

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

March 25, 2025

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. for its regular monthly meeting. Members present were Ms. Gausman, Dr. Kirby, Mr. Lane, Mr. Peck, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Stepp, and Mr. West, along with Curt Bradshaw, Superintendent, and Rachel Meyer, Treasurer. The guests present were Heith Brown and Casey Enochs.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA (Resolution #4986)

It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Dr. Kirby to approve the agenda as revised.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. Vice President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

MINUTE APPROVAL (Resolution #4987)

It was moved by Ms. Gausman and seconded by Ms. Ruth that the February 25, 2025, meeting minutes be approved as presented.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. Vice President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

Mr. West arrived at 6:35 p.m.

The meeting was open for public participation. None received.

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE

Mr. Brown's presentation included the following:

- Who is Heith Brown
- What's Happened So Far
 - Internships
 - Career Exposure Tour to Olive Vinyl Products
 - Building connections with community resources and businesses
 - Attendance at conference and information sessions
 - Website development

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SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE (Cont.)

- Current/Ongoing Projects
 - Internships
 - Grant research
 - Pathways Assessment Tool for school districts
 - Hillsboro High School Senior Showcase
 - 2025-2028 Strategic Plan
 - Hillsboro Christian Academy GRIT Assessment
- Future Goals
 - Expand types of resources available for Career Exploration
 - Career fairs that serve each district in Highland County
 - Involve middle school students in Career Exploration
 - Grow number of internships provided for the 2025-26 school year by 25%
 - Develop state recognized pre-apprenticeships within Highland County

Lastly, Mr. Brown answered questions asked by the Board.

GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

The Great Oaks Board met on March 12, 2025, at the Live Oaks campus in Milford. Mr. Lane shared the following information that may be of interest:

- One purpose for holding the meeting at the Live Oaks campus was so the Board could tour the newly renovated and beautiful facility there.
- It was reported that Great Oaks will receive \$766,765 in casino revenue from 2024. In 2023 that revenue was \$422,000, and in the first year for casino revenue the amount was \$175,000.
- Progress on the building that will house next year's EV and 2nd welding lab programs at Laurel remain on schedule for the 2025-26 school year. JROTC is also scheduled to begin then.
- Laurel's Senior Ceremony will be held at SSCC's Patriot Center on May 15 at 6:30 p.m. You do need tickets for admission.
- If anyone would like to serve on the Laurel Oaks Business and Industry Advisory Council, you can make your interest known by going to the Great Oaks website.
- Laurel Oaks continues to have the best student retention rate among the four campuses.

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Ruth referenced the items below from the February 2025 issue of "The Link":

From the Governor's Desk

Gov. **Mike DeWine** unveiled his executive budget proposal on February 3, declaring his final investment priorities as a term-limited governor. Of particular interest to education advocates, the executive budget proposal:

- Earmarks \$12 million in lottery funds for Science of Reading literacy coaches and requires schools with low rates of proficient readers to focus more funding on literacy supports.
- Invests \$7 million in each fiscal year in competitive grants to support career planning and workforce readiness initiatives for K-12 students.
- Increases the Community School Facilities per pupil amount from \$1,000 to \$1,500.
- Creates the Driver Training in Schools Grant Program at the Department of Public Safety, funded by non-medical marijuana sales tax revenue, for school districts to fund driver's education at their high schools.
- Invests \$50 million over the biennium to create a new vision services program, OhioSEE, which would ensure that K-third grade students who fail vision screenings receive comprehensive eye exams and glasses, if needed.

Recently Introduced Legislation

- HB 42 – Would require certain agencies, including schools, to report data concerning the citizenship or immigration status of persons with whom they come into contact.
- HB 57 – Would require all types of school districts to obtain and maintain a supply of an overdose reversal drug for use in an emergency. It would also require the district's superintendent to adopt and implement a policy regarding the supply's maintenance and the drug's use at each school operated by the district.
- HB 62 – Makes changes to the College Credit Plus program, including requiring notice to school districts when a student drops a college course, transitioning to open-source textbooks, and lowering the cost of certain online CCP courses.
- HB 77 – Would require the Department of Health to develop type 1 diabetes informational materials for parents and guardians of elementary school students.
- HB 79 – Would increase the penalties for assault if the victim were acting as a sports official or the assault is committed in retaliation for the victim's actions as a sports official.
- HB 97 – Would require public schools to provide free meals to students regardless of their ability to pay.

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

- HB 106 – The House version of Alyssa's Law would allocate \$25 million to a pilot grant program at ODEW for public and chartered nonpublic schools to purchase panic alert systems or contract for artificial intelligence firearm detection software.
- HB 114 – Would alter age requirements for kindergarten admission, expanding them to include 6 year-olds who have not completed first grade.
- HB 117 – Would require the Pledge of Allegiance in schools.
- HB 125 – Would permit excused absences from school to participate in 4-H and FFA programs.
- SB 105 – The Senate's version of Alyssa's Law would require public and chartered nonpublic schools to implement a wearable panic alert system, appropriating \$25 million to support the purchase of such alarm systems.
- SB 107 – Would require state and school district board members to appear on the ballot with a party designation.
- SB 113 – Would prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion in public schools.

Ms. Ruth will obtain additional information on HB 114 and SB 113 to share at our next meeting.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (Resolution #4988)

It was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Ms. Gausman to take a roll call to enter into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing.

A roll call vote was taken to enter into Executive Session. Members present and voted yes were Ms. Gausman, Dr. Kirby, Mr. Lane, Mr. Peck, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Stepp, and Mr. West.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:37 p.m.

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FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer, Ms. Meyer reviewed the monthly reports with the Board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS (Resolution #4989)

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved by Dr. Kirby and seconded by Ms. Gausman that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of \$935,291.71.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Mr. West, declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF INVESTMENT (Resolution #4990)

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Mr. Peck to approve the following investment as transacted by Treasurer Meyer.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Firm</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/13/2025	Waddell	Goldman Sachs Bank CD	3/11/2027	4.30%	\$ 100,145.00

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Mr. West, declared the motion carried.

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Reminder Financial Disclosure Forms Due May 15, 2025:

- If you would like a paper form, please let me know; otherwise, you can fill out and submit your form online.

Fiscal Office Update:

- We are in the process of planning and gathering information for the 2025-2026 school year so that I can prepare cost estimates for member school districts, including Region 14.

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TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

- On March 12, 2025, an Audit Exit Information email was sent to each of you from Michael Kiser, Audit Manager. The official release of the audit will occur within the next two to three weeks. Michael did tell me that we had no issues that needed to be placed in a management letter which means there were no findings or recommendations for improving internal controls and operations – WOO HOO – shout out to the fiscal team for a job well done!
- On March 13, 2025, we hosted a Treasurer Roundtable where we had two Area Coordinators from Ohio DEW take us through how to report Threshold Costs (formerly catastrophic costs). District Special Educational Coordinators were also in attendance from some districts. In all we had 22 in attendance. The roundtable was held at Hopewell.

Professional Development:

- On March 20, 2025, I will meet with Sarah Simpson, Vice President of Trust and Investment Services at People's Bank to review our investment portfolio.
- On March 27, 2025, I will attend the BWC Employer Update Webinar. This month's discussion topics include extraordinary claim instances, types of claim compensation, important dates, and monthly safety tip.

PERSONNEL CONTRACT RESIGNATIONS: R14/ESC (Resolution #4991)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Ms. Stepp to approve the resignations of the following personnel:

R14/SOESC RESIGNATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Contract Type</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Garen, Hannah	Director of Teaching & Learning	Certificated	07-31-2025
Haag, Felicity	Student Monitor	Classified	04-04-2025
Stillwell, Rachel	Health Paraprofessional	Classified	03-18-2025

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Mr. West, declared the motion carried.

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PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENT(S): R14/ESC (Resolution #4992)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Ms. Gausman that the board approves employment contracts for the following personnel subject to the provision of O.R.C. §3319.02, O.R.C. §3319.08 and/or O.R.C. §3319.081. All personnel are subject to assignment by the Superintendent and all contracts are subject to continuation of existing local, state, and/or federal funding; proper licensure; Ohio Department of Education highly qualified teacher per current job assignment; Ohio Bureau of Criminal Background Investigation Check; and Federal Bureau of Investigation Background Check:

R14/ESC CONTRACT AGREEMENT(S)

Name	Tentative Position	Contract Dates	Length	Days	Degree	Schedule/ Step/ Rate	Contract Type	Comments
Barlow, Greg	SST Consultant	2024-2025	1 Year	5 days	Master's	MA B/ Step 10/ \$344.729 per diem	Supplemental	Per Submitted Timesheets; Pending ODEW Budget Revision Approval
Dietrich, Ashley	SST Consultant	2024-2025	1 Year	10 days	Master's	MA B/ Step 8/ \$323.721 per diem	Supplemental	Per Submitted Timesheets; Pending ODEW Budget Revision Approval
Jewitt, Stephanie	Substitute Teacher	2024-2025	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Marsh, Melissa	SST Early Literacy Specialist	2024-2025	1 Year	9 days	Doctorate	MA B/ Step 15/ \$402.048 per diem	Supplemental	Per Submitted Timesheets; Pending ODEW Budget Revision Approval
Mickey, Debbie	SST Consultant	2024-2025	1 Year	10 days	Master's	MA B/ Step 19/ \$397.263 per diem	Supplemental	Per Submitted Timesheets; Pending ODEW Budget Revision Approval
Pierson, Jennie	SST Consultant	2024-2025	1 Year	10 days	Master's	MA B/ Step 18/ \$397.265 per diem	Supplemental	Per Submitted Timesheets; Pending ODEW Budget Revision Approval
Williams, Angela	ECIS Mentor	2024-2025	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$250.00 per diem	Supplemental	Mentor for Staci Bales

East Clinton Substitutes

1. Hughes, Heather 2. Jewett, Stephanie 3. Saunders, Ethan

Great Oaks (Laurel Oaks Campus) Career Campuses Substitutes

1. Jewitt, Stephanie

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Mr. West, declared the motion carried.

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PERSONNEL CONTRACT AMENDMENT(S) (Resolution #4993)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Ms. Stepp and seconded by Ms. Ruth to approve the following employment contract for the following personnel:

R14/ESC CONTRACT AMENDMENT(S)

Name	Position	Contract Dates	Change 1	Comments
Walker, Tara	Social Worker	2024-2025	Salary increase from \$55,818.00 to \$57,163.14; includes \$4,500 increase prorated effective 3/1/2025	Received her LISW Certification

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Mr. West, declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF POLICY MANUAL UPDATES (Resolution #4994)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Ms. Stepp and seconded by Ms. Gausman to approve the following policy manual updates:

New Policies

IGBLA	Promoting Parental Involvement
JEFB	Released Time for Religious Instruction
JHC	Student Health Services and Requirements

Policy Manual Update

BCE	Board Committees
BD	School Board Meetings
DECA	Administration of Federal Grant Funds
DJF	Purchasing Procedures
DJF-R	Purchasing Procedures
EDE	Computer/Online Services
GBH (Also JM)	Staff-Student Relations
IGAH/IGAI	Family Life Education/Sex Education
IGBA	Program for Students With Disabilities
IGBL	Parent/Guardian and Family Involvement in Education
JHCD	Administering Medicines to Students
JHCD-R-1	Administering Medicines to Students
JHF	Student Safety
JHG	Reporting Child Abuse and Mandatory Training
JM (Also GBH)	Staff-Student Relations
KBA	Public's Right to Know

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Mr. West, declared the motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL (Resolution #4995)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Dr. Kirby to approve out-of-state travel for **Grace Eads and Holly Burgess** to attend the OpenSciEd Spring Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, on April 9 – 11, 2025.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Mr. West, declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL (Resolution #4996)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Dr. Kirby and seconded by Mr. Lane to approve out-of-state travel for **Megan Bailey** to attend a field trip to the Newport Aquarium in Newport, Kentucky, on April 16, 2025, during regular school hours to interpret for her student from West Union Elementary School.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Mr. West, declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SOUTHERN OHIO ESC/R14 WORK CALENDAR (Resolution #4997)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Ms. Stepp to approve the work calendar for FY 2026 as presented for Southern Ohio ESC/Region 14.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Mr. West, declared the motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Bradshaw shared the following with the Board:

1. SOESC Leadership Cabinet Meeting – Met on March 19, 2025, to continue strategic planning work and review staff survey feedback.
2. Superintendent Network Meeting/Legislative Panel – Held on March 21, 2025, at SOESC, attended by district Superintendents, one state representative, one senator, and one legislative aide.

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SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

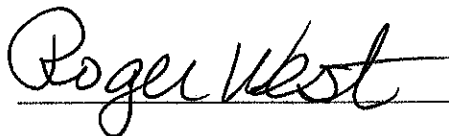
3. Business Advisory Council (BAC) Grant/ODEW – Received news that grant would not be awarded, but have been told there will be other options.
4. SOESC Legal Updates Seminar – April 9, 2025 at Hopewell.
5. Finance Board Work Session – June 17, 2025, at SOESC, Wilmington office from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
6. Regional "Grow Our Own" Educator Pipeline Working Group – April 7, 2025, is the next Meeting.
7. Region 14 Exceptional Achievement Awards – April 3, 2025, at Hillsboro HS. The Reception is at 6:00 p.m., and the program begins at 7:00 p.m. Board members are invited to attend.
8. Region 14 Transition Expo – Held on March 7, 2025, was very successful—a shout-out to Amy Luttrell for her work on this.
9. 2025 – 26 SY – Continuing to explore new and continued partnerships.
10. Re-election process for Board members – No additional information is needed at this time for those Board members up for election later this year.

Ms. Enochs shared the following updates with the board:

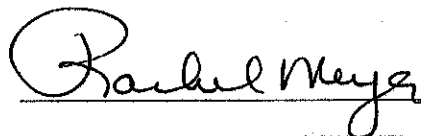
The Leadership Cabinet is working through the Strategic Planning process by going through an analysis to determine strengths and weaknesses. We are also determining the next steps for the 2025-26 school year. We should have something completed by this summer.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Stepp and seconded by Ms. Gausman to adjourn to meet again in regular session on April 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Southern Ohio Educational Service Center, 3321 Airborne Road, Wilmington.



BOARD PRESIDENT



TREASURER