

**Minutes in Brief** SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

**Call to Order** A regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at the SOESD's administration office in Medford, Oregon. Chair Wright the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Chair Wright read the SOESD land acknowledgement and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

SOESD staff members and guests in attendance:  
Mark Angle-Hobson Patty Michiels  
Jessica Bach Gary Ogan  
Scott Beveridge Susan Peck  
Stephanie Cossey Dawn Stephens  
Sean Cruz Amy Szeliga  
Kylee Harrison Daniel Weaver

**Comments from Representatives of the Associations** Amy Szeliga, president of the licensed association, recognized January as School Board Recognition Month and thanked board members on behalf of the association for their continued support of staff and students. Ms. Szeliga commented about discussions in labor-management meetings regarding apprenticeship opportunities and language in the contract regarding layoffs.

There were no representatives from the classified association in attendance.

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

**SOESD Board Recognition** In honor of School Board Recognition Month, Superintendent Beveridge recognized each board member for their years of service and expressed his appreciation for their dedication.

**Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes: November 15, 2023, Regular Meeting
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Financial Report

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

Approve the consent agenda as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

**Communications**

SOESD Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Beveridge noted that the evening’s agenda included action items on topics that had been a focus of work during the fall. Among those, he noted that the development of the 2024-2025 SOESD Local Service Plan reflected a significant effort to gather and address feedback received from component school districts. Feedback informed development of SOESD’s Strategic Plan initiatives that are included in the Local Service Plan. The board’s support in approving the plan will allow SOESD to advance it to component district boards for their votes.

Superintendent Beveridge reported that the initial accomplishments of the strategic plan thus far positioned SOESD to meet districts’ and students’ needs in requested areas. Action plans are being developed for accomplishing work in other areas of the plan during the rest of the school year and beyond. The board can expect that elements of the strategic plan are likely to be reflected in the budgeting process presented for the Budget Committee’s approval in May.

Superintendent Beveridge reported that he, Coordinator Townsend, Director Angle-Hobson, and CFO Weaver have been working with ODE, the Jim Pepper Native Arts Council, and the Speak Sing Native Team on a scope of work and deliverables per ODE’s request for SOESD to contract for the development of Kindergarten - Grade 12 Speak Sing Native Arts Lessons. The board’s support to move this work forward will be requested during the agenda item later in the meeting.

**Administration**

A. SOESD Local Service Plan, 2024-2025

The Board received copies of the proposed 2024-2025 SOESD Local Service Plan (LSP) in advance of the meeting for review. Superintendent Beveridge explained the LSP development and approval process. Mr. Beveridge explained aspects of the strategic plan included in the LSP, including increased feedback loops, streamlining key systems, and updates to services.

Superintendent Beveridge provided a budget detail example and demonstrated the LSP online tool that districts will use to make their service selections. The online tool provides clarity on agreement between the districts and SOESD, as well as a record of services selected, and can be used by districts as a planning tool throughout the year.

The changes in programs and services to the proposed LSP were explained by the superintendent in a PowerPoint presentation. Those changes include redesign of special education within a new Student Services division, expansion of student behavioral health and wellness, expansion of career technical education (CTE), the addition of Civil Rights Coordination, converting the instructional media library to a high-tech lending library, increased supports for new teachers, tiered support options for mentoring, and monitoring of cooperative purchasing/warehouse service utilization for continuation or future decreases.

The 2024-2025 Student Success Act Comprehensive Support Plan is included as an addendum to the LSP. Mark Angle-Hobson, Director of School Improvement Services, works to develop the Comprehensive Support Plan based on the priorities and services requested by SOESD's component school districts. The 2024-2025 Comprehensive Support Plan has been updated to reflect the districts' requests for services.

The region's superintendents gave consensus approval for the proposed 2024-2025 SOESD Local Service Plan during a meeting on December 18, 2023. Once adopted by the SOESD Board of Directors, the 2024-2025 Local Service Plan will be forwarded to each of the component school district boards for formal action. The Local Service Plan must be approved on or before March 1, 2024, by at least two-thirds of the component school districts with at least a majority of the student enrollment.

Superintendent Beveridge noted that feedback regarding SOESD services is gathered through a variety of mechanisms. The superintendent and Cabinet members will visit with senior leadership teams of the component districts in the spring to continue receiving input on services provided by SOESD. Mr. Beveridge reported that the discussions with the districts are open and candid, and SOESD intends to respond quickly to address any issues and requests from the districts we serve.

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

Approve the 2024-2025 SOESD Local Service Plan.

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

B. Employee Appreciation Weeks

Superintendent Beveridge explained that the employee appreciation weeks are a formal opportunity to recognize the staff of SOESD.

- 2023-2024 SOESD Resolution #5  
Classified Appreciation Week, March 4-8, 2024
- 2023-2024 SOESD Resolution #6  
Licensed Appreciation Week, May 6-10, 2024

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

Approve the 2023-2024 SOESD Resolutions 5 and 6.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

C. 2023-2024 SOESD Resolution 7 – State of Oregon Deferred Compensation Plan

The Oregon Growth Savings Plan is a deferred compensation plan available to Oregon public employees. Patty Michiels, Chief HR Officer explained that by adding this plan to SOESD’s current offerings of investment options, employees will be able to participate, on a voluntary basis, in the state-wide plan.

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

Approve 2023-2024 SOESD Resolution #7, for inclusion under the State of Oregon Deferred Compensation Plan.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

D. Contract for Services with Jim Pepper Native Arts Council

Administration requested board approval to enter into an agreement with the Jim Pepper Native Arts Lessons. The project, funded through an intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon Department of Education, aims to increase access for both Native and non-Native students to historically accurate, culturally responsive lessons that incorporate the artistic and cultural practices of contemporary Native musicians and artists. In partnership with the Jim Pepper Native Arts Council and the Speak Sing Native Team, work will include development of K-12 Speak Sing Native Lessons, Professional Learning Modules, and trainings to support the statewide implementation of both the Speak Sing Native content and Tribal specific Native Arts Lessons developed by the nine (9) federally recognized Tribes. These supplemental lessons will incorporate both the Oregon Arts Standards and nine (9) Essential Understandings developed for the Tribal History/Shared History Project. Superintendent Beveridge recognized Sean Cruz, Executive Director at Jim Pepper Native Arts Council, and Gary Ogan, Musical Director and Chair, who were in attendance and answered board members’ questions.

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

Approve entering into a contract with the Jim Pepper Native Arts Council not to exceed \$205,000.00.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-1**

*Member Morell Opposed*

E. Strategic Planning Update

Board members were provided with a copy of the SOESD Mid-Year Strategic Planning Report in advance of the meeting. Superintendent Beveridge highlighted implementation of the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan initiatives that have been accomplished thus far including:

- Organizational redesign of special education programs and establishing the Department of Student Services,
- Expanding support through the Student Behavioral Health and Wellness program,
- Expanding support through the Career Technical Education program,
- Expanding services to help districts with crisis management,

- Recruiting to increase the number of specialists to expand services to students,
- Enhancing new teacher preparation to support new teachers in component districts,
- Launching new electronic tools to streamline processes, increase data transparency, and enhance student learning.

In future meetings the board will hear reports on the work of SOESD cabinet members and the administrative team to produce step-by-step plans for accomplishing the goals and objectives of the 2023-2025 SOESD Strategic Plan.

**F. Budget and Legislative Update**

Superintendent Beveridge and CFO Weaver provided an update on legislative activity impacting education. The superintendent is focused on two main financial issues during the legislative short session, i.e., funding for Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) and Regional Inclusive Services (RIS). Without this funding there will be a significant budget challenge since these programs were not adequately funded in the last legislative session. Legislative action will be needed to appropriate the funds for those programs, and more work after the conclusion of the legislative session will be needed to achieve sustainable funding for the two programs.

**Business Services**

**Phoenix Campus Reconstruction Project Update**

SOESD's Phoenix Campus was destroyed in the Almeda Fire on September 8, 2020. CFO Weaver and Superintendent Beveridge provided an update on the reconstruction progress. An independent reconstruction estimate shows a significant gap between the estimate to rebuild the campus as it existed previously and the offer SOESD has received from PACE Insurance Trust. The administrators at PACE are apparently comparing the independent estimate with their re-insurer's estimate. It's been months since PACE received the independent estimate and SOESD has yet to receive PACE's response. CFO Weaver reported that the building site has been winterized, but he is reluctant to do further work on the project until there is more clarity regarding the insurance settlement. Superintendent Beveridge and CFO Weaver continue to hope that a resolution will be reached soon. Next steps will depend on the response from PACE.

**Miscellaneous**

- A. Next Regular Meeting: February 21, 2024, 6:00 PM
- B. OSBA Southern Region's Legislators Reception, January 22, 2024, Phoenix High School, 6:00 PM.

**Adjournment**

Chair Wright adjourned the meeting of the Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors at 7:17 PM.