

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MARCH 26, 2024

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. for its regular monthly meeting. Members present were Ms. Gausman, Mr. Hixson, Dr. Kirby, Mr. Lane, Mr. Mount, Mr. Peck, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Stepp, and Mr. West, along with Beth Justice, Superintendent, and Rachel Meyer, Treasurer. The guests present were Curt Bradshaw and Mark Ewing.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA (Resolution #4830)

It was moved by Mr. Hixson and seconded by Mr. Peck 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 #4831)

It was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Mr. Lane that the February 27, 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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Mark Ewing, OSBA Southwest Regional Manager, presented Ms. Gausman with a certificate for ten years of board service. Mr. Ewing also thanked Ms. Gausman for her service.

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE

Mr. Bradshaw provided information on the CALM App. Two handouts (How to redeem the free calm subscription and how to invite dependents) were referenced during this presentation, and he briefly shared highlights of the app and how staff are currently using it. The app offers a wide variety of tools and formats that are available anytime or anywhere.

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MARCH 26, 2024

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE (Cont.)

The following content is available to staff via the premium subscription:

- Kids
- Music
- For Work
- Movement
- Sleep
- Mediations
- Wisdom

Mr. Bradshaw further explained that the CALM App was chosen for our staff because mental health is essential to everyone's overall well-being. Everyone then participated in a One Minute Breathe Bubble exercise, one of the available tools with the subscription. Lastly, Mr. Bradshaw went over how to get the CALM app on a device, whether it be a laptop, desktop, or mobile.

GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

The Great Oaks Board met on March 13, 2024, at the Live Oaks Career Campus to celebrate the renovation project. Mr. Lane was unable to attend that meeting but distributed the following highlights from Mr. Christopher Pinelo, Great Oaks Community Relations/Education Foundation Strategist:

Awards and Honors

Great Oaks Board members received honors at the Ohio School Board Association Southwest Region Spring Conference, and Great Oaks was recognized with the Gold Level as an effective school board.

- OSBA STAR Awards for Service: Amber Ballard and Mary Cleveland; for Training: Amber Ballard, Bill Ferguson, Sandy Harrod, and Fred Hunt
- Veteran Board Members recognition, Great Oaks: Terry Gibson (20 years), Rod Lane (15 years), Bill Ferguson (15 years), Al Long (10 years)

Open House, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, and Board meeting at Live Oaks Career Campus

Prior to the board meeting, an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Live Oaks Career Campus following a multi-year, \$38 million renovation project. More than 400 attendees celebrated the new space, highlighting natural lighting and welcoming vistas, improved academic and career tech classrooms, and ample collaboration space. The Culinary Arts & Hospitality Services students provided a delicious meal that received rave reviews.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MARCH 26, 2024

GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT (Cont.)

Career Technical Education Grants for Affiliate School Districts

Reading City Schools will receive a Career Technical Education grant from the State of Ohio of \$1,962,000, and Deer Park Community School District will receive \$811,600. These transformative grants will enable both districts to reconfigure existing spaces into innovative areas to significantly bolster the school's career technical education initiatives and support work-based learning.

ACTE National Policy Seminar

Great Oaks will be well represented at the upcoming National Policy Seminar on March 17-20, 2024, in Washington, D.C. Board members Mary Cleveland, Terry Gibson, JB Stamper, and Bill Ferguson will join Great Oaks administrators and students advocating for Career Tech Education with government officials.

2024-2025 Great Oaks Student Handbook

The Board votes to approve the 2024-2025 Great Oaks Student Handbook presented by the Planning and Policy Committee.

Laurel Oaks Phase 2 Construction

The Board voted to approve the schematic construction design for the Laurel Oaks Expansion Project – Phase 2, as presented by the Building and Assets Committee. Since this project is partially funded through the Career Tech Construction Grant, Great Oaks must submit the plan to the OFCC for review and accept it through a board resolution. This is the first of 2 reviews for Phase 2.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

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

March Madness for GOP Primaries

With the March 19 primary quickly approaching, members of the Ohio House of Representatives have returned to their districts for one final push. This primary season in Ohio is a bit more complicated than usual since the current Speaker of the Ohio House and current Senate President are maneuvering for power in the next General Assembly.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MARCH 26, 2024

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

Speaker Jason Stephens gained his title in January 2023 after some political maneuverings that allowed him to be elected Speaker of the Republican controlled House with only 21 of his 66 Republican colleagues voting for him and 32 Democrat House members. Stephens' ascension to the role of Speaker of the House was immediately followed by a power struggle, with the portion of the House Republican caucus that did not support him, over campaign finance and legislation.

The power struggle has carried on and is now at a tipping point as candidates backed by opponents of Speaker Stephens are looking to unseat many of the current Republican House members who support him.

This battle between current Senate President Matt Huffman and Speaker Jason Stephens has even boiled over in the legislature as both chambers push to pass their bills containing portions of the Capital Budget, which funds Ohio's infrastructure projects, including school facility programs for the construction and renovation of public K-12 schools. This is not the first time the chamber leaders have sparred over funding for public education. During the state's budget process, the House proposed more funding for traditional school districts while expanding EdChoice vouchers for those at 400% of the federal poverty level. The Senate proposed a smaller amount for traditional school districts while making EdChoice vouchers essentially available to all. After the conference committee process, the House got its traditional school district funding level while the Senate got its EdChoice voucher expansion. Regardless, the priorities of both leaders were marked as it pertains to school funding.

Recently Introduced Legislation

- HB 411, sponsored by Rep. Joseph A. Miller III (D-Amherst), would increase the base teacher salary to \$50,000.

Lastly, Mrs. Ruth indicated she will reach out to Adam Bird, State Representative, for additional updates to share at future board meetings. Mr. Bird is the State Representative for 63rd Ohio District, which includes northeastern and southeastern portions of Clermont County and western portions of Brown County.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MARCH 26, 2024

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (Resolution #4832)

It was moved by Mr. West and seconded by Ms. Stepp to take a roll call to enter into Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. 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 Ms. Gausman, Mr. Hixson, Dr. Kirby, Mr. Lane, Mr. Mount, Mr. Peck, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Stepp, and Mr. West.

The board returned from Executive Session at 8:13 p.m.

The board members wished Ms. Justice a Happy Birthday and sang to her.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer Meyer reviewed the monthly reports with the Board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS (Resolution #4833)

It was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Mr. Mount that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of \$1,004,842.28.

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

APPROPRIATIONS MODIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS (Resolution #4834)

It was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Ms. Stepp to approve the following appropriation modifications and amendments as presented at the meeting.

[See Minute Page #2239 - #2240]

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

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MARCH 26, 2024

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 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.

B. Fiscal Office Update:

- We are planning for services for the 2024-2025 school year so that I can prepare cost estimates for member school districts, including Region 14.
- Amanda began assisting Lynchburg-Clay Local with payroll transition training on March 12th. She has assisted Lynchburg in the past, as well as Clinton-Massie and Blanchester, with this service.
- On March 21st we will host a Treasurer Roundtable in conjunction with Alleyn Unversaw of 4U School Solutions. Two Area Coordinators from Ohio DEW will take us through how to report Threshold Costs, formerly catastrophic costs. District Special Educational Coordinators were also invited to attend. This roundtable will be held at Hopewell.
- Michael Kiser, Audit Manager, indicated that our FY2023 audit will be released on March 21st.

C. Professional Development:

- On March 12th, I attended the BWC Employer Update Webinar. This month's discussion topics included OHID for employers, the cost of a claim, important dates, and monthly safety tips.
- On March 19th, Amanda and I will attend two educational sessions offered by the Southwestern Ohio EPC: ACA Budget Wreckers-Compliance Review and FSH/HRA/HSA – Bringing Clarity to Reimbursement Accounts. These sessions will be held at the Miami Valley CTC.

NOTE: The Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council (EPC) is a council of governments with over 50 years of shared services experience pooling the purchasing power of Ohio School Districts. Member districts benefit from the EPC's ability to aggregate volumes of goods and services, including health insurance. We participate in the health insurance pool for medical, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits.

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MARCH 26, 2024

APPROVAL OF RESIGNATIONS: R14/ESC (Resolution #4835)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Ms. Gausman and seconded by Mr. Lane 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> |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Jackson, Regina | Student Monitor | Classified | 03-04-2024 | |
| Leasure, Vickey | School Counselor | Retired Certificated | 05-25-2024 | |
| Music, Monica | SST Consultant | Certificated | 05-29-2024 | |

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

PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENTS: R14/ESC (Resolution #4836)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Ms. Stepp and seconded by Ms. Gausman 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> |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Barlow, Greg | State Support Team Consultant | 2023-2024 | 1 Year | 5 days | Master's | MA B/ Step 10/ \$334.684 per diem | Supplemental | 5 days; per timesheet |
| Collins, Shawna | Home Instruction | 2023-2024 | 1 Year | As Needed | Bachelor's + | B+ A/ Step 1/ \$32.51 per hour | Supplemental | per timesheet |
| Dietrich, Ashley | State Support Team Consultant | 2023-2024 | 1 Year | 5 days | Master's | MA B/ Step 7/ \$304.088 per diem | Supplemental | 5 days; per timesheet |
| Kirk, Alexis | Early Learning & School Readiness Consultant | 2023-2024 | 1 Year | 8 days | Master's | MA B/ Step 21/ \$395.887 per diem | Supplemental | 8 days; per timesheet |

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MARCH 26, 2024

R14/ESC CONTRACT AGREEMENT(S)

| Name | Tentative Position | Contract Dates | Length | Days | Degree | Schedule/ Step/ Rate | Contract Type | Comments |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------|-----------|-----------------------|---|---------------|------------------------|
| Mead, Linda | OIP Lead Consultant | 2023-2024 | 1 Year | 5 days | Master's | MA B/ Step 21/ \$395.887 per diem | Supplemental | 5 days; per timesheet |
| Mickey, Debbie | SST Early Literacy Specialist | 2023-2024 | 1 Year | 10 days | Master's | MA B/ Step 18/ \$385.684 per diem | Supplemental | 10 days; per timesheet |
| Pierson, Jennifer | State Support Team Consultant | 2023-2024 | 1 Year | 10 days | Master's | MA B/ Step 17/ \$385.684 per diem | Supplemental | 10 days; per timesheet |
| Reno, Julia | ACOV Student Monitor | 2023-2024 | 1 Year | As Needed | No Degree on Schedule | No Schedule/ No Step/ \$15.00 per hour | Classified | Peebles HS |
| Reynolds, Michael "Brad" | Substitute Teacher | 2023-2024 | 1 Year | As Needed | No Degree on Schedule | No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem | Certificated | SOLC |
| Royalty, Jeff | Region 14 Director | 2023-2024 | 1 Year | 5 days | Master's | MA B/ Step 10/ \$334.684 per diem | Supplemental | 5 days; per timesheet |
| Shiltz, Kelly | Substitute Teacher | 2023-2024 | 1 Year | As Needed | No Degree on Schedule | No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem | Certificated | SOLC |

East Clinton Local Substitutes

1. Hardman, Tabitha
2. Hoffman, Aubrey
3. Luttrell, Rhylee
4. Reynolds, Michael "Brad"
5. Fair, Joni

Great Oaks (Laurel Oaks Campus) Substitutes

1. Custis, Jennifer T.
2. Reynolds, Michael "Brad"
3. Shiltz, Kelly

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

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MARCH 26, 2024

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF SEVERANCE PAY (#4837)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Mr. Mount to approve the retirement severance payout for:

Linda Mead at the daily rate of $\$395.887 \times 35 \text{ days} = \$13,856.05$ to be paid upon evidence of retirement, effective June 28, 2024, per board policy GCPCA and GCPCA-R.

(Actual number of sick days will be used in calculation upon receipt of evidence of retirement)

Resignation was approved at the January 16, 2024, board meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF SEVERANCE PAY (#4838)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Mr. Hixson to approve the retirement severance payout for:

Mary Jean Butler at the daily rate of $\$416.692 \times 32.44 \text{ days (estimated days through May 31, 2024)} = \$13,517.49$ to be paid upon evidence of retirement, effective May 24, 2024, per board policy GCPCA and GCPCA-R.

(Actual number of sick days will be used in calculation upon receipt of evidence of retirement)

Resignation was approved at the January 16, 2024, board meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF SOUTHERN OHIO ESC/REGION 14 WORK CALENDAR (#4839)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Ms. Gausman and seconded by Ms. Ruth to approve the work calendar for FY 2025 as presented for Southern Ohio ESC/Region 14.

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

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MARCH 26, 2024

APPROVAL OF DONATIONS (#4840)

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

| <u>Donated Item/Description</u> | <u>Donation Received from</u> | <u>Value of Donation</u> |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 72 Book Bins for SOLC Library | Curt Bradshaw 221 Gurneyville Road Wilmington, Ohio 45177 | \$96.00 |

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. Finance Committee – Insurance rates will not be available until May; plan for work session TBD.
2. Franklin B. Walter All-Scholastic Award – 04/15/2024, Ms. Justice will attend.
3. Exceptional Achievement Award – 04/25/24, at Hillsboro HS, reception at 6:00 p.m., ceremony at 7:00 p.m.
4. SOESC Governing Board Directory – Please review and notify us of changes.
5. Hopewell Center Updates – Mr. Osborne and Mr. Walls have added two TVs and outlets on the floors of conference room A. Please provide any feedback to Mr. Osborne.
6. MVECA Board of Directors – There is a legal issue with a contractor contacting board members. MVECA feels all will be resolved without issue.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hixson and seconded by Mr. Peck to adjourn to meet again in regular session on **Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**, at 3321 Airborne Road, Wilmington, Ohio.



BOARD PRESIDENT



TREASURER