

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 24, 2023

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 7:00 pm for its regular monthly meeting. Members present were Ms. Gausman, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hixson, Dr. Kirby, Mr. Lane, Mr. Mount, Mr. Peck, and Ms. Ruth, along with Beth Justice, Superintendent, and Rachel Meyer, Treasurer. The guests present were Curt Bradshaw, Tim Dettwiller, and Linda Stepp.

Ms. Meyer introduced Ms. Stepp and asked her to tell a little about herself.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA (Resolution #4757)

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 #4758)

It was moved by Dr. Kirby and seconded by Ms. Gausman that the September 26, 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.

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

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

What DEW we do now?

As stated in the state's biennial budget, House Bill (HB) 33, the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) would be established as a cabinet-level department with a director who would report directly to the governor. DEW was set to be partially phased in beginning October 3, 2023. Once operational, DEW would absorb much of the power and responsibilities previously held by the State Board of Education (SBOE). This was a major concern when the idea to create DEW was considered since the SBOE is established and deemed necessary in the Ohio Constitution. One DEW is operational; the SBOE would only be responsible for teacher licensure and territory transfers. This transition is now in limbo after a lawsuit was filed by seven members of the SBOE and a Franklin County Court of Common Pleas judge issued a temporary restraining order blocking portions of HB33 from becoming law. This temporary order was issued so that the court may review the legality of some provisions in HB 33.

The three provisions that the plaintiffs argue violate the Ohio Constitution are:

- Adding education policy to the budget violated the single-subject rule that says laws can't be about more than one topic.
- The "education takeover" provisions in HB 33 didn't get three considerations required.
- Ohioans voted to create the board in 1953, giving it certain core powers that the legislature can't take away.

State Report Cards

Just before the lawsuit on the future of the SBOE and DEW kicked off, ODE released the highly anticipated state report cards for the 2022-23 school year. Though student proficiency levels have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, they continue to rise. Increased proficiency was seen among all subgroups of students in English language arts and math, but there are still large disparities between some subgroups. The lowest achievement levels were seen for students with disabilities, Hispanic students, and black students, with the disparities for the subgroups growing wider than they were pre-pandemic.

In addition to approving proficiency among every group of students, the state saw improvements in decreasing chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism is still a concern at 26.8%, but there is optimism, with the rate decreasing by 3.4% since last year.

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TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fiscal Office Update:

- Amanda Ely and I sent out the second invoices of the year for services provided by the ESC and Hopewell. They were emailed to Treasurers on October 6th.
- The Treasurer Roundtable that we hosted on September 27th was a success. We had sixteen in attendance. We have others scheduled for October 31st and December 6th. On October 31st, we will have Elena Sanders, Financial Manager from the Office of Budget and School Funding. She will walk our treasurers through the current funding formula and answer any questions they may have.
- I mentioned last month that I have been working with Alleyn Unversaw of 4U School Solutions to look at our services to see if we can improve our service/billing models. I also mentioned that the Southern Ohio Learning Center is one of the services we're looking at. We developed a survey that went out to district special education coordinators on October 6th. I asked for it to be returned by October 31st. I look forward to their feedback. It may allow us to change or add something they need to utilize this service.

Professional Development:

- On October 10, 2023, I attended the Legal Updates held at Region 14/Hopewell Center. This session focused on FMLA, HB 33, Resident Educator Program Updates, required training for coaches, and other important legal updates.
- On October 25, 2023, I will attend an OULP Seminar at the Pike County Career Center. Aaron Rausch, Director of the Office of Budget and School Funding from the Ohio Department of Education, will provide updates on School Finance and Legislation.
- On October 26, 2023, I will attend the BWC Employer Update Webinar. This month, there will be a discussion around cost control strategies, important dates, and monthly safety tips will be provided.

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APPROVAL OF CONTRACT SERVICE(S) (#4763)

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

SERVICE CONTRACT(S)

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Purchase Order</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ohio School Boards Association	2240380	Web Policy-Based Conversion Services	11/01/23- 10/31/24	\$1,540.00

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

APPROVAL OF SATH MEMBERSHIP (#4764)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Ms. Gausman that the board continues membership in Supplemental Assistance to the Handicapped, Inc. (SATH) for the 2023-24 school year at the cost of \$500.00.

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

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APPROVAL OF POLICY MANUAL (Resolution#4767)

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

Policy Manual Updates:

New Policy

GBCC Staff Dress and Grooming

Rescinded Regulation

IGCF-R Home Schooling

Revised Policies

BBFA Board Member Conflict of Interest

DJB Petty Cash Accounts

GBG Staff Participation in Political Activities

GBI Staff Gifts and Solicitations

GCB-1 Certified Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans

GCE Part-Time and Substitute Certified Staff Employment

GCPD Suspension and Termination of Certified Staff Members

IGCF Home Education (~~Schooling~~)

IIA Instructional Materials

JEDA Truancy

JHCD Administering Medicines to Students

JN Student Fees, Fines and Charges

KI Public Solicitations in the Schools

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

