

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

September 22, 2020

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. for its regular monthly meeting. Members present were Mrs. Charters, Mrs. Gausman, Mr. Lane, Mr. Mount, Mr. Peck, Mrs. Saylor, Mr. West (via phone), and Mr. Wilt, along with Rachel Meyer, Treasurer, and Beth Justice, Superintendent. Guests present were Curt Bradshaw, Bret Malone, and Paul Osborne.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA (Resolution #4297)

It was moved by Mrs. Charters and seconded by Mr. Wilt to approve the agenda as revised.

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

MINUTE APPROVAL (Resolution #4298)

It was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Mr. Peck that the August 25, 2020, meeting minutes be approved as presented.

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

The meeting was opened for public participation. None received.

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE

No Shared Expertise due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

Mr. Lane reported that the Great Oaks board met via a blended meeting on September 9, 2020, and that all campuses are completing their sixth week of instruction. The board is considering going back to regular instruction or some sort of blended instruction. Senior coops also began this week. Mr. Lane also reported that the Laurel project is 90% under roof with the interior work to begin next.

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Peck reviewed "The Link" to the board members to review. The September issue was provided in the board packets.

- **COVID-19 immunity bill sent to governor**

The Ohio House of Representatives and Senate through a conference committee ironed out differences between the chambers on House Bill (HB) 606, a bill that provides K-12 schools and others immunity from civil liability due to the exposure of COVID-19. The legislation that passed the House at the end of May was amended in the Senate before passage in June. The House on Sept. 1 reconvened and voted not to concur with the Senate amendments to its bill, and a conference committee was subsequently convened. Members of the committee were able to expeditiously work and favorably approve a bill that both chambers could support. Two changes to the bill were made during the conference committee. The first change moved the expiration date of the liability protections from Dec. 31, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021, and the second change removed the bill's emergency clause. The House accepted the conference committee report on HB 606 by a vote of 62-30 and the Senate followed suit by a vote of 22-8.

- **Bi-partisan education bill that extends previous flexibilities receives hearing**

Sens. **Teresa Fedor** (D-Toledo) and **Nathan Manning** (R-North Ridgeville) co-sponsored Senate Bill (SB) 358 that would extend certain provisions of HB 197 and HB 164. The bill would prohibit the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) from issuing state report cards for both the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. Sanctions from state report cards would also be frozen. The eligibility list for EdChoice vouchers would remain at the 2019-20 list and no new vouchers would be issued except for siblings and other exceptions. School districts could also choose to use final course grades for the 2020-21 school year if end-of-course exams were unable to be administered. Additionally, the bill eliminates state-required assessments and requires ODE to apply for a waiver from administering the federally required assessments.

On Sept. 2, the bill received its first hearing in the Senate Education Committee. Fedor made the following remarks during sponsor testimony, "Without the extension of these provisions, the uncertain learning conditions in the 2020-21 school year will be even more stressful for teachers, students, and families. Missing school has produced serious gaps in student learning. Coupled with the normal summer losses, teachers will need to focus on getting students back on track." Manning during his testimony noted that while the bill freezes state report card sanctions it also doesn't allow the removal of schools under academic distress commission control and made the following remarks, "We hope that we can continue working with the committee to work on ways where those three school districts in academic distress do have a pathway out." Senate Education Committee Chair **Peggy Lehner** indicated that she expects the bill to be expedited, and additional hearings would be scheduled soon.

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

• **Ohio Department of Health order allows all sports to continue**

Gov. **Mike DeWine** announced that all contact and non-contact sports may continue through an Ohio Department of Health (ODH) order that provides mandatory practice, competition, and spectator requirements. The order applies to youth, collegiate, amateur, club, and professional sports. DeWine made the following remarks about the order, "Look at the plan we have and try the best you can to execute that because we believe that gives your kids the best chance of being able to play a season."

The ODH order requires daily symptom assessments, maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from individuals, and strict compliance with the face mask order. The face mask requirements allow exceptions for players who are on the field or court of play and for coaches and officials during games and practices, among other exceptions. Additionally, schools are allowed to move fall sports to the spring. Lt. Gov. **Jon Husted** provided additional remarks regarding the enforcement of the order, "Coaches have an expanded role as educators and leaders in this particular year. Everyone involved must be accountable. In addition to the health department, the OHSAA will hold schools, athletes, and parents accountable. They will have site inspectors at contests to ensure that the rules are being followed. The failure to comply with these rules can result in forfeits of athletics contests and disqualification from competition for the season."

Recently introduced legislation

- SB 350 introduced by Sen. **Andrew O. Brenner** (R-Powell), to prohibit school districts from providing transit passes for public transportation to students enrolled in grades kindergarten through eight for the 2020-21 school year and to require the Ohio Department of Education to deduct district payments for non-compliance.
- SB 352 introduced by Roegner, to repeal a provision of law that modified municipal income tax employer withholding rules for COVID-19-related work-from-home employees.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mrs. Meyer commended Beth, Rhonda, and Amanda for submitting items to the auditor while she was off recovering from the accident. The audit did not have to be put "on hold."

Mrs. Meyer reviewed the monthly reports with the board.

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APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS (Resolution #4299)

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 \$708,038.98.

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

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fiscal Office Update:

I wanted to give you a quick update on fiscal office happenings.

- 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 spoke with Staci Reily, Audit Manager, on Sept. 1. The Auditor of State's office is beginning our FY2020 single audit. They began asking for documents in the 1st week of September. Rhonda and Amanda have been instrumental in seeing that the requested documents are getting to the audit team promptly.

Professional Development

- On September 2, 2020, I attended the EMIS Reporting webinar provided by ODE. This webinar provides an overview of this required reporting.
- On September 11, 2020, I will attend the STRS Employer Basics 101 webinar. This webinar will provide employer information pick up.
- On September 15, 2020, I will attend the Legal Updates and Data Collector webinar provided by ODE.
- On September 24, 2020, I will attend the STRS Employer Basics webinar. This webinar will provide information on leaves of absences and purchasing service credit.
- On September 29, 2020, I will attend the EPC Open Enrollment meeting via Zoom. Topics to be discussed include Open enrollment guidelines, Benelogic enrollment system, Wellness Program Preview, and legal considerations.

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PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENTS: ESC (Resolution #4300)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mrs. Saylor and seconded by Mr. Mount 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:

ESC CONTRACT AGREEMENTS

Name	Tentative Position	Contract Dates	Length	Days	Degree	Schedule/Step/Rate	Contract Type
Bair, Dustin	Sub Teacher	2020-2021	1 Year	As needed	No degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$100 per diem	Certificated
Free, Suzanne	Resident Educator Mentor	2020-2021	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$500	Certificated Supplemental
Mitchell, Jerred	Sub Teacher	2020-2021	1 Year	As needed	No degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$100 per diem	Certificated
Reinhart, Matthew	Sub Teacher	2020-2021	1 Year	As needed	No degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$100 per diem	Certificated

East Clinton Substitutes

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Bair, Dustin | 2. Cook, Belinda | 3. French, Erika |
| 4. Hogsett, Cory | 5. Lotz, Kimberly | 6. Reinhart, Matthew |
| 7. Zurface, Amy | | |

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

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PERSONNEL CONTRACT RESIGNATION: ESC (Resolution #4301)

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

SOESC RESIGNATION

Name	Position	Contract Type	Effective Date
Ezratty, Stevan	East Clinton Substitute	Classified	9/16/2020

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

PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENTS: R14 (Resolution #4302)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Wilt and seconded by Mrs. Charters 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:

R14 CONTRACT AGREEMENT

Name	Tentative Position	Contract Dates	Length	Days	Degree	Schedule/Step/Rate	Contract Type
Pennington, Amity	Substitute Interpreter	2020-2021	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	Interp/Step 3/\$21.45	Classified Substitute Interpreter

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

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SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Justice shared the following with the board:

1. Donation to Whiteoak Baseball program – Submitted in honor of Mr. West’s father.
2. OESCA Annual Connect and Collaborate Conference – Virtual, extremely well done.
3. Four County Board Meeting, March 16, 2021 – Mrs. Justice asked the board to consider where they would like to see this be held.
4. Miami Trace Recognition – Tells a lot of people what we are.
5. New Administration at Bright and Miami Trace – Superintendents: Kim Pittser, Miami Trace, and Mike Bick, Bright Local.
6. HB 606, Good News for Schools – No schools held responsible due to COVID.
7. Out of Town – Wedding preparations successful.
8. PPO Insurance – Prudent RX is a new addition for staff who have specialty drugs; allows zero cost co-pays beginning January 2021.

Mr. West thanked everyone for the donation in memory of his father.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Mrs. Gausman to adjourn to meet again in regular session on October 27, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at Southern Ohio Educational Service Center, Airborne Road, Wilmington, Ohio.



BOARD PRESIDENT



TREASURER