MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2026

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Region 14/Hopewell Center, in Highland County, for its regular monthly meeting. Members present were Dr. Kirby, Mr. Lane, Mr. Peck, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Stepp, and Mr. West, along with Curt Bradshaw, Superintendent, and Rachel Meyer, Treasurer. The guests present were Casey Enochs and Pam Sebastian.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA **(Resolution #5139)**

It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. Peck to approve the agenda as revised.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

MINUTE APPROVAL **(Resolution #5140)**

It was moved by Dr. Kirby and seconded by Ms. Ruth that the February 24, 2026, meeting minutes be approved as presented.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

The meeting was open for public participation. None received.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT RECOMMENDATION: ADDITIONAL VACATION DAYS **(Resolution #5141)**

It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. Peck to approve an addendum to the Assistant Superintendent's contract to allow for an additional 10 vacation days per year, effective August 1, 2025.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2026

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE

Ms. Sebastian provided a summary of the services offered by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Team:

- Four Teachers of the Deaf (including Ms. Sebastian and two provided through an agreement with Butler County ESC). Services are delivered both directly and through consultation, with one teacher providing services via Zoom.
- One audiologist who, in addition to providing audiology services, maintains equipment (including cochlear implants and hearing aids), manages warranties, and coordinates repairs.
- Four interpreters.
- Three substitute interpreters.

She also reviewed each staff member's caseload figures. Additionally, Ms. Sebastian shared that she has been working with a student teacher from Shawnee State University's Teacher of the Deaf program and is hopeful the individual may be interested in future employment with the ESC.

GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

Mr. Lane shared that the Great Oaks Board met at the Diamond Oaks campus on March 11, 2026. The following report from that meeting may be of interest to you:

- Great Oaks will attend the National Policy Seminar from March 23-26, 2026, in Washington, D.C. Student representatives from each campus will attend alongside members of the Great Oaks Leadership Team. During their time there, they will meet with Congressmen and Senators from our area and state to advocate for Career Technical Education.
- Last month, I reported that the number of students seeking enrollment for 2026-27 exceeded available openings in several career areas. Per requirements, a number was assigned to each student, and a random drawing was held to determine who would receive placement in the oversubscribed programs. Student notification of program acceptance will be made by the end of this month.
- Construction at the Diamond and Scarlet Oaks campuses is on schedule. Space for additional programs at these campuses should be completed before the 2026-27 school year begins. You may recall that both the Laurel and Live Oaks campuses have added classroom space in the past two years.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

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March 24, 2026

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

The February 2026 issue of "The Link" was disseminated to board members.

Ms. Ruth reviewed the following points:

- **House Bill (HB) 10,** which would require public school boards of education and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) to adopt policies prohibiting the purchase of "cultivated-protein food" products or food "misbranded as a meat or egg product".
- **HB 114**, which would alter the age requirements for kindergarten admission and hold harmless students affected by a scoring error on the biology end-of-course assessment during the 2024-25 school year.
- **HB 124,** which would modify the process for property tax sale assessment ratio studies.
- **HB 129,** which would include certain property tax levies in the calculation of a school district's effective millage floor.
- **HB 184**, this act makes corrections to previous capital and main operating budgets.
- **HB 186,** which would cap tax growth for districts on the 20-mill floor to inflation through a retroactive tax credit and provide funds to reimburse school districts for some losses in 2026 and 2027.
- **HB 309**, which would allow county budget commissions (CBC) to reduce millage on certain voter-approved tax levies, excluding debt levies, if they find it necessary or prudent to do so.
- **HB 335,** which would cap the inflationary growth on all inside millage beginning in tax year 2026.

Each of these acts will become effective law on March 20, 2026.

In the General Assembly

Gov. DeWine, Senate Finance Chairman **Jerry Cirino** (R-Kirtland), and House Finance Chairman **Brian Stewart** (R-Ashville) confirmed this week that the biennial capital budget process is officially underway. Administrative agencies are working to prepare their requests for the legislature, including the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, which allocates state funding for public school district facilities projects. In addition to funding projects for state agencies, the legislature can advance bond-eligible projects that the public desires in their communities. The House and Senate have agreed on a March 12 deadline to accept capital budget applications from their legislative districts. Both chambers have expressed their intent to pass the capital budget before June.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

The Senate adopted **House Continuing Resolution (HCR) 22** with a vote of 32-0. This resolution encourages students in grades one through 12 to read the U.S. Declaration of Independence in the classroom during the 2025-26 school year in celebration of its 250th anniversary.

The chamber also passed **HB 500** with a vote of 91-0. This bill would designate a bill offered by a school district as a career-technical education program. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Other bills moving this month include:

- **HB 25,** the "Fostering School Success Act", passed out of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee. Among other things, this bill requires each school district, community school, and STEM school to designate a local foster care education liaison and a building staff member to serve as the primary points of contact to support students placed in foster care that attend that school. The bill requires each public school to post the contact information for these navigators on the school's publicly available website and for ODEW, in partnership with the Department of Children and Youth, to create annual training materials for these navigators.

Recently Introduced Legislation

- **HB 643** – Would limit the EdChoice expansion scholarship to families with a federal adjusted gross income of $500,000 or less.
- **HB 649** – To require video surveillance of child care centers, to establish an online portal for tracking child care center attendance, to require investigations of waste, fraud, and abuse allegations relating to providers of publicly funded child care, and to name this act the Child Care Fraud Prevention Act.
- **HB 661** – Would prohibit a middle or high school athlete from earning compensation from the athlete's name, image, or likeness.
- **HB 711** – Would change the minimum teacher salary schedule.
- **House Continuing Resolution (HCR) 34** – Would urge Congress to dismantle the United States Department of Education.

Senate Continuing Resolution (SCR) 16 – Would urge Congress to dismantle the United States Department of Education.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer, Ms. Meyer, reviewed the monthly reports with the board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS **(Resolution #5142)**

It was moved by Dr. Kirby and seconded by Mr. West that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of $928,418.09.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF OMNI & TSACG COMPLIANCE SERVICES AS THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR **(Resolution #5143)**

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Ms. Ruth to approve OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services to serve as Southern Ohio ESC's third-party administrator to provide administrative and compliance services for Southern Ohio ESC's 403(b) and 457(b) retirement plans, including the OASBO 457 deferred Compensation plan.

A roll call vote was taken. The board members present and voted yes were Dr. Kirby, Mr. Lane, Mr. Peck, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Stepp, and Mr. West. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

APPROPRIATION MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS **(Resolution #5144)**

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

[See Minute Page #2575 - #2576]

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2026

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Financial Disclosure Forms – Due May 15, 2026

- If you would like a form, please let me know. Otherwise, forms may be completed and submitted online.

Fiscal Office Update

- We are currently planning and gathering information for the **2026–2027 school year** to prepare cost estimates for our member districts, including those receiving services through the **Hopewell Special Education Cooperative Agreement.**

- On **March 18,** we will host a **Treasurer Roundtable at Hopewell.** Two Area Coordinators from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) will review how to report **Threshold Costs** (formerly known as catastrophic costs). District Special Education Coordinators are also invited to attend.

Professional Development

- On **February 24,** I met with **Sarah Simpson, Vice President of Trust and Investment Services at People's Bank,** to review our investment portfolio.

- On **March 26,** I will attend the **BWC Employer Update Webinar.** Discussion topics include the *Better You, Better Ohio!* health and wellness program, the Risk Management Essentials program, important dates, and the monthly safety tip.

- On **March 26,** I will attend the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council (EPC) and Hunter Consulting Group Safety Training Seminar. This training is being offered to help group members meet their annual safety training requirements and increase awareness of state safety regulations.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2026

APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION(S): R14/ESC **(Resolution #5145)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Dr. Kirby and seconded by Mr. Lane to approve the resignation(s) of the following personnel:

R14/SOESC RESIGNATION(S)

Name	Position	Contract Type	Effective Date	Comments
Enochs, Robert	Fayette County Workforce Development Coordinator	Classified	06-30-2026	
Mickey, Debbie	SST Early Literacy Consultant	Certificated	05-29-2026	Retirement
Range, Kimberly	Itinerant Teacher for Visually Impaired	Certificated	05-29-2026	Retirement
Wellman, Shelly	Gifted Intervention Specialist	Certificated	06-02-2026	Retirement

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENT(S): R14/ESC **(Resolution #5146)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Ms. Ruth that the board approves employment contracts for the following personnel subject to the provision of O.R.C. §3319.02, O.R.C. §3319.08 and/or O.R.C. §3319.081. All personnel are 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 and Workforce 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
Barnett, Tracy	Substitute Teacher	2025-2026	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ $135.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Hamilton, Staci	Early Childhood Intervention Specialist	2025-2026	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ $58.46 per hour	Supplemental	Home Instruction up to 5 hours per week. Paid by submitted timesheets.

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

Name	Tentative Position	Contract Dates	Length	Days	Degree	Schedule/ Step/ Rate	Contract Type	Comments
Rowe, Paige	Substitute Teacher	2025-2026	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ $135.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Tong, Caleb	Substitute Teacher	2025-2026	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ $135.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Villars, Teena	Substitute Interpreter for the Hearing Impaired	2025-2026	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	Schedule L/ Step 3/ $24.67 per hour	Substitute Classified	Per submitted timesheets

East Clinton Local Substitutes

1. Lawrence, Enijah
2. Rowe, Paige
3. Six, Matthew
4. Tong, Caleb

Great Oaks (Laurel Oaks Campus) Career Campus Substitutes

1. Lobser, Roseann
2. Rowe, Paige
3. Tong, Caleb

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

RESOLUTION TO EXTEND BWC LEAVE **(Resolution #5147)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. West to extend the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) leave for **Olivia Rask** from 03/01/2026 through 04/13/2026, per MEDCO-14 form.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2026

APPROVAL OF SOUTHERN OHIO ESC/REGION 14/HOPEWELL CENTER WORK CALENDAR **(Resolution #5148)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Dr. Kirby and seconded by Mr. West to approve the work calendar for FY 2027 as presented for Southern Ohio ESC/ Region 14/ Hopewell Center.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF REDUCTION IN FORCE **(Resolution #5149)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Mr. Peck to approve a reduction in force pursuant to Section 3319.172 of the Ohio Revised Code and board policy GDPA for the following personnel:

REDUCTION IN FORCE

Name	Position	Contract Type	Contracted Days	Effective Date
Villars, Teena	Educational Interpreter	Classified	179 days	3/27/2026

A roll call vote was taken. The board members present and voted yes were Dr. Kirby, Mr. Lane, Mr. Peck, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Stepp, and Mr. West. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

March 24, 2026

SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Bradshaw shared the following with the board:

1. SOESC Leadership Cabinet (March 17, 2026) – At Hopewell. The next meeting is in April.
2. Superintendent Network Meeting (March 27, 2026) – At Wilmington office. The Teaching and Learning Team will present.
3. Spring 2026 MVECA Assembly Meeting (April 9, 2026) – Mr. Bradshaw plans to attend.
4. 2026 OESCA Franklin B. Walter All-Scholastic Awards Program (April 13, 2026) – Mr. Bradshaw will attend. First State Bank will offer scholarships to the recipients.
5. OESCA Superintendent Retreat (April 13-14, 2026) – Mr. Bradshaw will attend.
6. Quarter 4 SOESC/Ennis Britton Legal Updates Seminar (April 17, 2026) – Will be held at the Wilmington office.
7. Region 14 Exceptional Achievement Awards (April 23, 2026) – All invited to attend. To be held at Hillsboro High School.
8. 2026 SOESC Tri-County Board Celebration: An Evening of Excellence in Action (May 13, 2026) – At Laurel Oaks. RSVP to Stephanie Huber.
9. 2026 SOESC Partners Picnic (June 10, 2026) – Southern Ohio ESC will host, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Wilmington office. District leaders and building administrators will be invited to attend. Board members are invited and should let Mr. Bradshaw know if they can attend and help out in any way.
10. District Presentations/Highlights – Board members asked to consider inviting district Superintendents to provide an update to our Board on what's happening in their districts. Mr. West brought this idea to our Board after attending a Bright Local presentation by Mr. Iles. Mr. Bradshaw will contact Mr. Iles to see if he would like to provide his presentation to our Board during the Shared Expertise section of the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. West and seconded by Mr. Peck to adjourn to meet again in regular session on April 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at Southern Ohio ESC, 3321 Airborne Road, Wilmington, Ohio.

BOARD PRESIDENT

TREASURER

SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FY 2026 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS

FUND	OBJECT	SCC	DESCRIPTION	FY2025 APPROP	July	August	September	November	December	January	February	March	TOTAL ACCOUNT
							GENERAL FUND						
001	100	0000	SALARIES	$ 3,472,431.00	$ 93,405.00	$ 62,250.00		$ 102,460.00					$ 3,730,546.00
001	200	0000	FRINGE BENEFITS	$ 1,867,916.79	$ 38,626.00	$ 33,537.00		$ 24,762.00					$ 1,964,843.79
001	400	0000	PURCHASED SERVICES	$ 763,544.18	$ 500.00		$ 1,000.00	$ 1,200.00		$ 1,583.02			$ 767,827.20
001	500	0000	SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	$ 86,816.00			$ 1,000.00	$ 1,500.00					$ 89,316.00
001	600	0000	CAPITAL OUTLAY	$ 33,000.00									$ 33,000.00
001	800	0000	OTHER OBJECTS	$ 103,719.74				$ 0.50			$ 4,250.00		$ 107,970.24
001	900	0000	CONTINGENCIES / TRANSFERS	$ 2,305,000.00									$ 2,305,000.00
			GENERAL FUND TOTAL										$ 8,998,503.23
							OTHER FUNDS						
001		9050	TERMINATION / RETIREMENT BENEFITS FUND	$ 27,382.50	$ 35,000.00								$ 62,382.50
007		0000	UNCLAIMED FUNDS	$ 297.49									$ 297.49
008		9271	WADDELL FUND	$ 53,300.00									$ 53,300.00
019		9908	HIGHLAND COUNTY MICRO INTERNSHIPS STIPENDS FY26 F	$ -		$ 2,000.00							$ 2,000.00
022		9245	HOPEWELL CUSTODIAL FUND	$ 5,830,948.00									$ 5,830,948.00
022		9500	D.A.R.E. CUSTODIAL FUND	$ 22,973.58									$ 22,973.58
451		9424	K12 NETWORK SUBSIDY	$ 1,800.00									$ 1,858.28
499		9017	STATE SUPPORT TEAM FY25 FUND	$ 3,228.52								$ 58.28	$ 3,228.52
499		9018	STATE SUPPORT TEAM FY26 FUND	$ 115,140.50									$ 115,140.50
499		9708	STUDENT ASSESSMENT FY25 FUND	$ 6,262.34									$ 6,262.34
499		9709	STUDENT ASSESSMENT FY26 FUND	$ 13,344.32									$ 13,344.32
499		9861	ATTORNEY GENERAL SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT FY25 FUND	$ 2,500.00									$ 2,500.00
516		9234	IDEA PART B FY25 FUND	$ 70,160.42									$ 70,160.42
516		9235	IDEA PART B FY26 FUND	$ 1,281,694.00									$ 1,281,694.00
516		9818	PARENT MENTOR FY25 FUND	$ 1,042.02									$ 1,042.02
516		9819	PARENT MENTOR FY26 FUND	$ 25,000.00									$ 25,000.00
516		9920	EARLY LITERACY SSIP (IDEA) FY25 FUND	$ 6,479.27									$ 6,479.27
516		9921	EARLY LITERACY SSIP (IDEA) FY26 FUND	$ 89,880.00									$ 89,880.00
587		9516	EARLY LEARNING DISCRETIONARY FY25 FUND	$ 5,957.34									$ 5,957.34
587		9517	EARLY LEARNING DISCRETIONARY FY26 FUND	$ 75,993.02									$ 75,993.02
587		9607	EARLY LITERACY SSIP FY25 FUND	$ 1,696.86									$ 1,696.86
587		9608	EARLY LITERACY SSIP FY26 FUND	$ 27,000.00									$ 27,000.00
599		9511	SPDG MTSS-LITERACY FY25 FUND	$ 738.55									$ 738.55
599		9512	SPDG MTSS-LITERACY FY26 FUND	$ 20,000.00				$ 20,000.00					$ 40,000.00
			OTHER FUNDS TOTAL										$ 7,739,877.01
			Monthly Appropriation Changes		$ 167,533.00	$ 97,787.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 129,922.50	$ -	$ 1,583.02	$ 4,250.00		
			GRAND TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS - ALL FUNDS										$ 16,738,380.24

SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FY 2026 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 $1,920,000.00
General Fund - Building Fund $350,000.00 - continue to add $25,0000 per year, budget permitting, per 6/25/19 board direction
Hopewell General Fund - Emergency Fund - $700,000.00
Hopewell General Fund - Building Fund $30,000.00 - (security system, updates, repair, etc...)
Hopewell General Fund - Termination / Retirement Benefits setaside $45,000.00

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

Termination Benefits Fund - $35,000 (completed July 2025)