

**Minutes in Brief**

SOUTHERN OREGON EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025

**Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at the SOESD's administration office in Medford, Oregon. Acting-Chair Valtierra-Sanchez called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

**Attendance**

Board members in attendance:

Rosie Converse (arrived at 6:11 pm)  
Jessie Hecocta  
Ana Mannenbach (arrived at 7:11 pm)  
Mary Middleton  
Robert Moore  
Maud Powell  
Annie Valtierra-Sanchez  
Justin Wright

Board members absent:

Corbin Morell

SOESD staff members and guests in attendance:

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mark Angle-Hobson | Meghan Jones      |
| Ryan Aydelotte    | Lynette Kleespies |
| Mary Barton       | Rhonda Lawrence   |
| Scott Beveridge   | Liz Littleton     |
| Celine Buczek     | Darci Mason       |
| Brian Clark       | Kevin Noreen      |
| Nikki Donnelly    | Susan Reynolds    |
| Forest Evergreen  | Karli Steuk       |
| Isobel Evergreen  | Ryan Swearingen   |
| Lisa Gilman       | Amy Szeliga       |

**Comments from the Associations**

Forest Evergreen, Vice President of the Classified Union, thanked the Board for its collaborative approach to the superintendent search and shared employees' input to consider time during the workday to meet finalists.

Amy Szeliga, President of the Licensed Association, thanked the board for the opportunity to participate in the superintendent screening and interview process, and hoped the community forum with finalists allows more public comment for the board to consider.

Amy highlighted the association's focus on Article 17 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and desire to conclude bargaining, welcomed continued collaboration with the district, and invited board members to attend the May 6<sup>th</sup> bargaining session.

**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
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Financial Report

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

Approve the consent agenda as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6 - 0**

*Member Hecocta had intermittent connectivity and did not vote.*

## Communications

Superintendent's Report

### **Cabinet Activities**

Superintendent Beveridge thanked all staff for their work to support students during the busy spring period and noted Cabinet members' focus this the spring included continuing to meet with each school district across the three-county region to receive feedback on services this year, plan for service adjustments to align with district priorities, and finalize their Local Service Plan selections for next year.

### **Budgeting**

The normal process of budget development has been occurring during this time, with a presentation in May to seek review and approval at the budget committee.

### **Bargaining**

Negotiations continue on successor contracts with both the licensed and classified associations.

### **Oregon Recovery High Schools**

ODE has released the grant application for expanding Oregon Recovery Schools. As previously shared with the Board, Director Kylee Harrison and Program Manager Stack, have developed plans with local districts and community partners to plan and launch a Southern Oregon location. The grant application is being finalized and will be submitted soon. If SOESD is not awarded the grant, students would be supported in alternative ways.

### **Southern Oregon Career Center**

Rather than moving forward with the previously considered building purchase for the Southern Oregon Career Center, SOESD will proceed in partnership with Valley Immediate Care to use their existing facility for students to attend courses aligned with medical career pathways. The [www.southernoregoncareercenter.org](http://www.southernoregoncareercenter.org) website and other informational materials are available for the districts and charter schools planning to send students in the fall.

Administration

- A. 2025 – 2026 Chamber Memberships  
Chamber memberships will be coming due for 2025 – 2026. Administration recommended renewal of chamber memberships in SOESD’s three-county service area.  
**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER POWELL, SECONDED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON TO:**  
Approve the renewal of chamber memberships for fiscal year 2025-2026.  
**MOTION CARRIED 6 -0**
- B. SOESD Employment Contract for Next Superintendent  
OSBA Search Consultant Kevin Noreen facilitated discussion with the board regarding contract parameters for the next superintendent. The board previously approved a \$188,000–\$208,000 salary range. Member Middleton proposed an annual 360-degree review through OSBA be included in the contract, with Member Converse agreeing it would support a review that includes performance goals and other objectives.
- C. SOESD Board Policy Review  
Per SOESD Board Policy BF, a portion of at least one regular board meeting shall be designated for policy review/adoption. The Board is currently conducting a full rewrite of board policies and can consider a schedule for completing the work.

Superintendent Beveridge reviewed his recommendation and the Board’s decision to transition to OSBA’s index system and conduct a full policy review, which began in January 2022. In April 2024, the Board discussed a schedule to complete. While the superintendent search remains the priority, the Board plans to resume policy work in June. A recap will be provided to incoming board members and the new superintendent, outlining progress and remaining tasks. The Board Secretary will coordinate the June work sessions.

- D. Budget and Legislative Update  
The legislative session continues with bills being heard in the House and Senate. Key education bills advancing through the House and Senate include:
- Summer Learning initiatives with expedited funding release anticipated
  - Accountability that would include ESDs that have students attending programs in performance measures
  - Early Literacy
  - Special education funding adjustments, including special education cap increases and high-cost disability grants

Funding decisions for Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) and Regional Inclusive Services (RIS) remain pending likely until after the May 14, 2025 Oregon Economic and Revenue Forecast, though advocacy for budget increases continues.

SOESD budget development with legislative considerations is taking place, with the budget committee meeting in May to seek review and approval of the proposed 2025-26 budget.

## Business Services

### A. 2025-2026 Budget Committee Membership

- The following individuals are currently appointed to serve on the SOESD Budget Committee:
  - Zone 6 (District 549C) Bret Champion Term expires June 2025
- There are nine vacancies on the SOESD Budget Committee, as listed below:
  - Zone 1 (District 7 and Three Rivers)
  - Zone 2 (Three Rivers)
  - Zone 3 (Klamath County)
  - Zone 4 (Klamath Falls City)
  - Zone 5 (Districts 4, 5, 94)
  - Zone 7 (District 549C)
  - Zone 8 (Districts 6, 35)
  - Zone 9 (Districts 9, 59, 91)
  - At Large (At Large 1)

A memo was sent on January 10, 2025, to superintendents requesting nominations from their boards to serve on the committee. The following individuals have been nominated to fill vacant seats:

Zone 5 (Districts 4, 5, 94) Emily Cozza  
At Large (At Large 1) Phil Long

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON, SECONDED BY MEMBER MOORE TO:**  
Appoint Emily Cozza and Phil Long to the 2025-2026 Southern Oregon ESD Budget Committee.

**MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

*Member Hecocta lost connection and was not present for the vote.*

Discussion arose about vacant budget committee seats and whether candidates currently running uncontested for election to the SOESD Board could be appointed to those budget committee seats, pending Administration's investigation into the necessary requirements and qualifications. Member Hecocta rejoined the meeting with the discussion in progress.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MOORE, SECONDED BY MEMBER MIDDLETON TO:**  
Have future board candidates be appointed into vacant seats so long as they are uncontested and pending Administration's investigation into the necessary qualifications.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5 - 1**

*Member Wright opposed.*

*Member Hecocta abstained due to intermittent connectivity to the meeting during the discussion.*

At the conclusion of the meeting after executive session, Superintendent Beveridge returned to this topic and clarified that ORS 334.240 stipulates that members of the ESD budget committee "shall be members of component school district boards within the education service district or shall be designees of a school district board." The SOESD board may not appoint individuals who have not been nominated by a component school district's board to serve on the budget committee.

B. SOESD Phoenix Campus Reconstructions Update

Director Angle-Hobson provided an update on the SOESD Phoenix Campus Reconstruction Project. Director Angle-Hobson reported the reconstruction is on schedule and within budget. The project has made significant progress, the entire second floor is now framed using prefabricated walls. Construction includes a contingency fund for unexpected costs. Substantial completion remains targeted for March 2026.

**Executive Session**

At 7:17 PM, Acting-Chair Valtierra-Sanchez announced the board would meet in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a) to consider the employment/hiring of a public officer.

**Open Session**

At 9:05 PM, Acting-Chair Valtierra-Sanchez reconvened the board into open session.

**Miscellaneous**

- A. OAESD Spring Conference: May 7- 9, 2025, Sunriver Resort
- B. Budget Committee Meeting: May 14, 2025, 6:00 PM
- C. Next Regular Meeting: May 21, 2025, 6:00 PM

**Adjournment**

Acting Chair Valtierra-Sanchez adjourned this meeting of the Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors at 9:08 pm.