MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

April 28, 2026

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Southern Ohio Educational Service Center in Clinton County, 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 Curt Bradshaw, Superintendent, and Rachel Meyer, Treasurer. The guests present were Kim Adams, Shari Murphy, and Alexis Kirk.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA **(Resolution #5150)**

It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Ms. Gausman 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 #5151)**

It was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Mr. Peck that the March 24, 2026, meeting minutes be approved as presented.

The seven board members present approved the motion with one abstention from Mr. Mount. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

The meeting was open for public participation. None received.

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE

An overview provided by the Teaching and Learning Team: Kim K. Adams, Alexis Kirk, and Shari Murphy.

Ms. Adams presented the **"Turning Priorities into Practice"** presentation to the board. She explained that this evening would be used to highlight the team's work supporting district partners. Each member of the Teaching and Learning Team introduced themselves and shared their focus areas.

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE (Cont.)

Ms. Adams then reported on new initiatives:

I-MTSS (Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports) Collaborative
Participating districts: Blanchester, Bright, Clinton-Massie, Fairfield, Miami Trace, Washington C.H.

Leadership and Innovation in the Age of AI
All school districts are required to adopt a policy on the use of AI by July 1, 2026. Participating districts: Blanchester (CoSN Pilot participant), Bright, Clinton-Massie, Fairfield, Laurel Oaks, Miami Trace, Wilmington

Ms. Kirk reported on the following:

Math Supports and Services

- *The Braided Cord: Activating Strands of Mathematical Proficiency*
  40 participants, including 7 TLT districts, 3 paying districts, and SST participation
- *Math Mind Book Study*
  Participants from 6 TLT districts and SST participation
- *Productive Math Struggle*
  Participants from 3 TLT districts, 1 paying district, and SST participation

Upcoming in June

- Math Blueprint
- Quantifying Quality in Math Class

Literacy Supports and Services

- Bright Local – CLSD (Comprehensive Literacy State Development) Grant

Ms. Murphy reported on the following:

- Literacy coaching provided at Adena Middle and High Schools
- Team support for SOLC, including curriculum development and instructional coaching

Resident Educator Coordination and Services
A total of 90 resident educators were served during the 2025–2026 school year (57 Year 1 and 33 Year 2). Participating districts: Blanchester, Bright, East Clinton, Fairfield, Greenfield, Hillsboro Christian Academy, Lynchburg-Clay, Miami Trace, Washington C.H., Wilmington

Teacher Apprenticeship Program (TAP)
An on-the-job teacher preparation program for district staff, offered in partnership with BloomBoard, Lake Erie College, SOESC, and participating school districts. There are currently four participants: three from Washington C.H. and one from Miami Trace. has completed the program.

A question-and-answer session followed.

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GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

The Great Oaks Board met on April 8, 2026, at the district offices in Sharonville. The following information may be of interest to members of the SOESC Board:

- The Great Oaks High School program was awarded a 5 Star rating by the ODEW again this year.
- Enrollment in the district's 13 satellite programs increased again this year. 11,614 students were enrolled in one or more programs offered at their home school. There were 6,963 high school students enrolled, and 4,651 middle school students enrolled.
- 1958 local district sophomores recently received acceptance letters into their first-choice program for the 2026-27 school year. The Oaks will offer 76 high school programs next year, and 63 of those programs are now at their maximum enrollment. 800 sophomore applicants could not be placed in their first-choice program and will be offered the opportunity to enroll in another program.
- Program retention at the Laurel campus this year was 92.3% to date. The district-wide retention rate was 94.8%.
- Twelve adults graduated from the Policy Academy last month, and all twelve are now employed.
- The Laurel Oaks Senior Ceremony is on May 11 at the Nutter Center.
- The next Great Oaks Board meeting is May 13.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Ruth reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday, May 5.

The April 2026 issue of "The Link" was disseminated to board members, and Ms. Ruth reviewed the following:

New coalition launches effort to explain the impact of property tax elimination. A new statewide coalition, Ohioans to Protect Public Services, has launched a coordinated educational effort to ensure Ohioans have accurate information about the real-world impact of eliminating property taxes. As part of this effort, the coalition has launched a website at www.ProtectPublicServices.org. The site contains data, fact sheets, and other resources to support informed conversations about the consequences of eliminating property taxes in Ohio.

Proponents of a constitutional amendment to eliminate property taxes in Ohio are gathering signatures across the state to place the issue before voters at the November 2026 general election. To place the issue on the ballot, they must submit at least 413,000 valid signatures from at least 44 of Ohio's 88 counties by July 1, 2026.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

There have been questions about the legality and ability of school leaders to discuss the potential ballot issue and to share materials to educate the public about the impact of eliminating property taxes. School districts and district personnel may provide neutral, factual information to the public regarding the district's finances and operations and the impact that eliminating property taxes may have on the district. Before engaging in advocacy efforts related to any constitutional amendment ballot issues, however, districts are encouraged to reach out to their board council for guidance.

Recently introduced Legislation

HB 800 – This "Preschool for All Act" would increase the rate of the sports gaming tax on certain operators, require all-day kindergarten, and establish universal preschool programs.

COSSBA federal budget update

This month, President Donald J. Trump released his FY27 federal executive budget requests. Like his FY26 budget request, he is once again proposing the consolidation of many formula and competitive grant programs from the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into a new $2 billion "Make Education Great Again" (MEGA) program, which would represent a $4.5 billion decrease in funding for the 17 consolidated programs. This proposal would create a block grant that may provide more flexibility to states and districts on how they use these funds, but, as noted above, would provide significantly less funding than currently provided. Further, unlike the FY26 block grant proposal, which had no specific federal mandates, half of the MEGA funding would be directed by the federal government: states would have to reserve 25% of their grant for supporting evidence-based literacy instruction and 25% for evidence-based mathematics instruction.

It is important to note that this is the final step in the annual appropriations process. Congress will review the request and draft its own FY27 appropriations bill when members return from their spring recess. Appropriations bills need 60 votes to pass the Senate, given the filibuster – meaning that a final appropriations bill must have bipartisan support.

Mr. West arrived at 7:06 p.m.

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APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION **(Resolution #5152)**

It was moved by Mr. Hixson and seconded by Ms. Gausman to take a roll call to enter into Executive Session at 7:47 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 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. 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 8:05 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF DEBBIE MICKEY **(Resolution #5153)**

It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Dr. Kirby to approve the resolution to recognize the retirement of Debbie Mickey on May 29, 2026.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF KIMBERLY RANGE **(Resolution #5154)**

It was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Dr. Kirby to approve the resolution to recognize the retirement of Kimberly Range on May 29, 2026.

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

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RESCIND RESIGNATION FOR RETIREMENT **(Resolution #5155)**

It was moved by Mr. West and seconded by Mr. Peck for Shelly Wellman to rescind her resignation in order to revise the ending date of employment.

Shelly Wellman previously submitted a resignation dated March 18, 2026, indicating an intent to retire effective June 2, 2026; and Shelly Wellman has since requested to rescind said resignation in order to revise the ending date, and the Southern Ohio ESC Governing Board has reviewed this request.

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS **(Resolution #5156)**

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Ms. Gausman that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of $900,317.94.

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

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fiscal Office Update

- I am currently preparing cost estimates for member school districts, including Region 14, for FY2026 and FY2027.
- On April 9, Amanda and I distributed the fifth of six invoices for SOESC and Region 14 services. One final invoice will be issued in June, following the reconciliation of all services for the school year.

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TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

Professional Development

- On April 1, I attended the STRS Coffee Break Webinar, which covered estimated payroll for state foundation employers, pay date calendars, retirement reporting, and pickup plans.
- On April 9, I attended the Spring Assembly Meeting at MVECA. An update on services, staffing, and fees was discussed.
- On April 14, I attended the STRS Employer Basics 101 webinar that focused on preparing deposit and service reports, including guidance based on employee type (full-time teacher, part-time employee, or administrator).
- Also on April 14, I attended the BWC Employer Update Webinar, which included a discussion on claim determinations, elective coverage, the Safety Council program, important dates, and a monthly safety tip.
- On April 16, I attended the Ohio Public Records Virtual Training provided by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.
- On April 17, I attended the Legal Updates Seminar at the ESC office in Wilmington. Representatives from Ennis Britton Co., LPA, will present on current legal topics of interest to the district administration.
- On April 24, I will attend the AI Policy Development Workshop at MVECA. The purpose of this workshop is to support leaders in developing a comprehensive AI Policy that meets state requirements.

APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION(S): R14/ESC **(Resolution #5157)**

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

R14/SOESC RESIGNATION(S)

Name	Position	Contract Type	Effective Date	Comments
Mason, Jaelyn	School Social Worker	Certificated	08-06-2026	
Wellman, Shelly	Gifted Intervention Specialist	Certificated	05-29-2026	Retirement

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

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RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF SHELLY WELLMAN **(Resolution #5158)**

It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. Mount to approve the resolution to recognize the retirement of Shelly Wellman on May 29, 2026.

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 #5159)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Ms. Gausman 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
Bailey, Shelley	SOLC Principal	2025-2026	1 Year	5 days	Master's	MA B/ Step 25/ $2,154.00	Supplemental	
Conarroe, Andrew	In-School Suspension Monitor	2025-2026	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule /No Step/ $34.75 per hour	Classified Substitute	Per Submitted Timesheets; Blanchester Local Schools
Douglas, Kimberly	School & Student Services Coordinator	2026-2029	3 Years	204 days	Master	MA B/ Step 25/ $87,889.00	Administrator	
Enochs, Casey	Assistant Superintendent	2026-2027	1 Year	204 days	Master	MA B/ Step 19/ $83,474.00	Administrator	
Enochs, Casey	Assistant Superintendent	2026-2027	1 Year	44 days	Master	MA B/ Step 19/ $18,004.00	Supplemental	
Enochs, Casey	Assistant Superintendent	2026-2027	1 Year	As Needed	Master's	No Schedule/ No Step/ $5,074.00	Supplemental	5% of total salary
Gehring, Megan	APE Specialist	2026-2029	3 Years	184 days	Master's	MA A/ Step 19/ $76,553.00	Administrator	

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

Name	Tentative Position	Contract Dates	Length	Days	Degree	Schedule/ Step/ Rate	Contract Type	Comments
Gehring, Megan	APE Specialist	2026-2027	1 Year	15 days	Master's	MA A/ Step 19/ $6,241.00	Supplemental	
Royalty, Jeffrey*	Region 14 SST Director	2026-2027	1 Year	204 days	Master's	MA B/ Step 10/ $72,436.00	Retired Administrator	
Royalty, Jeffrey*	Region 14 SST Director	2026-2027	1 Year	26 days	Master's	MA B/ Step 10/ $9,232.00	Supplemental	
Tolle, Kathy	Physical Therapist	2026-2027	1 Year	190 days	Master's	Related M/ Step 15/ $95,357.00	Administrator	
Vail, Tristin	Substitute Teacher	2025-2026	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ $135.00 perdiem	Certificated	SOLC
Wages, Melissa	Deaf Hard-of-Hearing Itinerant Teacher	2026-2027	1 Year	184 days	Master's	MA A/ Step 25/ $82,470.00	Certificated	
Wages, Melissa	Deaf Hard-of-Hearing Itinerant Teacher	2026-2027	1 Year	8 days	Master's	MA A/ Step 25/ $3,586.00	Supplemental	

***RETIRE/REHIRE**

East Clinton Local Substitutes

1. Carroll, Jesse
2. Ellison, Abigail
3. Vail, Tristin

Great Oaks (Laurel Oaks Campus) Career Campus Substitutes

1. Harlor, Shane
2. Vail, Tristin

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

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APPROVAL PAYMENT OF SEVERANCE PAY **(Resolution #5160)**

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

> **Debbie Mickey** at the daily rate of $420.005 x 22.89 days (estimated days through June 30, 2026) = $9,613.91 to be paid upon evidence of retirement, effective May 29, 2026, 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 3/24/26 board meeting.*

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

APPROVAL PAYMENT OF SEVERANCE PAY **(Resolution #5161)**

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

> **Kimberly Range** at the daily rate of $437.482 x 32.88 days (estimated days through August 15, 2026) = $14,384.41 to be paid upon evidence of retirement, effective May 29, 2026, 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 3/24/26 board meeting.*

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

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APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL **(Resolution #5162)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Ms. Ruth to approve out-of-state travel for **Guy Chambers,** Communications and Wellness Specialist, to attend the 2026 NAEOP Annual Conference on July 12-15, 2026, in Portland, Oregon.

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

WADDELL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS **(Resolution #5163)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. Hixson and seconded by Mr. West that the following **20** students in the Blanchester, Clinton-Massie, and East Clinton graduating class be approved as the **2026** Gaylord E. and Barbara K. Waddell Scholarship Recipients. Said scholarships shall be for one thousand dollars ($1,000.00) and be governed by the stipulations and guidelines previously established and recorded in the Clinton County Board of Education minutes.

Please keep these names confidential until graduation.

Waddell Scholarship Recipients

Blanchester	Clinton-Massie	East Clinton	
Elijah Holley	Black, Georgia	Emily Arnold	Joslyn Balon
Scot Kraft	Johnson, Dakin	Carly Bazaldua	Maxamus Gulley
Riley Ledford	George, Annalyse	Kyndra Haas	Rylee Kempton
Tobi Tedrick	Scarlett Patterson	Kami Kile	Xander Lake
Alison Trovillo	Samantha VanPelt	Peyton Lilly	Abigail Prater

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

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RESOLUTION TO EXTEND BWC LEAVE **(Resolution #5164)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Mr. Peck to extend the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) leave for **Olivia Rask** from 04/13/2026 through 06/15/2026, per MEDCO-14 form.

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

APPROVAL OF POLICY MANUAL **(Resolution #5165)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. West and seconded by Mr. Mount to approve the following policy manual updates with minor revisions:

New Policies	
EBDE	Procurement and Administration of Overdose Reversal Drugs
EFD	Misbranded Foods and Cultivated-Protein Food Products
EDEC	Artificial Intelligence
DLC	Expense Reimbursement
DLC-R	Expense Reimbursement

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

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SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Bradshaw shared the following with the board:

1. Clinton County Workforce Collaborative Job & Community Resource Fair (May 6, 2026) – Held at the Clinton County Fairgrounds.
2. Superintendent Network Meeting (May 8, 2026) – Retiring Superintendents will be recognized.
3. 2026 SOESC Tri-County Board Celebration: An Evening of Excellence in Action (May 13, 2026) – At Laurel Oaks. Working on preparations and award nominations.
4. OESCA 2026 Spring Regional Meeting (May 14, 2026) – ESC Team will be attending.
5. MVECA Board of Directors Meeting (May 21, 2026) – Mr. Bradshaw plans to attend.
6. SOESC End-of-Year Staff Meeting (May 22, 2026) – Held at Hopewell Center. Board members are invited to attend, with a tropical theme.
7. SOESC Leadership Cabinet (May 28, 2026) – Looking at job descriptions for Team Leaders.
8. 2026 SOESC Partners Picnic (June 10, 2026) – Invitations given to each Board member.
9. Exceptional Achievement Awards Banquet (April 23, 2026) – Held at Hillsboro.
10. SST Grant Agreement – Agreement has been revised four times. We are going through it and are being asked to return to ODEW by 04/30/2026. There will also be a new agreement with DCY.
11. Superintendent Search Update – Dr. Kesia McCoy will be the new Wilmington City Superintendent at Fairfield Local. Dr. McCoy is currently the Superintendent at Fairfield Local. Fairfield will do their own search to replace her.
12. Bright Local Presentation – In the process of working out the schedule for Mr. Iles to present.
13. Retiree Reception – Board members are asked to arrive at 6:30 p.m. for the next Board meeting to recognize retirees.
14. Southern State Community College – Potential use of ESC space during the spring semester for an adult physics class.

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SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

15. Shawnee State University – Mr. Bradshaw is working with Gay Lynn Shipley regarding the Literacy Practices Grant opportunity.

16. Meeting with Senator Koehler (May 21, 2026) – Mr. Bradshaw and two or three ESC Superintendents will meet with Senator Koehler regarding home education to be held at Greene County ESC.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Dr. Kirby to adjourn to meet again in regular session on May 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at Hopewell Center, 5350 West New Market Road, Hillsboro, Ohio.

BOARD PRESIDENT

TREASURER