

**Minutes in Brief** SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

**Call to Order** A regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at the SOESD’s administration office in Medford, Oregon. Chair Wright called 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:  
Rosie Converse Mary Middleton  
Jessie Hecocta Corbin Morell  
Ana Mannenbach  
Robert Moore  
Maud Powell  
Annie Valtierra-Sanchez  
Justin Wright

SOESD staff members and guests in attendance:  
Mark Angle-Hobson Susan Peck  
Jessica Bach Sean Robert  
Scott Beveridge Dawn Stephens  
Stephanie Cossey Amy Szeliga  
Kylee Harrison Daniel Weaver  
Patty Michiels Jesse Wise  
Ashley Paul

**Comments from Representatives of the Associations** Amy Szeliga, president of the licensed association, commented on collaborative discussions in labor-management meetings regarding layoff and recall language in Article 13 of the collective bargaining agreement and conversations about apprenticeship programs.

**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: January 17, 2024, Regular Meeting  
C. Personnel Report  
D. Financial Report  
**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER VALTIERRA-SANCHEZ, SECONDED BY MEMBER MANNENBACH TO:**  
Approve the consent agenda as presented.  
**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

## Communications

- A. Board Member Report  
Superintendent Beveridge reported that he and Member Middleton had attended the Southern Oregon Legislators' Reception at Phoenix High School on January 22, 2024. The evening was hosted by Phoenix-Talent Schools as a forum for school district board members to talk with the region's legislators about school district priorities.
- B. Superintendent's Report  
Superintendent Beveridge reported on three areas that have been the focus of his work in the past month: 1) implementing the strategic plan initiatives in the SOESD Local Service Plan, 2) working to reach settlement with PACE insurance regarding reconstruction of the SOESD Phoenix Campus, and 3) messaging during the current legislative process about various topics impacting education including inadequate funding for Regional Inclusive Services and Early Childhood Services. The superintendent's focus will shift to the budgeting process as the legislative session nears its end and there is more clarity on legislative outcomes. The board can expect to be involved in the process as members of the SOESD Budget Committee.

## Administration

- A. Election of Chair-Elect, OAESD Officer Council  
The SOESD Board of Directors has one vote to cast in the election of the OAESD Officer Council Chair-Elect. Two candidates were presented for the board's consideration: Anna Ali, nominated by Willamette ESD Board of Directors, and David Dunsdon, nominated by Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD Board of Directors. The board's ballot is due to OAESD by February 29, 2024.  
**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER VALTIERRA-SANCHEZ, SECONDED BY MEMBER POWELL TO:**  
Cast the SOESD Board of Directors' vote for Anna Ali, OAESD Officer Council Chair-Elect.  
**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**
- B. Local Service Plan Update  
Superintendent Beveridge provided an update on the status of district votes to approve the 2024-2025 SOESD Local Service Plan (LSP). Mr. Beveridge was invited to attend the regular board meeting of Phoenix-Talent Schools on February 1, 2024, where he discussed SOESD's strategic plan, organizational redesign, data transparency, and service offerings in the LSP.  
  
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 reported that six ballots had been received to date, including Phoenix-Talent Schools, all affirming the plan. Mr. Beveridge expects the 2024-2025 SOESD Local Service Plan will receive unanimous approval from the component districts in the region.
- C. Legislative Update  
Superintendent Beveridge provided an update on issues impacting education during the legislative session. Errors by the Oregon Department of Education in reported allocations for Regional Inclusive Services (RIS) have created a challenge in clarifying the request of legislators for additional funding. Staffing cuts are anticipated to deepen and reduce services for students

statewide unless something is done during the current and next legislative session. The discussions have shifted to triaging the most impacted RIS providers in the state. While SOESD is impacted less negatively than some others across the state this year, the funding allocation will not be enough to maintain current service levels. Superintendent Beveridge has been working with OAESD and RIS providers to frame the situation for legislators and to raise understanding and awareness beyond the problems with lack of funding to discussions of a significant overhaul of the funding model.

Superintendent Beveridge also noted a financial impact on Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) due to the oversight in current service level funding last session. The message to legislators remains consistent that current EI/ECSE service levels have not been maintained. This will hopefully be addressed in the current legislative session.

**Business Services**

**SOESD Phoenix Campus Reconstruction Update**

Superintendent Beveridge and CFO Weaver provided an update on attempts to reach an insurance settlement with PACE for the reconstruction of SOESD's Phoenix Campus that was destroyed in the Alameda Fire on September 8, 2020. Superintendent Beveridge reported that, after many months, PACE responded to the independent estimate provided by SOESD. PACE replied with non-specific devaluations of various areas of the estimate stating both cost and coverage limitations. While the length of time to receive the response and lack of details from PACE have not been helpful, SOESD will continue engaging in conversations toward reaching a settlement. SOESD is preparing a response to PACE and anticipates asking PACE to provide the estimate on which they have based their response, so that PACE's non-specific statements of devaluation can be clarified. The district also plans to request that PACE provide \$4 million that is not in dispute while discussions continue to resolve the remaining amount that is in dispute.

**Miscellaneous**

- A. Next Regular Meeting: March 20, 2024, 6:00 PM
- B. SOESD Budget Committee Meeting, May 15, 2024, 6:00 PM.

**Adjournment**

Chair Wright adjourned the meeting of the Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors at 6:37 PM.