MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

August 25, 2026

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. for its regular monthly meeting. Members present were Ms. Gausman, Mr. Hixson, Dr. Kirby, Mr. Lane, Mr. Mount, Mr. Peck, Ms. Ruth, and Ms. Stepp, along with Curt Bradshaw, Superintendent, and Rachel Meyer, Treasurer. The guests present were Paula Armstrong, Casey Enochs, and Kathy Tolle.

MINUTE APPROVAL **(Resolution #5210)**

It was moved by Ms. Gausman and seconded by Mr. Hixson that the July 28, 2026, meeting minutes be approved as presented.

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

The meeting was open for public participation. None received.

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE

Ms. Armstrong and Ms. Tolle presented a video highlighting Occupational and Physical Therapy services to over 1,000 students in our service area. A question-and-answer session followed.

Ms. Stepp thanked Mike Boone for his assistance in developing the presentation.

GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

The Great Oaks Board met on August 12, 2026, at the Board offices in Sharonville. The following report may be of interest to you:

- Fifty-four new Great Oaks associates attended orientation and training the week of August 3, in preparation for the 2026-27 school year.
- The new school year began this past week at all four campuses, with record enrollment expected for the high school programs. We should receive the official enrollment report at the September 9th meeting of the Directors.

GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT (Cont.)

- Juniors began on Tuesday, the 18th, with returning seniors beginning the next day. President and CEO Harry Snyder was at Laurel on Wednesday to welcome the new and returning students to the new school year.
- For the first time in my memory, all Laurel students are required to wear career lab uniforms all day, every day. This is true for the other campuses as well.
- On Friday, I received an email from Harry, which included his assessment of the new school year. "All four campuses looked fantastic as they welcomed students back. It was especially exciting to see the enthusiasm and energy from both our staff and students as they begin the new year. We are off to a great start to the 26/27 school year!"

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

The July 2026 issue of "The Link" was included in Board member packets, and Ms. Ruth reviewed the following:

Legislative Liaison Network Meeting
Please note that the July and August Legislative Liaison Network meetings are canceled due to a lack of legislative activity.

The OSBA Division of Legislative Services will continue to host monthly Zoom meetings for the Legislative Liaison Network beginning in September.

On the Governor's desk
Governor Mike DeWine has signed two acts from the legislature into law this month. Senate Bill (SB) 276 was signed into law July 7. The bill originally ratified the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists but was heavily amended to include a version of the Student Athlete Mobility (SAM) Act, regarding student petitions to participate in team sports at neighboring public schools, and a mandate that districts provide instruction in the "success sequence" beginning next school year. SB 276 becomes effective October 5.

House Bill (HB) 455 was signed into law July 10. This omnibus bill makes changes to the operation of public schools and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) and eliminates obsolete provisions of education law. The substitute version of HB 455 that was adopted before its passage makes many changes to the bill, including but not limited to:

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

- Barring a school board from considering a member's reason for absence is insufficient if they are an active or reserve member of the U.S. armed forces or the Ohio National Guard and are deployed outside the territory of the district or educational service center (ESC).
- Adding language from SB 127, which defines required actions for poor performing community schools.
- Allowing a 14- or 15-year-old to be employed between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. any night preceding a day school is not in session if the minor has approval to do so from a parent or legal guardian.

Ohio Pupil Transportation Workgroup releases report

The Ohio Pupil Transportation Workgroup, established in the biennial budget bill (HB 96), has concluded its work and sent its formal policy recommendations to DeWine and General Assembly. The workgroup recommended both short-term changes and larger, systematic overhauls to Ohio's school transportation in its report, including:

- Creating a clear, statewide policy that every transportation-eligible student receives safe and reliable transportation to the public, community, chartered nonpublic, STEM, career-technical or open-enrollment schools they lawfully attend. The workgroup recommends that this policy outline the elimination of the current impractical-to-transport designation and "payment in lieu of" (PILO) systems.
- Fully funding the transportation portion of the Full Student Funding Formula amount per student and having those funds follow the student to be usable by districts. ESC consortia, community schools, chartered nonpublic schools, or parents.
- Establishing Regional Transportation Authorities across the state through ESCs, district consortia or other appropriate third-party entities to manage transportation at the regional level.
- Developing a statewide transportation database that allows for access to basic student data - such as name, address, assigned public school, and selected school of choice – to all parties involved in transportation planning, decision-making, and implementation.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

- Facilitating stronger and more collaborative relationships between traditional districts, community schools, chartered nonpublic schools, and families, including the recommendation that public and nonpublic school administrators meet at least twice a year to work together on student transportation schedules.
- Implementing successful bus driver recruitment, training, and retention strategies for districts and schools with additional state support.
- Amending current law to require ODEW to play an increased statewide oversight role for the outcomes of student transportation, including additional audit powers over impractical-to-transport designations until they are phased out, increased student transportation data collection, and the publication of an annual statewide transportation report.

These policy recommendations require action by the legislature to become law. One bill to watch for this fall is the possible inclusion of such suggestions is SB 311, sponsored by Sen. Andrew O. Brenner (R-Delaware), who served as a member of this workgroup. SB 311 has passed out of the Senate and now sits in the House Education Committee.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer Ms. Meyer reviewed the monthly and semiannual reports with the board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS **(Resolution #5211)**

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Ms. Ruth that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of $945,978.96.

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

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APPROVAL OF INVESTMENTS **(Resolution #5212)**

It was moved by Dr. Kirby and seconded by Mr. Peck to approve the following investments as transacted by Treasurer Meyer:

Date	Fund	Firm	Maturity Date	Rate	Amount
8/6/2026	Waddell	Texas Exchange Bk Crowley CD	10/31/2029	4.40%	$ 49,954.50
8/6/2026	General	Texas Exchange Bk Crowley CD	10/31/2029	4.40%	$ 124,886.25

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

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fiscal Office Update

- Amanda, Rhonda, and I participated in New Employee Orientation on **August 4.**
- Amanda and I will send out the first invoices for the year for services provided by the ESC and Hopewell during the week of **August 21.**
- Plattenburg has begun requesting documentation for the **FY2026 GAAP Conversion**, and I have started working on fulfilling those requests.

Professional Development

- On **August 5, 2026**, I attended the **OULP Seminar in Piketon**, where Nicole Williams (Southwest Region Audit Manager, Auditor of State of Ohio) presented updates on the Ohio Compliance Supplement and key information to help us prepare for the FY2026 audit season.
- On **August 12, 2026**, I participated in the **STRS Employer Basics Webinar**, which covered compensation reporting, payroll reports, accrued contributions, payment remittance, and other employer requirements.
- On **August 26, 2026**, I will participate in the **STRS Employer Basics Webinar**, which will cover employer pick-up plans and employer responsibilities.

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

- On **August 27, 2026**, I will attend the **Ohio BWC Monthly Update Webinar**, which will include information about other states' coverage and working out of state, cost control strategies, annual employer true-up, program updates, and a monthly safety tip.

PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENT(S): HOPEWELL/ESC/R14 **(Resolution #5213)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Ms. Gausmand 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 and Workforce highly qualified teacher per current job assignment; Ohio Bureau of Criminal Background Investigation Check; and Federal Bureau of Investigation Background Check:

HOPEWELL/ESC/R14 CONTRACT AGREEMENT(S)

Name	Tentative Position	Contract Dates	Length	Days	Degree	Schedule/ Step/ Rate	Contract Type	Comments
Anderson, Justus	Substitute Teacher	2026-2027	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ $140.00 per diem	Certificated Substitute	SOLC
Carter, Cassandra	Substitute Teacher	2026-2027	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ $140.00 per diem	Certificated Substitute	SOLC
Luttrell, Amy	LPDC Committee Member	2026-2027	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ $15.00 per hour	Supplemental	
Wilson, James "Tony"	Substitute Teacher	2026-2027	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ $140.00 per diem	Certificated Substitute	SOLC

East Clinton Substitutes

1. Anderson, Justus 2. Henson, Mahala 3. Wilson, James "Tony"

Great Oaks (Laurel Oaks Campus) Substitutes

1. Carter, Cassandra 2. Caudill, Grace 3. Gilbert, Keith
4. Walters, Amber 5. Wilson, James "Tony"

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

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APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT **(Resolution #5214)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Ms. Gausman and seconded by Mr. Peck to approve an amendment to the following employment contract for the following personnel:

ESC/HOPEWELL/R14 CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Name	Position	Contract Dates	Change 1	Change 2	Change 3	Comments
Allen, Linda	SATH Director	2026-2027	Change hourly rate from $23.34 to $24.51 effective 9/1/2026			5% increase

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

RESOLUTION TO EXTEND BWC LEAVE **(Resolution #5215)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. Hixson and seconded by Mr. Lane to approve to extend the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) leave for Olivia Rask from 06/15/2026 through 11/06/2026, per MEDCO-14 form.

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

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APPROVAL OF POLICY MANUAL UPDATES **(Resolution #5216)**

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

Updated Policies	
DJH	Credit Cards
JED	Student Absences and Excuses
JEDA	Truancy
JHCD	Administering Medicines to Students
JHCD-(R3)	Administering Medicines to Students – Use of Epinephrine Delivery System

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

SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Bradshaw shared the following with the board:

1. SOESC Opening Day Success (August 7, 2026) – At Laurel Oaks. President Stepp welcomed staff back. Mr. Bradshaw thanked Ms. Enochs for her planning efforts.
2. District Opening Day Convocations – SOESC had representation at all district opening day convocations.

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SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

3. Southwest Ohio CPSN (Career Pathway Support Network) Regional Kickoff Meeting (August 19, 2026) – Mr. Bradshaw attended with Codi Newkirk—a good day of professional learning.

4. Helping out at Holmes Elementary – This is the ninth year SOESC has been assisting with arrival and dismissal.

5. Fayette County Business Appreciation Luncheon (August 26, 2026) – Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Phipps will attend.

6. SOESC Superintendent Network Meeting (August 28, 2026) – The first meeting of the school year. Mr. Bradshaw is looking forward to convening with district Superintendents.

7. 2026 OESCA Fall Connect & Collaborate Conference (September 8 – 9, 2026) – A team from SOESC will attend.

8. 2026 OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show (November 15 – 17, 2026) – A team from SOESC will attend, along with Mr. Peck.

9. Introduction of 2026-2027 New Hires at the September Governing Board Meeting (September 22, 2026) – Board members are asked to arrive at 6:30 p.m.

10. Ohio Business Magazine named SOESC as "Best Workplace in Ohio for "2026" – This is the second year in a row.

11. New Conference Room Table and Chairs – Purchased with grant funds were highlighted to the board members.

12. Instructional Implementation Teams – Government State of Address, ODEW will work with ESC's in regards to these teams around literacy. ESC's are asked to identify specialists in leadership literacy and MTSS and create three person teams to gain a better understanding of how districts are implementing the science of reading instruction.

    We are in the process of identifying our team members. Each will receive ODEW training. Members will do "Learning Walks" and collect data that will be turned over to ODEW.

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ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Dr. Kirby and seconded by Mr. Hixson to adjourn to meet again in regular session on September 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at the Hopewell Center, 5350 West New Market Road, Hillsboro, Ohio.

BOARD PRESIDENT

TREASURER