

Minutes in Brief

SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at the SOESD's administration office in Medford, Oregon. Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Attendance

Board members in attendance:

Rose Converse
Jessie Hecocta
Ana Mannenbach
Robert Moore
Corbin Morell
Justin Wright

Board members absent:

Mary Middleton
Maud Powell
Annie Valtierra-Sanchez

SOESD staff members and guests in attendance:

Mark Angle-Hobson	Darci Mason
Scott Beveridge	Kevin Noreen
Stephanie Cossey	Karli Steuk
Celine Buczek	Amy Szeliga
Kylee Harrison	

**Comments from
Representatives of
the Associations**

Amy Szeliga, president of the licensed association, appreciated the recent bargaining session, noting the district team's interest and questions regarding the association's proposals. She looks forward to an updated financial proposal from the district, and encouraged board members to attend bargaining sessions. Amy also thanked the board for including licensed and classified voices in the superintendent search.

Chair Wright shared the value of attending bargaining sessions, encouraging board members to join, even virtually, to gain perspective and confirm support for staff and administration.

**Requests to
Address Agenda
Items**

Chair Wright reviewed the SOESD Guidelines for Public Comment, shared an example of addressing issues respectfully, and emphasized the importance of assistance in maintaining decorum, respect, and collegiality in public meetings. 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: February 19, 2025, Regular Meeting
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Financial Report

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

Approve the consent agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Communications

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Beveridge's report included the following topics.

1. Bargaining
Bargaining continues with both the classified and licensed associations with several meetings with both teams. Additional meetings are scheduled after a pause for spring break. Superintendent Beveridge appreciated the opportunity to ask questions and dialogue with the licensed association at their recent session.
2. Legislative Process
The legislative process continues as the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means released their budget framework for the 2025-2027 biennium today. As anticipated, the framework fully funds the governor's proposal of \$11.4 billion for the State School Fund for K-12 education, assuming the adoption of oversight and accountability measures. Further discussion on the legislative process will be discussed later in the agenda.
3. Building Update
Weather and flooded roads caused delayed starts for SOESD, Grants Pass, and Three Rivers school districts last week. The new SOESD early learning facility on Ramsey Street in Grants Pass experienced water intrusion, with water pooling on the unfinished basement's concrete floor. Fort Vannoy School in Three Rivers also experienced flooding. We have engaged with restoration experts to assist with clean up, and dry out, and to also address any concerns about mold. We are also working with contractors on mitigating future water intrusion.
4. Regional Career Center
A building in Jackson County has been located and we are reviewing our donor and district commitments to consider a recommendation to the board to proceed with an agreement to purchase the facility.
5. Recovery High School
There appears to be reduced funding in the Governor's recommended budget than was previously anticipated for grants from ODE for recovery schools. It is hoped that the state is taking a closer look at the actual costs associated with operating the Oregon Recovery Schools, and that they will allocate appropriate resources to fully fund the Oregon Recovery Schools already approved, then continue plans to open and fund additional recovery schools across the state.

Administration

A. Authority to Layoff/Reduce in Force

As a yearly proactive process, administration requested authority to layoff/reduce in force for fiscal year 2025-2026 should it become necessary. There are several reasons for this request, including district selections in the Choice & Equity model for delivery of Special Education Services, possible reductions within other ESD Local Service Plan programs, and funding shortfalls, should they occur. Superintendent Beveridge reported that no regular employee positions are currently identified for reductions for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER HECOCTA, SECONDED BY MEMBER MOORE TO:
Authorize administration to layoff/reduce in force for fiscal year 2025-2026.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

B. Local Service Plan Update

Superintendent Beveridge presented SOESD's 2025-2026 Local Service Plan (LSP) to the Phoenix-Talent Schools Board on February 20, 2025. The Local Service Plan was voted on and approved that evening.

Mr. Beveridge reported that the LSP had subsequently passed based on votes by the component school districts.

C. Budget and Legislative Update

Superintendent Beveridge provided an update on budget and legislative activity impacting education. With the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means releasing their budget framework today it fully funds the governor's proposal of \$11.4 billion for the State School Fund for K-12 education. The framework is not a detailed budget document. Specific numbers for programs like EI/ECSE and Regional Inclusive Services are not listed. Those details should become available as the session progresses.

Mr. Beveridge continues to plan to set the SOESD budget using the approximately 11.4 billion proposed State School Fund amounts in the governor's and co-chairs proposed budgets.

The Governor's Recommended Budget reflects a reduction in the ESD Technical Assistance Grant, funded by the Statewide Education Initiatives Account (SEIA), potentially reducing SOESD funding by about \$800,000 impacting services in our Student Success Act Comprehensive Support Plan. It appears ESD's might be included to receive some funding for early literacy coaching through an amendment to HB 3040.

The US Congress has approved a year-long continuing resolution (CR) that completes Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations and provides level-funding for most of the key K-12 formula programs, including IDEA, Title I, Title IV-A and REAP.

D. SOESD Superintendent Search Screening Advisors

Chair Wright reviewed the process and board requirements for choosing the next superintendent. The board had been asked to contact constituents in their region who might be interested in serving as screening advisors in order to ensure an equitable voice across all counties during the superintendent search. Chair Wright reminded Board members to share the names and email addresses with Liz Littleton. Member Hecox will work with Kevin Noreen, OSBA Executive Search Consultant, to develop the interview questions. The dates and activities in the approved search calendar were discussed and finalized.

Business Services

SOESD Phoenix Campus Reconstruction Update

Director Angle-Hobson provided an update on reconstruction of the SOESD's Phoenix Campus that was destroyed in the Alameda Fire on September 8, 2020. The February 2025 report from HMK Company was provided prior to the meeting.

Miscellaneous

- A. Next Regular Meeting: April 16, 2025, 6:00 PM
- B. OAESD Spring Conference, May 7- 9, 2025, Sunriver Resort
Board members interested in attending were asked to let the board secretary know so that conference registration and lodging reservations can be made.
- C. SOESD Budget Committee Meeting, May 14, 2025, 6:00 PM
- D. Special District Election – Important Dates
 - March 20, 2025: Last day for a candidate to file or withdraw
 - March 24, 2025: Voters' pamphlet filing deadline (Jackson County)
 - May 20, 2025: Special District Election

Adjournment

Chair Wright adjourned the meeting of the Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors at 6:42 PM.