

**Minutes in Brief** SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

**Call to Order** A regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held by video/audio conference on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. Chair Converse called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM, leading those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

SOESD staff members in attendance:  
Jessica Bach Susan Peck  
Scott Beveridge Amy Szeliga  
Patty Michiels Dan Weaver

**Oath of Office** Superintendent Beveridge administered the Oath of Office to Justin Wright (Zone 2) and Jessie Hecocta (Zone 4).

**Comments from Representatives of the Association** Amy Szeliga, president of the licensed association spoke regarding bargaining to negotiate a memorandum of agreement regarding vaccination requirements and safety issues related to COVID-19. Ms. Szeliga also noted that bargaining the successor to the collective bargaining agreement will begin in the months ahead.

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

**Consent Agenda** Chair Converse informed the board that administration had received demands to bargain issues related to COVID-19 from both associations. A preliminary draft of a Memorandum of Agreement had been received.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON, SECONDED BY MEMBER VALTIERRA-SANCHEZ TO:**

Amend the agenda to include an executive session to discuss the MOU with the associations regarding COVID issues.

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes: Organizational Meeting, July 21, 2021
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Financial Report

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON, SECONDED BY MEMBER WRIGHT TO:**  
Approve all items on the consent agenda as amended.  
**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

**Communications**

SOESD Superintendent’s Schedule of Meeting – September, October, and November 2021

Superintendent Beveridge reviewed his schedule of meetings for the three-month period. Mr. Beveridge noted his schedule included time devoted to expedited bargaining in labor-management meetings with the licensed association and working with the Chief Human Resources Officer regarding progress bargaining with the classified association, statewide and local meetings with superintendents to address the impact of COVID-19 and the Governor’s vaccination mandate, and frequent meetings with Patty Michiels and SOESD’s attorney to review the status of the vaccination mandate. Also noted was time spent reviewing temporary office space and meetings scheduled with Arkitek, the architectural firm selected to rebuild the SOESD’s Phoenix Campus.

**Administration**

A. Nominations for OSBA Legislative Policy Committee

This year, all OSBA Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) positions are up for election. Board members interested in running for a position on the LPC need to be nominated by a member board within their region. None of the SOESD board members present expressed interest in running for a position on the LPC at this time.

B. Contract for Services with Sound Discipline

On June 16, 2021, the board approved entering into an agreement with Sound Discipline at a cost not-to-exceed \$135,000 for a series of classroom workshops, district partnerships, and coaching provided to educators throughout the region during the 2021-2022 school year. These services were ranked as a priority by component school districts and included as a tier one service in the SOESD Student Success Act Comprehensive Support Plan. Administration requested the board’s approval to increase SOESD’s agreement with Sound Discipline an additional \$165,000 to provide the following services:

- “Positive Discipline: Core Strategies” trainings and “Teaching Parenting the Positive Way” workshops
- Partnership with Medford School District, Southern Oregon Regional Educators Network (SOREN), and region integration expanding the above-mentioned trainings.

CFO Weaver explained that the costs are budgeted within the grant and Medford School District will be billed for the trainings the district has requested that are beyond those provided through the grant. CFO Weaver explained that this was not a request for additional budget authority, but rather required board approval because the amount of the total contract exceeded \$100,000.

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

Approve increasing agreements with Sound Discipline an additional \$165,000.  
**MOTION CARRIED 6-1; Member Morell Opposed**

- C. Contract for Services with ProCare Therapy  
Administration requested board authorization to increase the agreement with ProCare Therapy an additional \$350,000 to provide 4.0 FTE Sign Language Interpreters for the 2021-2022 academic year. Superintendent Beveridge reported that all efforts to fill these positions through the regular hiring process have been unsuccessful. Superintendent Beveridge and Special Education Director Peck provided background information and answered questions on the process to determine which students who are hard of hearing need to be partnered with an in-person interpreter and which students are able to use a remote interpreter for access to their education. All services are provided in consultation with the students' resident school districts in accordance with each student's Individualize Education Plan.

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

Approve increasing the agreement with ProCare Therapy an additional \$350,000 to provide 4.0 FTE Sign Language Interpreters.

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

- D. Lease Agreement for Office and Warehouse Space  
Administration requested board approval to lease temporary office and warehouse space of approximately 5000 square feet located at 918 Chevy Way in Medford, Oregon. The term of the lease is 36 months at an approximate total three-year cost of \$225,000.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON, SECONDED BY MEMBER VALTIERRA-SANCHEZ TO:**

Authorize administration to enter into a 36-month lease agreement with A. Herbert & Associates not to exceed \$225,000.

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

- E. Cost Neutral Compensation Reallocation for Non-Bargaining Labor Groups, 2021-2022

On May 20, 2020, the SOESD Board of Directors approved fiscal year 2021-2022 compensation for confidential employees, licensed administrators, and non-licensed administrators. Compensation for the superintendent was approved on June 11, 2020. OEGB insurance premiums for the 2021-2022 plan year did not increase as anticipated. Administration requested board authorization to decrease the district's contribution toward insurance premiums and reallocate those funds to increase the salary schedule 2.4% for non-bargaining labor groups effective October 1, 2021.

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

Approve the compensation for confidential employees, licensed administrators, non-licensed administrators, and the superintendent as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

**Business Affairs**

- A. 2021-2022 SOESD Resolution 5: Transfers of Appropriations  
Resolution 5 is a transfer of funds to recognize the final Choice & Equity school district submissions for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

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

Approve 2021-2022 SOESD Resolution 5.

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

- B. Related Party Questionnaire  
The Related Party Questionnaire is completed annually to document any related party activities between public health officials and their respective agencies. CFO Weaver requested that board members return their completed questionnaires to him before the November board meeting.

**Executive Session** At 7:15 PM, Chair Converse 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 8:14 PM, Chair Converse adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened the Board into open session.

- Miscellaneous**
- A. Next Regular Meeting: October 20, 2021, 6:00 PM
  - B. OSBA Regional Fall Meeting, October 28, 2021, 6:00 PM, Rogue Regency Inn, Medford
  - C. 2021 OSBA Annual Convention, November 11-13, 2021 – *Both the in-person and virtual components of the event have been cancelled.*
  - D. OAESD Summit, November 11, 2021 – *To Be Determined*

**Adjournment** There being no further business, Chair Converse adjourned the meeting of the Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors at 8:16 PM.