

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MARCH 22, 2022

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 6:30 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, Mr. West, and Mr. Wilt, along with Rachel Meyer, Treasurer, and Beth Justice, Superintendent. The guests present were Curt Bradshaw, Taylor Reed, and Jodi Wilt.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA (Resolution #4512)

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

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

MINUTE APPROVAL (Resolution #4513)

It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Dr. Kirby that the February 22, 2022, meeting minutes be approved as presented.

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

SOESC GOVERNING BOARD RESIGNATION (Resolution #4514)

It was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Ms. Gausman to approve the resignation of Mr. Carl "Corky" Wilt, board member of Southern Ohio Educational Service Center, effective March 22, 2022.

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

Mr. West arrived at 6:35 p.m.

The meeting was opened for public participation; none was received.

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RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION OF SOUTHERN OHIO ESC GOVERNING BOARD
MEMBER, CARL "CORKY" WILT (Resolution #4515)

It was moved by Mr. West and seconded by Mr. Peck to approve the recognition in appreciation to Mr. Carl "Corky" Wilt for his 22 years of service to Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board.

[See Minute Page #1915]

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

Mr. Hill thanked Mr. Wilt for his years of service.

POTENTIAL SOUTHERN OHIO ESC GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER

The board expressed no concerns or reservations regarding the appointment of a potential board member, Ruth Ann Ruth.

Mr. Hill recommended that the board move forward with the resolution of the appointment.

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER TO SOUTHERN OHIO ESC GOVERNING BOARD
(Resolution #4516)

It was moved by Ms. Gausman and seconded by Mr. Peck to appoint Ms. Ruth Ann Ruth, to serve on the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board, effective March 22, 2022, until the subdistrict 5 term ends on December 31, 2023. Said appointment is in conformity to Section 3313.11 of the Ohio Revised Code and Board Policy BBE.

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

OATH OF OFFICE

Administered to Ms. Ruth Ann Ruth by Treasurer Meyer per Board Policy BBBB.

Mr. Mount indicated the board was delighted to welcome Ms. Ruth.

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SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE

Ms. Reed, Assistant to the Director of Human Resources, presented how SOESC promotes utilizing Technology. She reviewed the social media platforms we are using and what they are being used for in our organization, such as hiring, monthly highlights, etc. She indicated that the following technology is being used in her daily activities, and she provided a brief description of each:

- Canva
- iMovie
- Fillable Document
- Social Schools 4 EDU
- Smore

GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

Mr. Lane reported that the Great Oaks board met on March 9, 2022, at the Diamon Oaks Career Campus. At that meeting, the 2022-2023 calendar was adopted. The first day for juniors will be August 12, 2022, and all other students will return on August 15, 2022. The last day of school will be May 25, 2023. Mr. Lane also provided an updated Campus Enrollment Report. Laurel Oaks has the highest retention rate of the four campuses.

Lastly, Mr. Lane indicated that the Laurel Oaks Senior Ceremony would be held on May 17, 2022, at the Roberts Centre Hotel and Convention Center.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Hixson reported on information provided in "The Link."

House Finance Committee holds hearing on the Backpack Bill

The first hearing of House Bill (HB) 290, which would establish the Backpack Scholarship Program, occurred in the House Finance Committee on Feb. 15, 2022. Reps. **Riordan T. McClain** (R-Upper Sandusky) and **Marilyn S. John** (R-Richland County) provided sponsor testimony on the bill and a forthcoming substitute version of the bill, in addition to answering questions from committee members. McClain made the following statement, "The goal of this bill is to put kids first in our funding model for education. To acknowledge that education is not a one-size-fits-all approach and that empowering parents to make the best decision for their children will result in better educational outcomes."

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

Though the substitute version of the bill was announced, the committee held off on voting to accept the substitute bill to give committee members time to read through the language of the bill. The substitute version of the bill provides the following details as to how the Backpack Scholarship Program would be established. The bill would allow all students, regardless of income, to be eligible for a state-funded voucher administered through an Educational Savings Account (ESA). The amount that a student receives annually would be either \$5,500 for students in K-eight or \$7,500 for students in nine-12. The bill establishes allowable expenses of those funds, including tuition and fees at participating chartered nonpublic schools, non-chartered nonpublic schools, or nonpublic online schools. Participating schools must notify the treasurer of the state and would be subject to certain requirements, such as administering assessments to students every other year and requiring high school students to complete the graduation seals process. Additionally, the funds could be used for tuition for programs of study that lead to an industry-recognized credential that satisfies a workforce need. Other allowable expenses include:

- tutoring or intervention services;
- textbooks, instructional materials and supplies;
- fees for certain tests, including nationally standardized assessments;
- occupational, behavioral, physical, speech-language and audiology therapies;
- fees for after-school and summer educational programs.

The treasurer of the state would be responsible for administering the program, including maintaining the assessment data from the participating schools. The data would be available to a parent who submits a request for the information.

Committee members questioned the fiscal impact of the bill, and the sponsors indicated that a detailed fiscal analysis would be forthcoming. Additionally, committee members expressed concerns as to how this bill would impact the newly implemented state funding formula that passed in the operating budget.

Recently enacted legislation

The following bills have recently been signed by DeWine:

- HB 51- allows a public body, including a board of education, to temporarily meet remotely until June 30, 2022; revises the process for adjusting property values due to instances that result in injury or destruction to the property; and includes federal tax law conformity provisions.

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

Recently introduced legislation

- HB 582 introduced by Reps. **Mike Loychik** (R-Bazetta), to reduce term limits of school board members from four years to two years, to limit a school board member to serve no more than four consecutive terms and to repeal the requirement that school board candidates appear on a nonpartisan ballot.
- HB 588 introduced by Reps. Sobecki and **Catherine D. Ingram** (D-Cincinnati), to declare the General Assembly's intent to establish new SBOE districts.
- SB 304 was introduced by Sen. **Stephen A. Huffman** (R-Tipp City), to prohibit public schools, among others, from providing any abortion-inducing drug.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms. Meyer reviewed the monthly reports with the Board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS (Resolution #4517)

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. Hixson that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of \$842,842.68.

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

APPROVAL APPROPRIATION MODIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS (Resolution #4518)

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

[See Minute Page #1916 - #1917]

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

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TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Reminder Financial Disclosure Forms Due May 16, 2022

- If you would like a paper form, please let me know; otherwise, you can fill out and submit your form online.

Related Party Questionnaire

- On January 31, Sheryl Cox, Assistant Auditor, sent each of you an email indicating our FY2021 audit has started. She also attached a Related Party Questionnaire that each of you must complete. I will have copies of the questionnaire at the board meeting if you need one. You can also return your questionnaires to me if you like, and I will see that Sheryl gets them. If you haven't returned your questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible.

Hopewell Special Education Cooperative

- The Hopewell Governing Board met on February 24, 2022. If you recall, I had been attending meetings with the Hopewell Executive Committee regarding the Hopewell Special Education Cooperative Agreements. The committee evaluated the funding model for these services and determined whether to leave it the same or change it to more of a usage service model. Currently, only a portion of these costs is billed to participating districts based upon their usage of a service. In early February, Jeff sent a ballot to member districts asking them to vote on the plan to phase in the funding approach for the Hopewell Cooperative that moves to 100% usage. The vote was by electronic ballot, and only Superintendents currently participating in the cooperative were asked to vote. Ballots were due by February 14, 2022. The vote results were shared at the February 24 Governing Board Meeting. The vote ended up with a tie of eight for and eight against. With no mechanism in the bylaws to break a tie, the Executive Committee has decided to continue the status quo. The issue and possible solutions may be discussed again at the June 2022 meeting, and if there is a desire in the group, another vote might take place at the October 2022 meeting.

Fiscal Office Update

- We have begun planning for services for the 2022-2023 school year to prepare cost estimates for member school districts, including Region 14, for FY2023.

Professional Development

- On February 25, I attended the Sunshine Laws Certified Training Webcast provided by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Each session included an in-depth analysis of the Ohio Public Records Act and a brief review of Ohio's Open Meetings Law.

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TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

- On March 2 and March 8, I attended the STRS Employer Self Service (ESS) online reporting webinar. Each webinar covered the most frequently asked questions about navigating and completing reports in ESS (withdrawal certifications, employment verification reports, service credit verification reports, deposit and service reports, etc).
- On March 8, I attended the EPC General Membership Meeting, where Doug Merkle, Benefits Director, Southwestern Ohio EPC, indicated that we will not have our insurance renewal information until early May. He suggested they look at trends and other information as they move forward in determining our rates for next year. If you remember, our medical insurance renewal rates saw a 3.5% increase last year.
- On March 24, I will attend the BWC Employer Update Webinar. This month there will be a discussion on the Substance Use Recovery and Workplace Safety Program, claim compensability, and other claim allowance considerations and important dates.

Auditor Update

- Our auditors have requested a 6-month extension to complete our FY21 single audit. The automatic extension was granted by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and per Staci Reiley, Senior Audit Manager; indicated that our audit would likely be completed by the end of April but due to the additional testing requirements of COVID related funding; they are not able to meet the March 31st deadline; therefore making an extension necessary.

PERSONNEL CONTRACT RESIGNATION: ESC (Resolution #4519)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Mr. West to approve the resignation of the following personnel:

ESC RESIGNATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Contract Type</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Ogden, Bethany	Paraprofessional	Classified	3/18/2022

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

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PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENTS: ESC (Resolution #4520)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. Hixson 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:

ESC CONTRACT AGREEMENTS

Name	Tentative Position	Contract Dates	Length	Days	Degree	Schedule/ Step/Rate	Contract Type
Taylor, Luke	Paraprofessional	2021-2022	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	L / Step 10/ \$15.79 per hour	Classified

EAST CLINTON SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

1. Jeff Bennett
2. Kaitlyn Chaney
3. Katherine Dunn
4. Hannah Willey

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

APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL (#4521)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Ms. Gausman to approve for **Kim A. Adams, Kim K. Adams, and Curtis Bradshaw** to attend the Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) Training in Cary, North Carolina, April 25-29, 2022.

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

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PERSONNEL CONTRACT RESIGNATION: R14 (Resolution #4522)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. West and seconded by Ms. Gausman to approve the resignation of the following personnel:

R14 RESIGNATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Contract Type</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Paula Armstrong	Occupational Therapist	Certified	6/9/2022
Ryan, Ellen	Chief Physical Therapist	Certified	5/31/2022

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

* for purpose of retirement
RM

PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENTS: R14 (Resolution #4523)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. Peck 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 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>
Hutchinson, Patricia	ESY Itinerant Teacher for Hearing Impaired/Deaf	2021-2022	1 Year	As Needed	Masters	Itinerant M/ Step 5/ \$39.90 per hour	Certificated Supplemental

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

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SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Justice shared the following with the Board:

1. Finance Committee – EPC will not release insurance rates until May 2022. The Finance Committee will meet after known rates.
2. Franklin B. Walter All-Scholastic Award – Changed to reflect one student per ESC instead of one per county. On April 5, 2022, there will be a ceremony recognizing all ESC county winners.
3. Exceptional Achievement Award – This will take place in person on April 28, 2022, at Hopewell from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and will be live-streamed.
4. Fairfield Superintendent/Treasurer Update – Press release shared announcing Kesia McCoy as the new Superintendent for Fairfield Local. The Treasurer search is underway and has six applicants so far.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. West to adjourn to meet again in regular session on **Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.**, at Southern Ohio Educational Service Center, Wilmington.

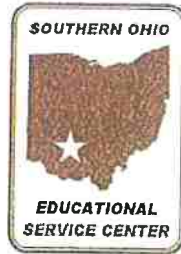


BOARD PRESIDENT



TREASURER

Southern Ohio Educational Service Center
Governing Board



Resolution

4515

March 22, 2022

In Recognition of Carl "Corky" Wilt

Whereas, Corky Wilt was elected to the Clinton-Fayette-Highland Board of Education on February 22, 2000, and

Whereas, he has provided leadership, and loyal and dedicated service to the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center, and

Whereas, he has served as a valued board member who has given thoughtful consideration in regard to what is in the best interest of children, and

Whereas, he has resigned after 22 years of service to the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board and all employees would like to express their sincere appreciation to you and wish you the very best.

Roy Hill

Roy Hill, President

Richard Peck

Richard Peck, Vice President

Martha Gausman

Martha Gausman, Board Member

Todd Hixson

Todd Hixson, Board Member

Dr. Norma Kirby

Dr. Norma Kirby, Board Member

Rod Lane

Rod Lane, Board Member

Dennis W. Mount

Dennis Mount, Board Member

Roger West

Roger West, Board Member

Beth Justice

Beth Justice, Superintendent

Rachel Meyer

Rachel Meyer, Treasurer

SOUTHERN OHIO EDU AL SERVICE CENTER
FY 2022 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 \$1,420,000.00
General Fund - Building Fund \$250,000.00 - continue to add \$25,000 per year, budget permitting, per 6/25/19 board direction
Hopewell General Fund - Emergency Fund - 3 months of expenses \$890,000.00
Hopewell General Fund - Building Fund \$30,000.00 - (security system, updates, repair, etc...)
Hopewell General Fund - Termination / Retirement Benefits setaside \$46,370.00

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

Termination Benefits Fund - \$35,000 (completed 7/31/21)