOESD's Medford office. Mr. Weaver noted that, although the leased office will not meet all of SOESD's facility needs, it will give some flexibility in housing staff who were dislocated by the loss of SOESD's Phoenix campus and it could create space in the SOESD's Medford office should it be needed for relocating a classroom. Insurance proceeds will primarily fund the lease, with some program and administrative dollars filling in the gaps. The term of the lease is 38 months at an approximate total cost of \$323,000. CFO Weaver anticipates 25-30 staff would be located at the site. The board discussed the programs that might be housed at the site, equipment storage needs, options for itinerant staff workspace, the shortage of real estate in the valley, and exploring creative options beyond the traditional office model.

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

Authorize administration to enter into a 38-month lease agreement with ABH Properties, LLC, not to exceed \$323,356.67.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

**Miscellaneous**

- A. Budget Committee Meeting: May 12, 2021, 6:00 PM via video conference
- B. Next Regular Meeting: May 19, 2021, 6:00 PM, via video conference
- C. OSBA Virtual Summer Conferences
  - Friday, July 9, 2021: School Board Essentials, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
  - Saturday, July 10, 2021: Empowering Youth Voices, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
  - Friday, July 23, 2021: Board Leadership and Administrative Professionals Workshop, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
  - Saturday, July 24, 2021: Raising the Equity Question, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Valtierra-Sanchez adjourned the meeting of the Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors at 7:55 PM.