

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

October 27, 2020

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

Both scenarios are based on the reduced fiscal year (FY) 2021 funding levels. Outlined in the budget presentation were items that are exempt from ODE's budget preparation. Those items include foundation funding, transportation funding, the income-based, state-paid EdChoice expansion program, and non-public school funding. One budget scenario is a continuing scenario, and the other is a 90% scenario of the already reduced FY 2021 funding levels. In his remarks regarding the 90% scenario, DeMaria made the following remarks, "With almost all of the ODE budget sent out as subsidy, it's difficult to impossible to find a 90% scenario that doesn't affect the distribution of money to local schools." The proposed 90% plan outlined the draft reduction cuts which include eliminating all legislative earmarks and one-time expenses, reducing operating line items by 10%, and reprioritizing resources to limit reductions to program priority line items to 3.5%.

The State Board of Education plans for a vote on the budget recommendations at the Oct. 13 meeting. The approved budget recommendations must be submitted to OBM by Oct. 14.

- **U.S. Department of Education Interim Final Rule no Longer in Effect**

U.S. District Judge **Dabney Friedrich** struck down the interim final rule regarding the use of CARES Act K-12 emergency relief funds for nonpublic equitable services. In her summary judgment, Friedrich indicated that the ruling was to be applied nationwide. In response to the ruling, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) announced that the interim final rule was no longer in effect.

- **Territory Transfer Law found Unconstitutional in a Recent Court Decision**

U.S. District Court Judge **Michael H. Watson** ruled that the territory transfer law, Ohio Revised Code 3311.242, that was enacted through House Bill 166 was unconstitutional and permanently enjoined its use.

Additionally, Watson also noted, "That the law upends decades of safeguards protecting both the quality of education of Ohio's schoolchildren and racial integration. Within certain townships, the statute enables the unfettered transfer of communities, or potentially even individual streets or houses, to different school districts with no regard for educational implications or resulting racial isolation." Currently, the state legislature does not have any pending territory transfer bills.

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FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mrs. Meyer reviewed the monthly reports with the board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS (Resolution #4305)

It was moved by Mrs. Gausman and seconded by Mr. Hill that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of \$763,518.73.

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

APPROPRIATION MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS (Resolution #4306)

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

**[See Minute Pages #1715 - #1716]**

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

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Fiscal Office Update:**

- Amanda Ely and I sent out the second invoices of the year for services provided by the ESC and Hopewell. They were emailed to Treasurers the week of October 12.

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TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

- On October 8, 2020, each of you should have received an email from Staci Reiley, Audit Manager indicating that our financial audit for FY20 has started. I spoke with Staci on September 1, where she did outline the items (agenda, engagement letter) that she included in the email to each of you. In that email, she also asked each of you to complete a Related Party Questionnaire. I will bring blank questionnaires to the meeting. You can return the questionnaires directly to Staci or you can bring them to the meeting and I will return them to her.
  
- On October 14, 2020, Lauren Williams, Assistant Auditor, was on-site to view our Onbase scanning process and to view our binder of the approved board minutes. Each year, they make an on-site visit to view our processes and ask questions as part of our financial audit.

**Professional Development**

- On October 6, 2020, I attended a webinar provided by American Fidelity called “COVID-19 + ACA Compliance”. The webinar intended to help employers comply with the employer requirements of the ACA (Affordable Care Act) amidst possible changes in staffing due to the spread of COVID-19.
  
- On October 13, 2020, I attended the Ohio BWC Monthly Employer Update Webinar. This webinar provided information on dividends, the next shipment of masks update, policy payment plans, and important dates for public employers.
  
- On October 20, 2020, I will attend a webinar provided by American Fidelity called “AF-Comply – 2020 Status and Action Portal”. This webinar will review ACA procedures to submit year to date data to meet the deadlines associated with 1095 reporting. If you remember, AF-Comply is the software package provided by American Fidelity that we use to stay in compliance with the ACA reporting.
  
- On October 20, 2020, I will also attend the virtual OULP Treasurer Meeting. Participants will be provided with the following information by Aaron Rausch, Director, Office of Budget and School Funding, Ohio Department of Education:
  - State Budget Update
  - Student Wellness and Success Funding
  - Federal Funding/CARES Act
  - FY22/23 Biennium Budget Update

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**PERSONNEL CONTRACT RESIGNATION: ESC (Resolution #4307)**

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

**SOESC RESIGNATION**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Contract Type</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Arrington, Tosha	East Clinton Substitute	Certificated	9/28/2020

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

**PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENTS (Resolution #4308)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mrs. Charters and seconded by Mr. West 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 highly qualified teacher per current job assignment; Ohio Bureau of Criminal Background Investigation Check; and Federal Bureau of Investigation Background Check:

**SOESC CONTRACT AGREEMENT**

<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>
Hamilton, Marcie	Sub Teacher	2020- 2021	1 Year	As needed	No degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$100 per diem	Certificated	SOLC

**East Clinton Substitutes**

1. Helwig, Lindsey
2. Snodgrass, Amber

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

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**RENEWAL OF AMERICAN FIDELITY PLAN (Resolution #4309)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Mr. West to renew the American Fidelity Plan Documents for Southern Ohio Educational Service Center for the following plan years:

**Plan Number 501: October 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020**

**Plan Number 501: January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021**

*Section 125 Optional insurance, flex spending, etc.*

*Note: there needs to be two plan periods approved for Plan Number 501 to get both plans (501/502) on the same January through December Plan Year. Per IRS regulation; a plan year cannot exceed 12 months; therefore the need to approve two plan periods.*

**Plan Number 502: January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021**

*Insurances; dental, vision, life and medical, etc.*

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

**APPROVAL OF SERVICE CONTRACT (Resolution #4310)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mrs. Gausman to approve the following service contract as listed:

**SERVICE CONTRACT**

<b><u>Provider</u></b>	<b><u>Purchase Order</u></b>	<b><u>Service</u></b>	<b><u>Dates</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Ohio School Boards Association	2210379	OSBA Policy Services	11/01/2020 – 10/31/2021	\$1,500.00

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

*Mr. West left the meeting at 7:47 p.m.*

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SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Justice shared the following with the board:

1. Capital Conference – Board members are asked to contact Mrs. Huber by October 29, to register for the conference.
2. High Performing ESC Status – ODE is considering changing the format, more to come.
3. Partnering Projects – Prevention Strategies, and Mental Health partnership with Montgomery County ESC.
4. Superintendent’s Meetings – Two meetings held in September and one meeting in October.
5. Mask Distribution – Third round complete. Thank you to Mr. George Meyer for picking them up, to Laurel Oaks for helping unload, and Mrs. Huber for overseeing the distribution to the districts.
6. Thank you – Enclosed in the board packets, a thank you note from the Whiteoak Baseball coach, in memory of Mr. West’s father.
7. Hopewell Project Review – An update will be provided at the November board meeting.
8. November’s Board Meeting – will be held on Monday, November 23, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.
9. New Grant Opportunity – Mr. Curt Bardshaw reported a partnership with Fairfield and Hamilton County ESCs. SOESC will apply for two OCER grants, each for \$125,000. Applications are due November 9, and the money will be used to support educators, students, and parents in a virtual environment.
10. Carlton Binkley, a former SOESC Superintendent, passed away on October 22, 2020, at the age of 94. A sympathy card was sent from the SOESC to the family.

*Mr. Lane thanked the board members for their patience while working with the frustrations of a virtual meeting.*

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ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Mrs. Charters to adjourn to meet again in regular session on Monday, November 23, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., at Southern Ohio Educational Service Center, Airborne Road, Wilmington, Ohio.

  
BOARD PRESIDENT

  
TREASURER





SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER  
FY 2021 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 \$1,520,000.00  
General Fund - Building Fund \$225,000.00 - continue to add \$25,000 per year, budget permitting, per 6/25/19 board direction  
Hopewell General Fund - Emergency Fund - 3 months of expenses \$900,000.00  
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