

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Monday, November 20, 2023, at 6:30 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 guests present were Curt Bradshaw and Stacia Guthrie.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA (Resolution #4768)

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

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

MINUTE APPROVAL (Resolution #4769)

It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. Mount that the October 24, 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.

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

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE

Ms. Guthrie shared a PowerPoint presentation that identified the critical roles and range of responsibilities of Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs). She said they collaborate with other professionals, universities, communities, families, and students. They also provide leadership (advocacy, supervision, mentorships, professional development). Next, she offered information on the SLP Consortium Meetings. She indicated that the meetings are provided quarterly and are based on needs with various topics (Apraxia, Autism, Ethics, etc.). The meetings are held to provide collaboration, professional development, shared experiences, and expertise. They are held at Region 14 Hopewell Center or SOESC Wilmington office. She then referenced the September – November SLP Monthly Newsletter. Each board member was provided with copies.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE (Cont.)

Lastly, Ms. Guthrie indicated that they now have a SLP Resource Library. She said the library was purchased with Extended Learning and Recovery Grant Funds and provides a variety of much-needed assessments and tools. She thanked the staff (Curt Bradshaw, Megan Thompson, Rhonda Cochran, and Rachel Meyer) who helped to get the library in place.

GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

Mr. Lane reported that the Great Oaks Board of Directors met in regular session on November 8, 2023, at the district office in Sharonville. He reported the following items of interest:

- The meeting started with a moment of silence in honor of GO board member Carole Ellis and longtime GO President and CEO Harold Carr. Mrs. Ellis has served on the board off and on since 1980, representing the Mt. Healthy Board. Dr. Carr was hired by GO Superintendent Gene Kavanaugh (the Wilmington ESC building bears his name) in August of 1970 to help develop the four campuses from the ground up. He became President and CEO in August 1975, a position he held for 20 years.
- Mr. Snyder confirmed that Great Oaks has been approved for 6.8 million dollars in funding from the Ohio Career Technical Construction Program grant. The grant dollars are earmarked for renovation and program expansion at Laurel Oaks, enabling the addition of a second Welding and Fabrication lab, the resources to start a new EV Tech program, and funds to start the Law Enforcement program.
- You probably know that Great Oaks operates the FFA chapters in several area school districts. It was reported that 14 FFA high school graduate members from three of the Laurel Oaks attendance area high schools earned American FFA Degree recognition, including nine former students from Miami Trace, three from East Clinton, and two from Blanchester. The American FFA Degree is the highest award in FFA.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Ruth referenced a couple of items from "The Link":

Ms. Ruth indicated she has been in touch with Representative Bob Peterson regarding HB 267, which would make local school board races partisan with primary elections, inadvertently limiting the pool of highly qualified individuals from running. Doing so would limit the pool of candidates in local communities. For example, federal and state employees are prohibited from seeking partisan office." Representative Peterson indicated that we didn't need to panic as it takes some time to get a bill passed.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

DEW marches on

The lawsuit objecting to the powers of the newly created Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) reached a clarifying point near the end of October. Magistrate Jennifer Hunt ruled that the state could proceed with the education governance changes included in HB 33. This consists of the transition of power and many responsibilities from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and State Board of Education (SBOE) to DEW. Magistrate Hunt states in her decision that "the legislature has complete authority to grant, or remove, the respective powers and duties of the SBOE and the Superintendent, and the SBOE has no constitutional right to retain all the powers transferred under the challenged provisions." The decision came after many argued the state did not have such power since the SBOE gained its power through a constitutional amendment passed by Ohio voters in 1953. Gov. Mike DeWine waited a little time after the decision to announce Jessica Voltolini as the interim director of DEW. However, on November 10, 2023, Gov. Mike DeWine announced Steve Dackin as the director of DEW.

Legislature to study property taxes

The Senate and House only have three sessions scheduled for the remainder of the year, with a few "if needed" sessions to boot. This slowdown has come as a surprise after many expected property tax legislation to be quickly passed in the wake of many receiving their triennial home valuations in October.

The committee, to be made up of 5 House and 5 Senate members, is required to submit their report to the General Assembly with recommendations on reforms to Ohio property tax law by December 31, 2024. Depending on the time of their report, changes to Ohio's property tax law could be seen in the next biennial budget in the Spring of 2025.

Recently introduced legislation:

HB 311, sponsored by Reps. Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) and Justin Pizzulli (R-Scioto County) would prohibit differing ticket prices for online and cash school-affiliated events and require a student ticket to be less than an adult-priced ticket.

SB 180, sponsored by Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo), would provide unemployment benefits to striking workers and declare an emergency.

SB 181, sponsored by Sen. Shane Wilkins (R-Hillsboro), would prohibit differing ticket prices for online and cash school-affiliated events and requires a student ticket to be less than an adult-priced ticket.

SB 182, sponsored by Sen. Michele Reynolds (R-Canal Winchester), would establish the Foster-to-College Scholarship Program, require the Department of Education and Workforce to hire a full-time school foster care liaison, and make an appropriation for the Foster-to-College Scholarship Program.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (Resolution #4770)

It was moved by Dr. Kirby and seconded by Mr. Hill to take a roll call to enter into Executive Session at 6:57 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official licensee, or regulated individual unless the employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing by division (G)(1) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

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

The board returned from Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer Meyer reviewed the monthly reports with the Board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS (Resolution #4771)

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Ms. Gausman that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of \$970,668.38.

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

APPROPRIATION MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS (Resolution #4772)

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved by Mr. Hixson and seconded by Mr. West to approve the following appropriation modifications and amendments as presented.

[See Minute Page #2185 - #2186]

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

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

APPROVAL OF INVESTMENTS (Resolution #4773)

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Firm</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10/30/2023	General	Western Alliance Bank CD	10/30/25	5.400%	\$ 100,000.00
10/31/2023	General	First Foundation Bank CD	04/30/26	5.300%	\$ 100,000.00

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

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fiscal Office Update:

- **Travel Reimbursement Forms** - Board members will need to sign their travel forms. They are included in your packet. Please sign and return them to me at the board meeting. Payments will be made in December.
- **High Performing ESC** – On October 30, we received notification from Aaron Rausch, Chief of Budget and School Funding, Ohio Department of Education & Workforce, that we have been designated as a high-performing ESC. This is our eighth year with this designation. While the designation no longer provides a differentiation in state funding, ESCs can still use the designation to help client districts meet federal procurement requirements. Across the state, ESCs reported significant savings to client school districts.
- **GAAP Financial Statements:** I spoke with John Sparks of Plattenburg on November 10, and he indicated that our GAAP financial statements will be done and filed on the Auditor of State's Hinkle Filing System by the November 28 deadline.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

NOTE: Auditor of State (AOS) Hinkle Filing System: Ohio law (ORC 117.38) requires that local public offices file their annual financial reports with the AOS. Further, OAC117-2-03(B) requires all counties, cities, school districts, including educational service centers and, community schools, and government insurance pools prepare their financial report pursuant to GAAP. Unless an extension has been approved by the AOS, entities filing on a GAAP basis, have 150 days (November 30 for our ESC) following the end of their fiscal year to submit their financial statements to the AOS. An entity failing to comply with the mandated basis of accounting, and/or the filing requirements may be subject to non-compliance citations and penalties established by the ORC.

GAAP – Generally Accepted Accounting Principles - incorporates components to eliminate misleading accounting and financial reporting practices. The components create consistent accounting and reporting standards, which provide reliable methods of evaluating an organization's financial standing. Without GAAP, accountants could use misleading methods to paint a deceptive picture of an organization's financial standing.

- **Single Audit** - On October 2, 2023, I was informed by Michael Kiser, Audit Manager, from the Auditor of State's office, that our FY2023 single audit has begun. The entire fiscal team has already been providing the requested documents. You should have also received his Audit Entrance Conference Information email on October 26, 2023.
- **Ohio DEW External Audit** – On November 9, 2023, I was informed that all of our CARES Act funding will be going through a review. This encompasses four grants, and they are testing selected payroll and non-payroll expenditures. The entire fiscal team has been working to meet the November 14 deadline for the documents.

Professional Development:

- On November 15, 2023, I will attend the BWC Update webinar. This webinar will provide information about other state coverage and working out of state, the estimated annual premium, and BWC website updates.
- On November 15, 2023, I will attend the SERS Sound Bite. A refresher on how to use the Employer Website will be offered, and some FAQs will be answered.
- On November 16, 2023, I will attend the MVECA Assembly Meeting. The meeting will be held in person at the Yellow Springs office. Topics include fee discussion, project and business development updates, and staffing updates.

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

PERSONNEL CONTRACT RESIGNATION: R14/ESC (Resolution #4774)

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

R14/SOESC RESIGNATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Contract Type</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Dendinger, Tracy	ODE/AG Consultant	Certified	12/31/2023	Retirement Purposes

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

PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENTS: R14/ESC (Resolution #4775)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Mr. Hill 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)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tentative Position</u>	<u>Contract Dates</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Schedule/ Step/ Rate</u>	<u>Contract Type</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Burden, Leah	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Burris, Danielle	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Carter, Cassandra	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Hixson, Haley	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Jackson, Regina	ACOV Student Monitor	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$15.00 per hour	Classified	ACOV-Peebles Elem.

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

R14/ESC CONTRACT AGREEMENT(S) (Cont.)

Name	Tentative Position	Contract Dates	Length	Days	Degree	Schedule/ Step/ Rate	Contract Type	Comments
Maillot, Sydney	Behavioral Specialist	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	Schedule A/ Step 16 M/ \$382.06 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Quinn, Joel	Para-professional	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	Schedule M/ Step 5/ \$16.67 per hour	Classified	SOLC
Thoroman, Jennifer	Occupational Therapist	2023-2024	1 Year	121 days	Master's	Related M/ Step 2/ \$40,301.00	Certificated	
Williamson, Jordan	Occupational Therapist Assistant	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	Schedule O/ Step 0/ \$29.33 per hour	Classified	

East Clinton Local Substitutes

1. Carter, Cassandra
2. Hixson, Haley
3. Newton, Krista
4. Reiber, Carli

Great Oaks (Laurel Oaks Campus) Substitutes

1. Burden, Leah
2. Hixson, Haley
3. Reiber, Carli

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

APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL (#4776)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Ms. Ruth to approve out-of-state travel for **Curt Bradshaw** to attend the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA) Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, November 29-December 1, 2023—*cost to be covered by the ESC Extended Learning and Recovery Grant.*

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

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

APPROVAL OF DONATIONS (#4777)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Ms. Gausman and seconded by Dr. Kirby to approve the following donations as listed:

<u>Donated Item/Description</u>	<u>Donation Received from</u>	<u>Value of Donation</u>
Twelve Dozen Cinnamon Rolls	Bob Evans Family Restaurant Sherry Dutton, Area Manager 1075 Eastside Drive Wilmington, Ohio 45177	\$96.00
Nineteen Necklaces, Bracelets, and/or Earrings	Elizabeth Nichols Main Street Mall 102 West Main Street Blanchester, Ohio 45107	\$100.00
Two Bookcases, Miscellaneous Art Supplies, Fabric, and Sewing Notions	Freda Jackson (Estate) c/o Terry Jackson 215 South Supinger Street Blanchester, Ohio 45107	\$550.00
Two Pies and Paper Plates	Frisch's Big Boy 1341 Rombach Avenue Wilmington, Ohio 45177	\$20.00
Two Pies and Paper Plates	Frisch's Big Boy 1815 Columbus Avenue Washington C.H., Ohio 43160	\$20.00
Two Pies and Whipped Cream	Save-A-Lot 1151 Columbus Avenue Washington C.H., Ohio 43160	\$25.00

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

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

APPROVAL OF POLICY MANUAL (Resolution#4778)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Mr. Hixson to approve the following policy manual updates:

Policy Manual Updates:

New Regulation

ING-R Guidelines for Use of Therapy Dogs in the Classroom and on School Premises

Revised Policies

IGCF Home Education

ING Animals in the District

JEDA Truancy

JHCD Administering Medicines to Students

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

SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Justice shared the following with the Board:

1. High-Performing ESC Designation – Eighth year in a row.
2. Superintendent/Treasurer Evaluations – Return to President Peck at the December meeting.
3. December Board Meeting – Mr. & Mrs. Peck will host on December 12. Let Ms. Justice know what side you will bring by December 8.

Ms. Justice thanked those who supported the Trunk or Treat.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Hixson to adjourn to meet again in regular session on **Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the home of Rich and Bryanne Peck, 194 Heritage Woods Drive, Blanchester, 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 \$800,000.00 - 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