

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 22, 2023

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. for its regular monthly meeting. Members present were Ms. Gausman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hixson, Dr. Kirby, Mr. Lane, Mr. Mount, Mr. Peck, Ms. Ruth, and Mr. West, along with Beth Justice, Superintendent, and Rachel Meyer, Treasurer. The guest present was State Representative Bob Peterson.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA (Resolution #4739)

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Hixson to approve the agenda as presented.

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

MINUTE APPROVAL (Resolution #4740)

It was moved by Ms. Gausman and seconded by Mr. Mount that the July 25, 2023, meeting minutes be approved as presented.

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

SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT: ADDITIONAL VACATION DAYS (Resolution #4741)

It was moved by Ms. Gausman and seconded by Ms. Ruth to approve five additional days for Superintendent Beth Justice for the 2023-24 school year.

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

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT: ADDITIONAL VACATION DAYS (Resolution #4742)

It was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Mr. West to approve five additional days for Assistant Superintendent Curt Bradshaw for the 2023-24 school year.

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

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The meeting was opened for public participation;

Representative Bob Peterson – Ms. Ruth introduced Representative Bob Peterson. He provided an overview of his years of service and indicated he appreciates ESCs' work. He offered the following highlights:

- Passed the budget
- State continues to increase funding for education
- Fair school funding phase in
- Ed Choice voucher expansion
- Increase funding for Career Tech
- Increase funding for breakfast and lunch programs in schools
- New Department of Education – The Governor has been empowered to lead education

There were questions and discussions regarding ESC funding, teacher shortages, bussing, and offering career technical training earlier to students. Representative Peterson indicated that they want to do a better job for kids and that they make better decisions when we talk to them. He suggested ESCs need to help them better understand their education role. Lastly, he indicated that education should focus on science, math, reading, history, life skills, and learning and that our societal issues should be fought in society, not in the classroom.

GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

Mr. Lane reported that the Great Oaks Board of Directors met at the district office on August 9, 2023. He reported the following items of interest:

- During the 4th quarter of the 2023 school year, Great Oaks provided 106 programs on the four career center campuses and at satellite locations. FTE for the quarter was 4207.
- Adult workforce enrollment for the 4th quarter was 8256.
- All four campuses of Great Oaks opened in 1973. Great Oaks will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the career campuses in September. The Laurel Oaks campus was opened in 1972.
- Forty-four new associates have been hired for the 2023-24 school year.
- Laurel Oaks juniors reported for the first day of school on August 17th, with returning seniors beginning August 18th. As reported last month, all 17 programs are fully enrolled. As of August 4th, 461 juniors were enrolled, and 403 seniors were enrolled, for a total enrollment of 864. An enrollment report for all four campuses was provided for each board member for reference.

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GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT (Cont.)

- At last month's board meeting, all board members received a complete copy of the proposed GOPO negotiated agreement. GOPO approved the agreement, which covers approximately 300 teachers by a vote of 109 yes to 9 no. After considerable discussion in executive session, the board reconvened and voted unanimously to approve the 3-year agreement, effective August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2026.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Ruth referenced several items from "The Link":

She noted a few education-related laws enacted in the budget that take effect this school year:

- Lawmakers expanded free lunches to those who previously only qualified for reduced-price meals. Though the program does not officially start until October 3, 2023, districts will be reimbursed by ODE for covering the costs of free and reduced lunches for students who qualify for the first few weeks of the school year.
- Free feminine hygiene products will be available to Ohio students in grades six-12. The state allocated \$2 million for districts to install dispensers and an additional \$3 million to reimburse districts for providing products.
- Training opportunities have been expanded for teachers looking to become certified to teach courses through the state's College Credit Plus Program. \$6 million has been allocated to cover the costs of training.

Gov. DeWine recently announced the New Teacher Apprenticeship Program as well. This program looks to address the teacher shortage Ohio faces as well as creating career opportunities as teachers for those who already work in our schools, like paraprofessionals, library specialists, or bus drivers. Candidates participating in New Teacher Apprenticeship Program are also eligible for the new Grow Your Own Teacher scholarships. The Grow Your Own Teacher Scholarship, recently passed as a provision in the state budget, provides up to \$7,500 per year for four years in exchange for committing to teach in a qualifying Ohio school for at least four years.

Recently introduced legislation

- Senate Bill (SB) 134, sponsored by Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Mingo Junction), extended the homestead property tax exemption to certain disabled veterans.
- HB 254, sponsored by Reps. Adam Holmes (R-Nashport) and Richardson (R-Marysville) expands and enhance the homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans.

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FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer Meyer reviewed the monthly reports with the Board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS (Resolution #4743)

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved by Dr. Kirby and seconded by Ms. Ruth that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of \$892,077.84.

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

FY 2024 PERMANENT APPROPRIATION (Resolution #4744)

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Ms. Gausman to approve the following FY2024 permanent appropriations as presented.

[See Minute Page #2151 - #2152]

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

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fiscal Office Update

I wanted to give you a quick update on fiscal office happenings.

- Amanda and Rhonda participated in the New Employee Orientation on August 7th.
- Amanda and I sent out the first invoices of the year for services provided by the ESC and Hopewell during the week of August 7th.
- Plattenburg has begun requesting items for the FY2023 GAAP Conversion. I have started working on filling these requests.

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TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

Professional Development:

- On August 1, 2023, I attended the Budget Analysis & Discussion Seminar. This virtual meeting provided the following key takeaways: learning about the school-funding changes in the biennial budget and what's to come; hearing about provisions in the budget bill that will impact schools and how they will be implemented.
- On August 16, 2023, I will attend the STRS Employer Basics Webinar. This webinar will review the Ohio law defining STRS Ohio Membership, common positions covered, exceptions we may encounter, and the member reporting process.
- On August 24, 2023, I will attend the Ohio BWC Monthly Update Webinar. This month, there will be a discussion about premium audits, important dates, and a monthly safety tip.

PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENTS: R14/ESC (Resolution #4745)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. Hixson that the Board approves employment contracts for the following personnel subject to the provision of ORC 3319.02, ORC 3319.08, and/or ORC 3319.081. All personnel is 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
Bailey, Jody	Mentor Assignment	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/No Step/\$500.00	Supplemental	Paula Armstrong
Bailey, Jody	Mentor Assignment	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/No Step/\$500.00	Supplemental	Kathy Tolle
Baisden, Shona	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/No Step/\$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Chamblin, Adam	Student Monitor	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/No Step/\$15.00 per hour	classified	ACOV-West Union HS

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R14/ESC CONTRACT AGREEMENT(S) CONT.

Name	Tentative Position	Contract Dates	Length	Days	Degree	Schedule/ Step/ Rate	Contract Type	Comments
Fine, Christine	Intervention Specialist	2023-2024	1 Year	184	Master's	MA A/ Step 25/ \$77,735	Retired Certificated/ Administrator	SOLC
Fine, Christine	Intervention Specialist	2023-2024	1 Year	1	Master's	MA A/ Step 25/ \$422	Supplemental	SOLC
McMinn, Jennifer	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Payton, Karlie	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Shepard, Anne Marie	Speech Language Pathologist	2023-2024	1 Year	189	Master's	Related M/ Step 14/ \$88,261	Certificated	East Clinton Local
Vincent, JoAnne	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Wellman, Shelly	EC BLT	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$28.86 per hour	Supplemental	East Clinton Local
Weddington Mary	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC

East Clinton Substitutes

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Baisden, Shona | 2. Bennett, Jeff | 3. Brown, Jeri |
| 4. Chase, Jessica | 5. Fluent, Ashley | 6. Hughes, Tina |
| 7. Payton, Karlie | 8. Vincent, JoAnne | 9. Weddington, Mary |
| 10. Williams, Katrina | | |

Laurel Oaks Campus Substitutes

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Brown, Jeri | 2. McMinn, Jennifer | 3. Weddington, Mary |
| 4. Williams, Katrina | | |

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

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PERSONNEL CONTRACT AMENDMENT(S): R14/ESC (#4746)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. West to approve an amendment to the following employment contract for the following personnel:

R14/ESC CONTRACT AMENDMENTS

Name	Position	Contract Dates	Change 1	Comments
Bradshaw, Curt	Assistant Superintendent	2023- 2024	The Board shall annually pay the Assistant Superintendent for up to five accrued, unused vacation days at his per diem.	
Quinn, James	Campus Monitor	2023- 2025	Change hourly rate from \$27.59 to \$30.00 beginning 08/10/2023	SOLC

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

APPROVAL OF DONATION (Resolution#4747)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Ms. Gausman to approve the following donation as listed:

<u>Donated Item/Description</u>	<u>Donation Received from</u>	<u>Value of Donation</u>
Check (to be used for SOLC staff and students)	American Legion Post 49 140 East Locust Street Wilmington, Ohio 45177	\$500

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

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SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Justice shared the following with the Board:

1. Opening Day – August 10, 2023, at Laurel Oaks was well received. Ms. Justice thanked Dr. Kirby for attending.
2. Opening Day Convocation for districts served by SOESC – All except for East Clinton have held their Opening Day. SOESC was well represented.
3. 2023 Capital Conference – Let Stephanie know if you want to attend.
4. SOLC Update – Classes started on August 18, 2023. Ms. Bailey and the staff have gone over and beyond to make students feel welcome.
5. Success Newsletter – Included in board packet.
6. Workforce Development for Clinton County – Working together to gather support for a Workforce Coordinator.
7. New Staff – Will be introduced at the September board meeting to be held in the large conference room.
8. Board Member Election Update – The Board of Elections (BOE) has received certified petitions from Mr. Mount, Mr. Peck, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Gausman, and Dr. Kirby. August 28, 2023 write-ins due – go to BOE in Wilmington to fill out paperwork. Paperwork can be printed from the Secretary of State's website.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. West to adjourn to meet again in regular session on **Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**, at 3321 Airborne Road, Wilmington, Ohio.



BOARD PRESIDENT



TREASURER

SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FY 2024 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS

Notes:

General Fund - Tuition Reimbursement for all staff collectively \$13,000.00
General Fund - Board Service Fund set at \$7,500.00 on a calendar year basis

Termination Benefits Fund - Unemployment, Severance, and Vacation Payouts

Contingencies:

General Fund - Emergency Fund - 4 months of expenses \$1,587,200.00
General Fund - Building Fund \$300,000.00 - continue to add \$25,000 per year, budget permitting, per 6/25/19 board direction
Hopewell General Fund - Emergency Fund - \$724,498.00
Hopewell General Fund - Building Fund \$30,000.00 - (security system, updates, repair, etc...)
Hopewell General Fund - Termination / Retirement Benefits setaside \$46,370.00

Transfers: (To be made - more information to follow)

Termination Benefits Fund - \$35,000