

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 27, 2024

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 6:00 pm for its regular monthly meeting. Members present were Mr. Hixson, Dr. Kirby, Mr. Lane, Mr. Mount, Mr. Peck, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Stepp, and Mr. West, along with Beth Justice, Superintendent. The guests present were Curt Bradshaw, Roy Hill, Roberta Hill, and Kelsey Smith.

OATH OF OFFICE

Administered to Mr. Richard Peck by Rachel Meyer, Treasurer, per Board Policy BBBB.

Treasurer Meyer asked Mr. Peck to sign the "Oath of Office" form at his place setting and return it to her.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA (Resolution #4818)

It was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Mr. Hixson to approve the agenda as revised.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the Board, Dr. Kirby declared the motion carried.

MINUTE APPROVAL (Resolution #4819)

It was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Ms. Stepp that the January 16, 2024, meeting minutes be approved as presented.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the Board, Dr. Kirby declared the motion carried.

The meeting was opened for public participation; none was received.

Mr. West arrived at 6:15 pm.

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RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF ROY HILL (Resolution #4820)

It was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Ms. Stepp to approve the resolution to recognize the retirement of Roy Hill on December 31, 2023.

[See Minute Page #2228]

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the Board, Dr. Kirby declared the motion carried.

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE

Ms. Alexander provided an overview of her background. She also provided a few of her duties as the Clinton County Truancy Officer:

- Serves school districts in Clinton County (Blanchester, Clinton-Massie, East Clinton) and Southern Ohio Learning Center
- Provides 42-hour letters
- Serves all grade levels
- Helps create AIP (Absence Intervention Plans) with school district teams
- Files truancy charges
- Attends court hearings for school districts
- Works to see what can be done to get students back in school
- Wellness checks at student homes
- Provides workshops to help district teams develop AIPs
- Works with teachers, assistant principals, counselors, and social workers

GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

The Great Oaks Board met on February 14, 2024, at the district office in Sharonville. The following information highlights some of the actions of the Board.

- School year 2024-25 calendars were approved. Laurel Oaks will begin the new school year on August 14th, with juniors reporting. The first day for all students is August 15th.
- The ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Live Oaks campus will occur at 5:30 pm on March 13th.

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GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT (Cont.)

- The last day for program priority application status for the 2024-25 school year was February 3rd. For over-enrolled programs a lottery will be held to determine acceptance into the program. Applications for the next school year were described as "strong".
- Remodeling of current space at Laurel to accommodate added programs has been planned and a schematic construction design has been submitted to the Ohio Facilities Commission.
- A surplus items auction will take place here at Laurel on March 23rd, at 10 am, with a preview of sale items at 9 am.
- Mr. Lane indicated that he is serving on the Human Resources Committee again this year. Former Laurel Oaks Director Kevin Abt is the Great Oaks Director of Human Resources, with responsibility for 372 certified, 104 classified, and 330 part-time associates.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Mrs. Ruth referenced some items from the "The Link" (February 2024 issue):

Governor's School Bus Safety Working Group

After months of deliberation and hearing from subject matter experts the Governor's School Bus Safety Working Group released their recommendations for improving school bus safety in Ohio. The working group's suggestions for school districts encompass several areas related to school bus safety, one being well prepared drivers. In its research the working group realized recruitment and retention of drivers is a pressing issue for many school districts across the state. The first recommendation encourages school districts to increase opportunities for continued education of its drivers by enhancing professional development opportunities. Like the first recommendation, the working group is also encouraging districts to have their drivers participate in critical incident response training. This training seeks to prepare school bus drivers for emergency situations by participating in realistic simulations that can be beneficial for school bus drivers and increase safety.

In addition to these professional development opportunities, the working group recommendations express the importance for districts to create and conduct performance evaluations for drivers so districts can ensure their drivers are well suited to safely transport the district's children.

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

The working group also recommended that districts offer school bus safety orientation to students, parents, and guardians at the beginning of every school year. The recommendation aims to increase positive school bus behavior for students.

Aside from educating the public the group also recommended that districts conduct safety audits of their bus routes, bus stops and school pickup/ drop-off sites to increase school bus safety by improving routes to avoid potential hazards like left hand turns, low visibility areas and steep drop-offs close to the roadway.

The working groups last recommendation for districts involves commercial bus services and encourages districts to establish screening policies with commercial bus services to ensure the commercial bus drivers are properly trained and the buses are properly maintained.

The working group did however recommend that the General Assembly provide funding through a grant program for districts to purchase enhanced safety features of the district's choice which could include seat belts if a district chooses that option.

During a press conference announcing the recommendations Gov. **Mike DeWine** and Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, **Andy Wilson**, acknowledged hearing from Ohioans in favor of mandatory seat belts, but maintained that Ohio is a local control state and that it is up to the school districts to decide what is best for their students going forward. DeWine and Wilson also acknowledged that the recommendations were still just that, recommendations. It is now up to the respective departments, school districts, and the legislature to move forward with implementing the recommendations through policy changes.

Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform

The Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform met for the second time and is continuing its mission of exploring Ohio's property tax system and rising property values. To further understand Ohio's rising property values the committee heard invitation only testimony from the County Auditor's Association of Ohio and the Board of Tax Appeals. A large piece of the discussion centered on how more and more tax exemptions are causing a shift in who pays the local levies.

Co-chair Sen. **Bill Blessing** (R-Colerain Township) has stated that the state has too many exemptions and indicated that this topic could be explored more in-depth in later hearings. The committee also heard about valuation issues arising from properties being bought and transferred through LLCs. These properties transferred through LLCs limit the county auditor's ability to see the sale value of properties, thus impacting the county auditor's ability to use complete data when looking at recent sales when determining valuations.

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

The committee plans to hold additional hearings in the coming weeks to explore other topics. The deadline for the committee to submit recommendations to the General Assembly is Dec. 31, 2024. These recommendations are expected to inform the next biennial budget which will be deliberated in early 2025.

Next, Mrs. Ruth mentioned the following House Bills from the Legislative Report in the latest issue of OSBAs *Briefcase*:

House Bill 1: This bill proposes to flatten Ohio's income tax to a single rate of 2.75%, with the first \$26,050 earned being tax exempt. These changes will have a significant impact on the ability of schools and other local governments to generate local revenue.

House Bill 6: This bill would ban transgender girls from playing on female teams in both high school and college. The bill does not include language from the previous version outlining how schools should make determinations about a student's eligibility. HB 6 does provide a method for students and families to seek civil action against schools and higher education institutions who allow transgender girls on female sports teams.

House Bill 8: Proposes to enact the "Parents' Bill of Rights." This bill would require school districts to adopt a policy to promote parental involvement in the public school system.

House Bill 9: Aims to address teacher shortage. The bill would provide additional flexibility with teacher mentorships programs. HB 9 also creates a teacher loan repayment program for qualified teachers. In addition, the bill creates "Grow Your Own Teacher Scholarship Program" to award scholarships to low-income high school seniors who commit to teaching in a qualifying school for four years. These scholarships are renewable and can be used at any Ohio college or university. Qualifying schools are defined as those where at least 50% of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches and operated by the same districts from which the scholarship recipient graduated.

House Bill 11: Would allow any student in grades K-12 to receive a voucher beginning in the 2024-25 school year. Eligible students would include students currently enrolled in private schools and students who are homeschooled.

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APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (Resolution #4821)

It was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Mr. West to take a roll call to enter into Executive Session at 6:32 pm 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 Mr. Hixson, Dr. Kirby, Mr. Lane, Mr. Mount, Mr. Peck, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Stepp, and Mr. West.

The board returned from Executive Session at 7:42 pm.

APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION (Resolution #4822)

It was moved by Mr. West and seconded by Mr. Peck to accept the letter of resignation from Superintendent, Beth Justice effective July 31, 2024.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the Board, Dr. Kirby declared the motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer Meyer reviewed the monthly reports with the Board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS (Resolution #4823)

It was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Mr. Lane that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of \$987,092.32.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the Board, Dr. Kirby declared the motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF INVESTMENTS (Resolution #4824)

It was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Ms. Stepp 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>
2/8/2024	General	Lafayette Fed Cr Un Rockville CD	05/27/25	3.100%	\$ 146,676.00

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the Board, Dr. Kirby declared the motion carried.

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Reminder Financial Disclosure Forms Due May 15, 2024:

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

FY2023 Single Audit Status:

- On February 14th, I received an email from Michael Kiser, Audit Manager, Auditor of State, that our FY2023 single audit should be wrapped up within the next week or so.

Fiscal Office Update:

- Amanda Ely and I sent out the fourth of six invoices of the year for primary services for Hopewell and ESC the week of February 5th.
- We are beginning to plan for FY2025 service needs. I have begun gathering information from team leaders and supervisors. I have also contacted district superintendents regarding their service needs.
- We have a State Support Team/ESC Review scheduled for April 25, 2024. We have been asked to upload payroll and accounts payable information pertaining to State Support Team IDEA and General Revenue Fund grants into the ODEW monitoring system. The documents need to be uploaded by February 29th.

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TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

Professional Development:

- On February 13, 2024, I attended the Contractor Mini-Series Part 1 webinar hosted by School Employees Retirement System (SERS). The workshop covered eSERS Homepage, Payroll Schedule Entry, Enrollments, Employer Reporting Detail Lookup, and SSA-1945.
- Also, on February 13th, I attended the BWC Employer Update Webinar. This month's discussion items included employer program options for consideration, important dates, and monthly safety tips.
- On February 20, 2024, I will attend the Contractor Mini-Series Part 2 webinar hosted by SERS. This workshop will cover Uploading Contribution Reports, Manual Entry, Copy Forward, Zero File, Payment Remittance, Applying Credit Memos, and Making Payments.
- On February 23, 2024, I will attend the MVECA WebEx Training with topics including password updates, reports, calendars, contracts, and quarter end reporting.
- On February 28, 2024, I will attend the Disability webinar hosted by SERS. This webinar will cover information about the disability application, the approval process, and how to complete disability certifications.

APPROVAL OF RESIGNATIONS: R14/ESC (Resolution #4825)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. West and seconded by Mr. Hixson to approve the resignations of the following personnel:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Contract Type</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Butler, Mary Jean	Math Coach	Certificated	05-24-2024	For the purpose of retirement
Miller, Connie	Substitute Teacher	Certificated Sub	01-24-2024	
Staggs, Macy	Student Monitor	Classified	02-23-2024	
Weddington, Mary	Substitute Teacher	Certificated Sub	02-12-2024	

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the Board, Dr. Kirby declared the motion carried.

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PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENTS: R14/ESC (Resolution #4826)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Ms. Stepp and seconded by Mr. Peck 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
Barton, Terri	Substitute SOLC Principal	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Salary Schedule/ No Step/ \$325.00 per diem	Substitute Administrator	Substitute Administrator for SOLC
Bolender, Cierra	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Curtis, Michele	Substitute Interpreter for the Hearing Impaired	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	L/ Step 3/ \$23.22 per hour	Classified Substitute	
King, Jason	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Schroeder, Katherine	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Wyatt, Conner	Clinton County Workforce Development Director	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	BA C/ Step 5/ \$36.41 per hour	Classified	

East Clinton Local Substitutes

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Barton, Kaitlyn | 2. Graff, Makayla | 3. Hopkins, Reilly |
| 4. King, Jason | 5. Savage, Krista | 6. Schroeder, Katherine |
| 7. Strong, Trista | | |

Great Oaks (Laurel Oaks Campus) Substitutes

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Bolender, Cierra | 2. Graff, Makayla | 3. Hopkins, Reilly |
| 4. Roberts, Carlos | 5. Schroeder, Katherine | 6. Strong, Trista |
| 7. White, Mark | | |

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the Board, Dr. Kirby declared the motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL (#4827)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Mr. Hixson to approve out-of-state travel for **Jennie Pierson** to attend the SAS EVAAS University for Regional Data Lead training in Cary, North Carolina, on March 19 – 22, 2024.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the Board, Dr. Kirby declared the motion carried.

WADDELL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR 2024 (#4828)

Upon the recommendation of the Waddell Scholarship Committee, it was seconded by Mr. Peck to establish the total number of new Gaylord and Barbara Waddell Scholarships to be awarded in 2024 at \$11,000.00. Each scholarship shall be for \$1,000.00 **for one year**, with East Clinton graduates receiving **five**, Clinton-Massie graduates receiving **three**, and Blanchester graduates receiving **three**.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the Board, Dr. Kirby declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF DONATIONS (#4829)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Ms. Stepp to approve the following donations as listed:

<u>Donated Item/Description</u>	<u>Donation Received from</u>	<u>Value of Donation</u>
Fruit Roll-Ups, 60 Nutri Grain Bars, 72 Ritz Cheese Crackers, 128	Community Markets 245 W. Main Street Hillsboro, Ohio 45133	\$134.65
264 Individually wrapped Fruit Snacks,	Dance Stell & Farm Supply 6079 St. Rt. 50 Hillsboro, Ohio 45133	\$55.96
180 Moon Pies 66 Jumbo Honey Buns 300 bottles of water	Rural King 129 High Street Hillsboro, Ohio 45133	\$128.50
120 Individually wrapped chips/crackers	Save A Lot 1472 N. High Street Hillsboro, Ohio 45133	\$71.94

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<u>Donated Item/Description</u>	<u>Donation Received from</u>	<u>Value of Donation</u>
	TSC	
Water, 240 bottles	1457 North High Street Hillsboro, Ohio 45133	\$54.90
	Walmart	
\$25 Gift Card for Snacks	540 Harry Sauner Road Hillsboro, Ohio 45133	\$25.00

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the Board, Dr. Kirby declared the motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Justice shared the following with the Board:

1. March Board Meeting – March 26, 2024, at Region 14/Hopewell Center.
2. Success Newsletter – Included in your packets.
3. Thank You Card – Please sign, for Andrea Holt for food at January's meeting.
4. Board Member Directory– Please check and provide any changes to us.
5. 2024 Four County School Boards Meeting Celebration – Invitations were mailed to district board members.
6. Safety Grant – Submitted for \$52,243.00.
7. Joint Statements for BAC – Ms. Justice and Mr. Bradshaw have been working on these, and they are due March 1.
8. Salary Comparison – Shared for future meeting prep information for Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Treasurer.
9. Expiring/Non-Expiring Contracts – Included in packets. Draft list as we move into contract renewal season. Mr. Bradshaw explained the layout of the document. He commended Amanda Ely on her work on this document.

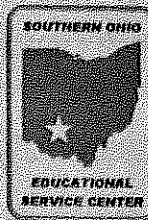
ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Mr. Hixson to adjourn to meet again in regular session on **Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 6:30 pm**, at 5350 West New Market Road, Hillsboro.


BOARD PRESIDENT


TREASURER

Southern Ohio Educational Service Center
Governing Board



Resolution

February 27, 2024

#4820

In Recognition of Roy Hill

Whereas, Roy Hill was elected to Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board of Education on January 24, 2012, and

Whereas, he has provided leadership, and loyal and dedicated service to the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center, and

Whereas, he has served as a valued board member who has given thoughtful consideration in regard to what is in the best interest of children, and

Whereas, he has resigned after 12 years of service to the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board and all employees would like to express their sincere appreciation to you and wish you the very best.

Martha Gausman

Martha Gausman, Board Member

Todd Hixson

Todd Hixson, Board Member

Dr. Norma Kirby

Norma Kirby, Board President

Rod Lane

Rod Lane, Board Member

Dennis Mount

Dennis Mount, Board Member

Richard Peck

Richard Peck, Board Member

Ruth Ann Ruth

Ruth Ann Ruth, Board Member

Linda Stepp

Linda Stepp, Board Member

Roger West

Roger West, Board Vice President

Beth Justice

Beth Justice, Superintendent

Rachel Meyer

Rachel Meyer, Treasurer