

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

**HYBRID BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 23, 2021**

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The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met virtually and on-site on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. for its regular monthly (hybrid) meeting. Members present were Mrs. Charters, Mrs. Gausman, Mr. Hill (joined at 6:50 p.m.), Mr. Lane (on-site), Mr. Mount (on-site), Mr. Peck (on-site), Mrs. Saylor (on-site), Mr. West, and Mr. Wilt, along with Rachel Meyer, Treasurer (on-site), and Beth Justice, Superintendent. Guests present were Greg Barlow, Paul, and Zoey Osborne (on-site).

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA (Resolution #4357)

It was moved by Mrs. Saylor and seconded by Mr. West to approve the agenda.

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

MINUTE APPROVAL (Resolution #4358)

It was moved by Mrs. Gausman and seconded by Mrs. Charters that the February 23, 2021 meeting minutes be approved as presented.

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

The meeting was opened for public participation. None received.

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE

Mr. Barlow provided a PowerPoint Presentation on OLI4 (Ohio Leadership for Inclusion, Implementation, and Instructional Improvement). OLI4 is a two-year voluntary commitment for administrators working in a public school. It provides training/mentoring to principals on how to become influential instructional leaders. It is similar to RESA in that it works with principals to develop their skills. Coaches stay with their principal during the entire program. Region 14 has four coaches: Greg Barlow, Lead Coach, Linda Mead, Megan Trowbridge, and Bret Malone. There is also statewide training four days per year in August/June led by nationally known experts. Over the last five years, 30 building administrators have participated in OLI 4. Participants work collaboratively with other districts from other regions, not just Region 14. Mr. Barlow indicated he also serves on the state-level team that is responsible for refining the program. Lastly, Mr. Barlow said they are developing a survey to help guide coaches in future program implementation.

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GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

Mr. Lane reported that Great Oaks is back to business as usual. All campuses are back to instruction five days per week. He indicated all is going well, and campuses are moving toward graduation exercises in May.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Peck referenced the March issue of "The Link" publication provided in board member packets. He also provided an update from OASBO regarding Senate Bills 78 and 100 and House Bill 67.

**Senate Bill (SB) 78** - Introduced by Sens. Craig and Andrew O. Brenner (R-Powell) to establish June 19, or Juneteenth, as a legal holiday for which government employees receive paid leave for which school districts may dismiss school.

**Senate Bill (SB) 100** - Introduced by Sen. Nathan H. Manning (R-North Ridgeville), to appropriate \$70,000 in grants to each educational service center to assist with hiring a licensed independent social worker; and authorize a mental health professional to provide a crisis assessment to a suicidal minor without parental consent.

**House Bill (HB) 67** - On March 20, Gov. **Mike DeWine** signed HB 67, which provides flexibility on testing and graduation requirements for the 2020-21 school year. Because HB 67 includes an emergency clause, the legislation is effective immediately. Significant components of HB 67 are as follows:

- Exempts public and chartered nonpublic schools from administering the state-required American history end-of-course exam in the 2020-21 school year.
- For the 2020-21 school year, permits an 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who takes or retakes or is unable to accept or retake an end-of-course exam to use the final course grade in a course associated with the exam instead of a score on that exam to satisfy conditions for a high school diploma.
- Permits school districts to grant a high school diploma in the 2020-21 school year for any student on track to graduate and for whom the principal, in consultation with teachers and counselors, determines has completed the high school curriculum or individualized education program.
- Permits a district that has previously adopted a resolution to exceed the state minimum high school curriculum requirements to elect to require only the minimum curriculum for determining high school graduation for the 2020-21 school year.

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont)

- Provides an alternate pathway to graduation for the 2020-21 school year by permitting a student to qualify for a high school diploma by both completing the curriculum requirements and earning the OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal.
- Exempts parents of home-schooled students from the requirement to submit an academic assessment record for the 2020-21 school year as a condition of allowing the student to continue receiving home instruction in 2021-22.
- Expands spring test dates.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mrs. Meyer reviewed the monthly reports with the board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS (Resolution #4359)

It was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Mr. Wilt that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of \$713,736.68.

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

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Reminder Financial Disclosure Forms Due May 17, 2021:**

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

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TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

**Fiscal Office Update:**

- I am in the process of preparing cost estimates for member school districts for services, including Region 14, for FY2021 and FY2022.
- Update (topics confirmed): State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) member services representative Kelley McChristy will host a virtual meeting on March 24 for our staff members who are early, mid, or late-career. She will present the following: pension reform changes, retirement eligibility, how social security is affected by public pension, plans of payment, survivor benefits, disability pension/benefits, death benefits, healthcare coverage, and working after retirement.
- I mentioned in my February board letter that the SOESC and Hopewell/Region 14 State Support Team (SST) had been selected to pilot the State Support Team fiscal review process. We have provided the documents as requested for the review, which is scheduled for March 31. Beth, Jeff, and I will participate in the review.

**Professional Development**

- On March 3, I attended the OULP Superintendent and Treasurer Webinar. Aaron Rausch, Director, Office of Budget and School Funding, provided information on the state budget.
- On March 9, I attended the EPC General Membership Meeting where Doug Merkle, Benefits Director, Southwestern Ohio EPC, indicated that we would not have our insurance renewal information until late April/early May. He said he was mildly optimistic that we would see better numbers this year. If you remember, our medical insurance renewal rates saw a 7.5% increase last year.
- On March 10, 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.
- On March 25, the fiscal team will participate in the OULP Treasurer Webinar. The topic is "State Software Redesign." If you remember, we migrated to this software in March 2020. This webinar will provide further learning of the software's capabilities and allow for questions to be addressed.

*Mrs. Meyer indicated that the FY20 audit was completed on March 17. Southern Ohio received a **clean audit** with no findings.*

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**PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENT(S) (Resolution #4360)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mrs. Gausman and seconded by Mr. West that the board approves employment contract(s) for the following personnel subject to the provision of ORC 3319.02, ORC 3319.08, and/or ORC 3319.081. All personnel are subject to assignment by the superintendent, and all contract(s) 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:

**SOESC 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>
Meddock, Annabelle	Substitute Teacher	2020-2021	1 Year	As needed	No degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$100 per diem	Certificated	SOLC

**East Clinton Substitute(s)**

1. Meddock, Annabelle

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

**PERSONNEL CONTRACT RESIGNATION(S): R14 (Resolution #4361)**

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

**R14 RESIGNATION(S)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Contract Type</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Tise, Shannon	Occupational Therapist	Certified	5/31/2021	Retirement

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

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APPROVAL PAYMENT OF SEVERANCE PAY (Resolution #4362)

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

**Julie Dean-Garnai** at the daily rate of \$361.141 x 35 days = \$12,639.94 to be paid upon evidence of retirement, effective May 28, 2021, per board policy GCPCA and GCPCA-R

**Linda Allen** at the rate of \$15.62 per hour x 7 hr/day x 35 days = \$3,826.90, to be paid upon evidence of retirement, effective June 30, 2021, per board policy GDPCA and GDPCA-R

*Both resignations were approved at the February 23, 2021 board meeting.*

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

SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

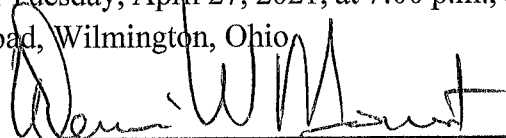
Superintendent Justice shared the following with the board:

1. Finance Committee – will meet once insurance rates are known, late April/early May.
2. Franklin B. Walter All-Scholastic Award – Mrs. Justice will attend virtually on April 27. One senior from each of Ohio's counties will be honored (88 students).
3. Exceptional Achievement Award – Will be held April 22, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Region 14/Hopewell Center. Winners will be showcased by county. Each county will have an appointed time to be at the ceremony for winners to be honored. The ceremony will be recorded. Congratulations to Jill Kelch and Trish Hutchinson, who will be honored for their "outstanding efforts."
4. Fair School Funding Webinar – Bob Peterson will be presenting on March 31. Please let Mrs. Justice know if you would like to attend.

*Mrs. Justice congratulated Mrs. Meyer and her team for a clean audit. Mrs. Justice provided an update on her father and that she appreciates the prayers and concerns.*

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. West to adjourn to meet again in regular session on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., at Southern Ohio Educational Service Center, Airborne Road, Wilmington, Ohio

  
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BOARD PRESIDENT

  
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TREASURER