

Minutes in Brief SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Call to Order A regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held in the downstairs conference room of the SOESD administration office in Medford and by video/audio conference on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

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

SOESD staff members and guests in attendance:
Mark Angle-Hobson Coree Kelly Dawn Stephens
Jessica Bach Jared Krelic Amy Szeliga
Scott Beveridge Patty Michiels Andrea Townsend
Nate Davol Susan Peck Dan Weaver
Gabe Gilham Chris Pollard Pam Wurzell
Kylee Harrison Jack Schwartz

Comments from Representatives of the Association Gabe Gilham, president of the classified association, noted that the first of the year's scheduled labor-management meetings would take place in about two weeks. Mr. Gilham commented on staff evaluations.

Amy Szeliga, president of the licensed association, acknowledged members of the association's executive council and noted that this was her third year serving as president. One labor-management meeting has been held so far.

Requests to Address Agenda Items There were no requests to address agenda items.

Consent Agenda Chair Wright requested that agenda item #4 (Board Education) be amended to include reports from board members who attended the OSBA Summer Board Conference.

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:
A. Approval of Agenda
B. Approval of Minutes: Organizational Meeting, July 19, 2023
C. Personnel Report
D. Financial Report

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

Approve all items on the consent agenda with the addition noted.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0

Communication

SOESD Superintendent's Schedule of Meetings for September, October, and November 2023

Superintendent Beveridge reviewed his calendar for the three-month period, noting several items impacting special education services:

- Work continues with CIO Jack Schwartz and SOESD's special education administrators to develop a data reporting system, expected to launch soon.
- Mr. Beveridge briefed the board on planning for and implementing the requirements of Senate Bill 819 to coordinate instructional minutes for students served in SOESD-operated programs. Mr. Beveridge reported that SOESD STEPS classrooms are fully staffed, and the requirements of Senate Bill 819 are being met, i.e., providing notification to students and parents of new rights under the law and increased instructional time for some students.
- Superintendent Beveridge met on September 6, 2023, with Early Childhood Services staff to discuss and brainstorm plans for utilizing recently expired space, and for acquiring additional space. Work on this project continues with short-term adjustments while planning for the longer term.
- On September 7, 2023, the superintendent and members of Cabinet conducted an interview for the position of Director of Student Services.

This year the Southern Oregon superintendents will rotate hosting their monthly meetings at school district locations throughout the region's three counties. Superintendent Beveridge will continue to attend and facilitate the meetings. Mr. Beveridge also noted meetings with Dawn Watson and Sara Crawford, board members serving Phoenix-Talent Schools, to plan for OSBA's fall regional meeting hosted by SOESD on Monday, October 30, 2023, at Ashland Hills Hotel and Suites.

Board Education

A. Student Behavioral Health and Wellness

Kylee Harrison, School Improvement Services Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint presentation of SOESD's Student Behavioral Health and Wellness Program. Ms. Harrison explained what the Student Behavioral Health and Wellness program is, who staffs it, the levels of support provided to component districts, and how the program's impact is measured.

B. Board Education Topics, 2023-2024

Superintendent Beveridge reported that he will be working to schedule future Board Education topics for the year, welcoming board input on topics.

C. OSBA Summer Board Conference

Members Middleton, Moore, Hecocta, and Wright reported on key takeaways from attending the OSBA's Summer Board Conference held in Salem, August 10-12, 2023. All reported that the conference provided them with valuable information and was well worth attending.

Administration

- A. Nominations for OSBA Legislative Policy Committee
This year, all OSBA Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) positions are up for election. Serving on the LPC provides an opportunity to develop leadership skills and impact issues at the state and federal levels. Board members interested in running for a position on the LPC need to be nominated by a member board within their region through official board action. Candidate nomination materials are due to the OSBA office by Friday, September 29, 2023. No nominations were made for the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee, Southern Region #5.
- B. Contract for Services with BASE
Administration requested board approval to enter into an agreement with BASE not to exceed \$112,000.00. Services will include provision of 32 Youth Program meetings and activities during the 2023-2024 academic year in accordance with the ODE Southern Oregon Black/African American Student Success (SOBAASS) grant. Superintendent Beveridge explained that the request is a continuation of the SOBAASS grant, as requested by the region's districts three years ago. The goals and activities of the grant have been increased to reach more students.
IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER POWELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON TO:
Approve entering into an agreement with BASE not to exceed \$112,000.00.
MOTION CARRIED 8-0
- C. Contract for Services with Black Southern Oregon Alliance (BSOA)
Administration requested board approval to enter into an agreement with BSOA not to exceed \$128,500.00. Services will include planning, publicizing, and implementing the Black Youth Leadership Summit and Black Youth Summer Institute in accordance with the ODE Southern Oregon Black/African American Student Success (SOBAASS) grant.
IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER VALTIERRA-SANCHEZ, SECONDED BY MEMBER POWELL TO:
Approve entering into an agreement with Black Southern Oregon Alliance not to exceed \$128,500.00.
MOTION CARRIED 8-0
- D. Amendment to Contract for Services with Playworks Education Energized
On June 21, 2023, the Board of Directors approved entering into an agreement with Playworks Education Energized not to exceed \$261,000.00. The agreement covers continuation of digital services, *Playworks* and *Keep Playing* as well as in person workshops requested by constituent school districts to be provided during the 2023-2024 school year. Administration requested authorization to increase the contract by \$60,000.00 which will provide for three more districts to receive the two-day Recess Implementation workshop and refresher workshops for districts in need of review as they implement Playworks or have newly hired instructional assistants to be trained.
IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON, SECONDED BY MEMBER MOORE:
Approve increasing the agreement with Playworks Education Energized by \$60,000.00, for a contract amount not to exceed \$321,000.00.
MOTION CARRIED 8-0

E. Contracts for Staffing Services

Administration requested board approval to enter into agreements for the 2023-2024 school year for staffing services as detailed in the table below. All efforts to advertise and fill these positions through the employment process have been unsuccessful.

Epic Special Education Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual School Psychologist Occupational Therapist 	1.0 FTE 0.3 FTE	\$189,000.00
Presence Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech-Language Pathologist School Psychologist Testing Platform 	1.0 FTE --	\$170,000.00

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

Approve entering into agreements for staffing services not to exceed the amounts presented.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0

F. SOESD Special Education Restructuring

Superintendent Beveridge provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining plans to restructure SOESD’s Department of Special Education in line with the strategic plan initiative to assess, redesign, implement, monitor, and adjust special education services to best meet district needs. Mr. Beveridge briefed the board on his vision to create the newly named Department of Student Services with a focus on inclusive tiered supports for all students, including Regional Inclusive Services, Special Education Services, and Student Behavioral Health and Wellness. Superintendent Beveridge discussed succession planning and reviewed proposed changes in administrative staffing. While shifting of staff does not require board approval, the Board provided guidance for Superintendent Beveridge to move forward with the proposed changes in the organizational structure, fill the Director of Student Services position, and announce the changes to staff. Mr. Beveridge will prepare a revised organizational chart and share it with the Board of Directors.

G. SOESD Strategic Plan

Chair Wright requested that the Board consider postponing this agenda topic to next month’s meeting due to the lateness of the hour. Superintendent Beveridge will update the Board on SOESD’s Strategic Plan during the October regular meeting.

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

Postpone the update on the Strategic Plan, with great anticipation, to the October meeting.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0

Business Services

Related Party Questionnaire

CFO Weaver explained that the Related Party Questionnaire is completed annually to document any related party activities between public health officials and their respective agencies. To document activities of this type, the SOESD’s auditors annually request that administrators and board members complete a related party questionnaire. Board members were asked to return their

completed Related Party Questionnaire to the board secretary before the November board meeting.

Miscellaneous

- A. Next Regular Meeting: October 18, 2023, 6:00 PM, SOESD Administration Office
- B. OSBA Legislative Roadshow Regional Meeting: October 30, 2023, 6:00 PM Dinner; 6:30 PM Business Meeting, Ashland Hills Hotel and Suites.
Please let the board secretary know if you plan to attend.
- C. 2023 OSBA Annual Convention: Preconference, November 9, 2023; Main Conference, November 10-11, 2023. Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel.
Please let the board secretary know if you are interested in attending so that lodging arrangements can be made as soon as the reservation window opens.

Adjournment

The regular meeting of the SOESD Board of Directors adjourned at 7:47 PM.