

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 7:00 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 Jody Bailey, Greg Barlow, Summer Barnhart, Curt Bradshaw, Shawna Collins, Ashley Dietrich, Hannah Garen, Cyndi Inlow, Jason Lawson, Angela Nichols, Jennie Pierson, Ann Marie Shepard, and Angy Williams.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA (Resolution #4748)

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

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

MINUTE APPROVAL (Resolution #4749)

It was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Ms. Ruth that the August 22, 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

Mr. Bradshaw asked each new employee to introduce themselves and briefly explain their background. He also indicated of the 22 new hires, eleven are replacements, and eleven are new positions. He mentioned we are recruiting for nine additional positions, eight new and one replacement.

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GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

Mr. Lane reported that the Great Oaks Board of Directors met in regular session on September 13, 2023, at the district office in Sharonville. He reported the following items of interest:

- Great Oaks President and CEO Harry Snyder's report focused on the past, present, and future of Great Oaks. He noted that this is the 50th year all four campuses were in operation. Three pertinent pages of this report were provided to board members on current enrollment, enrollment trends, and funding.
- Mr. Lane indicated that he serves on the Administrative and Human Resources Committee and that they reviewed the district's staffing matrix, which showed 375 full-time certified associates, 102 full-time classified associates, and 327 part-time associates for a total of 804 associates, who provide services to over 21,000 school-age and 1,400 adult program participants.

Finally, Ohio School Report Cards were published by the ODE on September 15th. A copy of the Great Oaks Career Campuses' Report Card was provided to board members. The report speaks for itself in that 100% of the federal indicators were met.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

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

Some notable portions of House Bill (HB) 235 are as follows: HB 235 looks to have a fully elected 15-member state board of education (SBOE) whose districts would be the same as Ohio's congressional districts. HB 235 does not stop there as it also moves SBOE races from a nonpartisan ballot to a partisan ballot complete with primary elections. If passed, HB 235 would be fully implemented by January 1, 2027, congressional redistricting for 2026 even more important. HB 235 comes at an interesting time as the SBOE has already been stripped of much of its power with the creation of the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) in the state's biennial budget, HB 33.

In addition to partisan elections for the SBOE, new legislation was introduced this month that would make local school board races partisan as well. HB 267, introduced by Rep. Mike Loychik (R-Cortland), goes one step further than HB 235, making the SBOE and local school board races partisan with primary elections, which would inadvertently limit the pool of highly qualified individuals from running. As some legislators pursue partisan races for local school boards, OSBA has already made its position clear on the matter with OSBA Director of Legislative Services Jennifer Hogue, stating, "OSBA is opposed to any legislation that moves elections for local board of education members from the nonpartisan ballot to a partisan one or creates or provides any need for primary elections for local school board candidates. Doing so would limit the pool of candidates in local communities. For example, federal and state employees are prohibited from seeking partisan office."

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

In addition to attempts to inject party designations into school board elections, the state is also looking at school bus safety. Following the fatal accident in Clark County involving a vehicle colliding with a school bus, Gov. Mike DeWine formed the Ohio School Bus Safety Working Group, comprised of 13 governor appointees with backgrounds in transportation, education, public policy, and medical research. The working group is tasked with examining topics such as:

- School bus regulations;
- School bus design, maintenance, inspections;
- Driver licensing, certification, and training;
- School bus safety technology;
- Crash risk factors;
- Lessons learned from other school bus accidents;
- Alternative transportation and associated risks;
- School bus seat belts;
- Safety of special populations;
- Critical incident protocol.

In their first meeting, the group was informed that since 2018, there have been more than 6,000 crashes involving school buses in the state of Ohio. Those crashes account for less than 1% of all automobile crashes in the state over that time. Ohio's senior senator, Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland), has even waded into school bus safety as his office recently announced legislation to enact federal seat belt requirements for buses. Gov. DeWine said the working group is aware of the proposed federal legislation but does not want the working group to wait for a federal law that may never come. The governor is hopeful that the group will have its recommendations for Ohio state officials by the end of the year.

Recently introduced legislation:

HB 267. Sponsored by Rep. Loychik (R-Cortland), would provide for primary elections for state and school district board of education members and move the election for state and school district board members from the nonpartisan ballot.

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FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer Meyer reviewed the monthly reports with the Board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS (Resolution #4750)

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Dr. Kirby that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of \$900,655.50.

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

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fiscal Office Update

- Plattenburg is well underway with our GAAP conversion. They began in July, and we are working to get them any needed documents to complete the conversion.
- I have been working on completing final expenditure reports for ESC and Hopewell grants that ended June 30, 2023. The reports are due September 30th.
- 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. One of the services we're looking at is the Southern Ohio Learning Center. We are going to survey district special education directors for feedback. It may allow us to change or add something they need to utilize this service.

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TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

Professional Development:

- On September 6, 2023, I attended the STRS Employer Basics 101 webinar. This webinar provided information on employer pick up.
- On September 13, 2023, I attended the EPC Open Enrollment meeting. Topics discussed included open enrollment guidelines, Benelogic enrollment system, Wellness Program Preview, and legal considerations.
- On September 27, 2023, we will host a Treasurer Roundtable at our Wilmington location. Topics include State Funding Formula, Property Revaluations, Tracking Catastrophic and Excess Costs, Redesign Software, Reconciling Issues, and planning for future roundtable dates.
- On September 28, 2023, John Sparks from Plattenburg will be at our office for a GAAP on-site visit.
- On September 28, 2023, I will attend the BWC Employer Update Webinar. This month's topics include the top five items to successfully manage your worker's compensation policy, important dates, and monthly safety tip.

PERSONNEL CONTRACT RESIGNATIONS: R14/ESC (Resolution #4751)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. Hixson to approve an amendment to the following employment contract for the following personnel:

R14/SOESC RESIGNATION(S)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Contract Type</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Chandler, Pamela	ACOV Student Monitor	Classified	08-31-2023	
Hatch, Teresa	EC and LO Substitute Teacher	Certificated	8/29/2023	East Clinton and Laurel Oaks

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

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PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENTS: R14/ESC (Resolution #4752)

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

Name	Tentative Position	Contract Dates	Length	Days	Degree	Schedule/ Step/ Rate	Contract Type	Comments
Batson, Shawnda	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Chaney, Alicia	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Eads, Margie	Family Case Manager	2023-2024	1 Year	68 days	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$56.72 per hour	Retired Certificated/ Administrator	R/R Laurel Oaks/2 days a week; 7 hours per day
Eplin, Kacy	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Haag, Felicity	Student Monitor	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$15 per hour	Classified	ACOV-Peebles Elementary; 7.5 hours per day
Frederick, Branden	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Hilton, Scarlett	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Holden, Peyton	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Humphries, Karen	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
King, Lori "Krista"	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Martini, Claudia	Social Worker	2023-2024	1 Year	11 days	Master's	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$297.476 per diem	Supplemental	Great Oaks CC/ \$3,272.00 Total
Mashburn, Stephanie	Preschool Health-Based Student Monitor	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$15 per hour	Classified	ACOV-West Union Elementary; 6.75 hours per day

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R14/ESC CONTRACT AGREEMENT(S) Cont.

Name	Tentative Position	Contract Dates	Length	Days	Degree	Schedule/ Step/ Rate	Contract Type	Comments
Mead, Linda	SST Consultant	2023-2024	1 Year	17 Days	Master's	MA B/ Step 21/ \$395.887 per diem	Supplemental	WCH Disaggregation Work
Nichols, Angela	Coordination of School Psychology Regional Network	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$500.00	Supplemental	Coordination of School Psychology Regional Network
Rudy, Kristy	Substitute Teacher	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$130.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
White, Kathy	Substitute Interpreter	2023-2024	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	Schedule L/ Step 3/ \$23.22 per hour	Classified Substitute Interpreter	

East Clinton Local Substitutes

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Batson, Shawnda | 2. Cook, Belinda | 3. Countryman, Dorothy |
| 4. Hilton, Scarlett | 5. Holden, Payton | 6. Horn, Emma |
| 7. King, Lori "Krista" | 8. McMinn, Jennifer | 9. Pavey, Kelly |
| 10. Poole, Ashley | 11. Riffie, Sharon | 12. Rudy, Kristy |

Great Oaks (Laurel Oaks Campus) Substitutes

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Chaney, Alicia | 2. King, Lori "Krista" | 3. Walterhouse, Loreen |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|

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

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PERSONNEL CONTRACT AMENDMENT(S): R14/ESC (#4753)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Ms. Gausman and seconded by Dr. Kirby to approve an amendment to the following employment contract for the following personnel:

R14/ESC CONTRACT AMENDMENTS

Name	Position	Contract Dates	Change 1	Change 2	Change 3	Comments
Miller, Diana	Intervention Specialist	2023-2024	Change Salary Schedule/ Step from MA A Step 16 to MA A Step 23	Change salary amount from \$70,299.00 to \$75,876.00	Contract days to remain at 184	SOLC/ Retroactive to 8/10/23
Miller, Diana	Intervention Specialist	2023-2024	Change Salary Schedule/ Step from MA A Step 16 to MA A Step 23	Change supplemental salary amount from \$1,146.00 to \$1,237.00	Contract days to remain at 3	SOLC/ Retroactive to 8/10/23
West, Amy	Occupational Therapist	2023-2024	Change workdays from 156 to 185 effective 10/1/2023	Change salary amount from \$66,138.00 to \$78,433.00	No change to salary schedule /step (Related B, Step 15)	Effective 10/1/2023

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

APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL (#4754)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Hixson and seconded by Mr. Mount to approve the out-of-state travel for **Tracy Dendinger** to attend The National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE) Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 30 – November 4, 2023.

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

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APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL (#4755)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Hixson and seconded by Mr. West to approve the out-of-state travel for **Grace Eads and Hannah Garen** to attend The Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) training in Raleigh, NC, October 24 – 27, 2023.

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

APPROVAL OF POLICY MANUAL (Resolution#4756)

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

Policy Manual Addition:

ECA	Buildings and Grounds Security
ECA-R	Building and Grounds Security

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

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SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Justice shared the following with the Board:

1. Connect and Collaborate Conference – 09/25-26/2023, hosted by OESCA; five ESC staff attended—a very successful event.
2. 2024 Four County Board Celebration – This will be held at Laurel Oaks on 05/09/2024.
3. Southwest Region Fall Conference – 10/12; let Stephanie know by 09/29 if you want to attend.
4. September "Success" – Publication from OSBA is included in packets.
5. Governing Board Meeting Guide – New brochure disseminated to board members.
6. Senator Peterson Follow-Up – We have reached out to ensure legislators know what ESCs do.
7. Snack Bags – Students at the SOLC prepared these. There will be a Spirit Week the last week of October.
8. SOLC Media – The Center library will have carpet and bookshelves in the first week of October.
9. Superintendent Vacation – Beth will be on vacation from 10/04/23 to 10/11/23.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. West to adjourn to meet again in regular session on **Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**, at 3321 Airborne Road, Wilmington, Ohio.



BOARD PRESIDENT



TREASURER