MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 24, 2026

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center in Clinton County for its regular monthly meeting. Members present were Ms. Gausman, Mr. Hixson, Dr. Kirby, Mr. Lane, Mr. Mount, Mr. Peck, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Stepp, and Mr. West, along with Curt Bradshaw, Superintendent, and Rachel Meyer, Treasurer.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA **(Resolution #5129)**

It was moved by Ms. Ruth and seconded by Mr. Peck to approve the agenda as revised.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

MINUTE APPROVAL **(Resolution #5130)**

It was moved by Ms. Gausman and seconded by Dr. Kirby that the January 28, 2026, meeting minutes be approved as presented.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

The meeting was open for public participation. None received.

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE

Ms. Enochs was unable to attend. Mr. Bradshaw provided the following update on her behalf:

- We have revamped our evaluation tools and instruments and aligned them to the Portrait of an ESC Professional.
- Employees are asked to set two goals: job-specific and core competency.
- This is the pilot year, and we will ask for feedback on experiences through this process.
- The Leadership Cabinet is working on building the capacity of team leaders and supervisors.

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GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

The Great Oaks Board met on February 14, 2026, at the board offices in Sharonville. The following report from that meeting may be of interest to you:

- The Board facilities are comprised of over one million square feet, located on over 400 acres.
- The first-choice application for the high school program for 2026-27 closed on February 9. 2,973 applications were received, which is 352 more than at the first-choice deadline for the current school year. Unfortunately, there are only 2,100 program openings, so many students will not get their first-choice program, and some will elect to remain at their high school.
- Great Oaks casino revenue for 2025 was $804,486; an increase of about $38,000 over 2024.
- The Human Resources Committee received a report detailing the number of full-time GO associates. There are 389 full-time certified associates. 327 of these are eligible for GOPO membership. Additionally, there are 106 full-time classified associates.
- The Laurel Oaks Senior Ceremony will be held on May 11, 2026, at the Nutter Center in Dayton.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

The January 2026 issue of "The Link" was disseminated to board members along with some notes from Malania Birney from the February issue that had not been released as of our meeting date.

Ms. Ruth reviewed the following Legislative Resources that are available from OSBA:

Facts in a Flash Newsletter-This e-newsletter is sent on Fridays when the Ohio Legislature is in session. Facts in a Flash outlines education policy-related activity of the House, Senate, and administration, and federal policy updates from our national partners at the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA). Facts in a Flash is our main tool for sharing the most up-to-date advocacy information with you and includes calls to action for board participation on pressing legislative matters.

Legislative Report-Be sure to read the Legislative Report, tucked with the biweekly OSBA Update e-newsletter, for an in-depth review of a single state government topic.

Information about *Kids* PAC-Political action committees (PACs) are accounts from which contributions to political campaigns can be made. The OSBA Executive Committee established *Kids* PAC, which allows OSBA to advance our legislative platform by supporting candidates who believe in its goals.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

BillTracker-this software, found on the OSBA website, monitors the status of legislation that impacts OSBA's Legislative Platform.

February 2026 Legislative Update
The House and Senate have returned and will be holding regular hearings through early June before breaking for the summer.

Recent activity since they have returned:

- The Senate adopted House Continuing Resolution (HCR) 22 – resolution encourages students in grades one through twelve to read the U.S. Declaration of Independence in the classroom during the 2025-2026 school year in celebration of its 250th anniversary.
- House passed House Bill (HB) 326 – would eliminate the requirement that the Department of Education and Workforce and the Chancellor of Higher Education jointly select the assessments from which schools must choose for the College and Work Ready Assessment System and instead permit public and chartered nonpublic schools to select the nationally standardized assessment, which may be the ACT, SAT, Classic Learning Test, or any other valid, reliable, nationally norm-referenced exam used for college admission. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.
- HB 500, passed out of the House Education Committee. This bill would designate a JROTC program offered by a school district as a career-technical education program.
- HB 25, the "Fostering School Success Act", passed out of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee. Among other things, this bill requires each school district, community school, and STEM school to designate a local foster care education liaison and a building staff member to serve as the primary points of contact to support students placed in foster care who attend that school. The bill requires each public school to post the contact information for these navigators on the school's publicly available website, and for the Department of Education and Workforce, in partnership with the Department of Children and Youth, to create annual training materials for these navigators.

General Assembly Changes Kindergarten Admission

For many years, the state has allowed school districts to pick one of two dates for their kindergarten admission cutoff date: a child needed to be at least 5 years old by either August 1 or September 30. Additionally, Ohio allows school districts to establish an early admittance policy for incoming kindergartners who are not 5 years old by the deadline.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

In November, House Bill (HB) 114 passed both the House and Senate with bipartisan support, and Gov. Mike DeWine signed the bill. It is fairly simple, with the provision changing the cutoff date for 5-year-olds to the school year's first day of instruction. While the change in law is fairly simple, school districts will need to continuously communicate this change to their communities. Additionally, the first day of instruction is not defined in the law. The admittance date will change year to year. School districts that have a different start for kindergartners than for first through 12th graders will need to consult policy and legal staff to implement a policy that is consistent year after year.

The General Assembly didn't change the current law as it pertains to 4-year-olds entering kindergarten. A school district can allow a 4-year-old who will turn 5 by January 1 of the requested school year admittance after a referral and evaluation process. The law does not specify which criteria are to be considered and leaves early admittance discretion to the school board. However, a school board should have an early admittance policy. Four-year-olds who turn 5 after January 1 can still seek early admittance under a school district's student acceleration policy. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) has a Model Acceleration Policy and allows districts to use either the model policy or a district policy. However, if a district decides to use a district-created policy, it must first be approved by ODEW.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer, Ms. Meyer, reviewed the monthly reports with the board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS **(Resolution #5131)**

It was moved by Mr. Mount and seconded by Mr. Hixson that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of $997,946.55.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF INVESTMENTS **(Resolution #5132)**

It was moved by Dr. Kirby and seconded by Ms. Gausman to approve the following investment as transacted by Treasurer Meyer:

Date	Fund	Firm	Maturity Date	Rate	Amount
2/2/2026	Waddell	City Natl Bk Los Angeles CA CD	1/24/2028	3.65%	$ 94,791.00
2/2/2026	General	City Natl Bk Los Angeles CA CD	1/24/2028	3.65%	$ 99,780.00
2/6/2026	General	Bank of America NA CD	2/7/2028	3.70%	$ 100,000.00
2/9/2026	Waddell	Bank of America NA CD	2/7/2028	3.70%	$ 50,000.00
2/13/2026	General	Cortrust Bank NA CD	2/11/2028	3.70%	$ 125,000.00
2/25/2026	General	Goldman Sachs Bk USA CD	2/26/2029	3.80%	$ 72,883.20

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

APPROPRIATION MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS **(Resolution #5133)**

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

[See Minute Page #2563 - #2564]

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

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TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Financial Disclosure Forms – Due May 15, 2026

- If you would like a form, please let me know. Otherwise, forms may be completed and submitted online.

Fiscal Office Update

- Amanda Ely and I sent the fourth of six invoices for the year for primary services for Hopewell and ESC during the week of February 9.
- We have begun planning for FY2027 service needs. I will be gathering information from team leaders and supervisors, and have contacted district superintendents regarding their anticipated needs.
- On February 2, 2026, I was notified by Elizabeth Pool, Assistant Auditor, that the FY2025 audit is nearing completion.

Professional Development

- On February 4, 2026, I attended the *OULP Seminar with Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction, Paul Craft*. This session focused on state updates, licensure guidance, and hiring considerations.
- On February 4, 2026, I attended the SERS *Contractor* webinar. This session covered payroll schedule entry, enrollments, employer reporting detail lookup, uploading contribution reports, manual entry, copy forward, zero file, payment remittance, applying credit memos, and making payments.
- On February 19, 2026, I will attend *Legal Updates at Hopewell*. Representatives from Ennis Britton Co., LPA, will present on current special education legal topics.

Ms. Meyer thanked the board members for completing the Treasurer Evaluation forms, and she thanked Mr. West for meeting with her and Mr. Bradshaw on 02/19/2026 for the annual compilation.

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PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENT(S): R14/ESC **(Resolution #5134)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Ms. Gausman and seconded by Ms. Ruth 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 and Workforce 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
Coomer (Welker), Amber	Substitute Teacher	2025-2026	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ $135.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Hixson, Ginger	Substitute Teacher	2025-2026	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ $135.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC
Gahm, Breanna	Substitute Physical Therapist	2025-2026	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	Related M/ Step 3/ $53.33 per hour	Substitute Certificated	On an as-needed basis. Paid by submitted timesheets
Ames, Tracy	Physical Therapist	2025-2026	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ $86.72 per hour	Supplemental	Not to exceed 7 days through May 2026. Paid by submitted timesheets
Perkins, Amanda	Mentor	2025-2026	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ $250.00	Supplemental	Social Work Mentor/Supervisor for LISW work for Jaelyn Mason. Prorated starting January 2026.

East Clinton Local Substitutes

1. Chase, Jessica
2. Coomer (Welker),
3. Henderson, Lindsey
4. Hixson, Robert
5. Hunter, Coltin
6. Maynard, Jennifer
7. Morgan, Karlie
8. Willian, Ashley

Great Oaks (Laurel Oaks Campus) Career Campus Substitutes

1. Hixson, Robert
2. Morgan, Karlie

The eight board members approved the motion with one abstention from Mr. Hixson. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

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POLICY MANUAL UPDATES **(Resolution #5135)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. Peck to approve the following policy manual updates:

Updated Policies	
AFE (Also IM)	Evaluation of Instructional Program
EEACA	School Transportation Driver Examination and Training

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL **(Resolution #5136)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. Hixson and seconded by Dr. Kirby to approve out-of-state travel for **Kimberly Douglas,** School & Student Services Coordinator, to attend the Highland County TAG Field trip to Charleston, South Carolina, on May 1 – 4, 2026.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL **(Resolution #5137)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. West and seconded by Ms. Gausman to approve out-of-state travel for **Rebecca Wise**, Educational Interpreter, to attend the Pacific Rim Conference for Disabilities in Honolulu, Hawaii, on May 27 – 28, 2026.

Ms. Wise has secured a scholarship to attend this PD conference, and there will be no cost to the SOESC for her to attend and participate in this PD experience.

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF DONATIONS **(Resolution #5138)**

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Bradshaw, it was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Ms. Gausman to approve the donations as listed:

Donated Item/Description	Donation Received from	Value of Donated Item
88--Cheese & Peanut Butter Crackers	**Community Markets** 245 W. Main Street Hillsboro, Ohio 45133	$45.00
200--Bottles of Water	**Dance Steel & Farm Supply** 6079 St. Rt. 50 Hillsboro, Ohio 45133	$22.45
180--Individually wrapped chips	**Save A Lot** 1472 N. High Street Hillsboro, Ohio 45133	$74.90
192--Bottles of Water 54--Individually wrapped chips 200—lunch bags	**SFM Insurance** 2333 Rombach Avenue PO Box 930 Wilmington, Ohio 45177	$70.47
$50 Gift Card for 336 Granola Bars	**Walmart** 540 Harry Sauner Road Hillsboro, Ohio 45133	$50.00

The board members present unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Ms. Stepp, declared the motion carried.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

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SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Bradshaw shared the following with the board:

1. Thank You – To board members for their time in completing the evaluation forms, and to Mr. West for meeting with Mr. Bradshaw and Ms. Meyer with the cumulative information.

2. OSBA Southwest Region Spring Conference (March 5, 2026) – If interested in attending, let Stephanie Huber know by 02/28/2026 so she can register you for the event.

3. Updated Board Member Directory – Please reference your packets for the updated directory.

4. 2026 Business Advisory Council (BAC) Awards – Recognized as a 3-Star BAC last week. This is the fourth year in a row.

5. Finance Board Work Session – Recommended to hold as part of a regular board meeting in May/June after insurance renewal information is received.

6. Quarter 3 SOESC/Ennis Britton Legal Updates Seminar (February 19, 2026) – Held at Hopewell with the topic of Special Education and around 45 in attendance

7. SOESC Leadership Cabinet (February 19, 2026) – Continues important work around human capital, action planning, and leadership development for team leaders/supervisors.

8. Rural Education Summit (February 23-24, 2026) – Mr. Bradshaw represented SOESC, bringing together local leaders, educators, and advocates to share ideas, build partnerships, and strengthen the future of rural public education.

9. Region 14 Transition Expo (March 6, 2026) – Held at SSCC. Everyone is welcome to attend—220 students from our region have registered.

10. Highland County Chamber of Commerce Ag is Everyone's Business Program (March 6, 2026) – Mr. Bradshaw will attend to represent Southern Ohio ESC.

11. Wilmington 3M Men's Club Program (March 16, 2026) – Mr. Bradshaw will present at Ohio Living Cape May, in Wilmington to highlight and showcase the services provided by Southern Ohio ESC and other partners across the region.

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SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

12. Region 14 Exceptional Achievement Awards (April 23, 2026) – All invited to attend. To be held at Hillsboro High School. Retiring Superintendents will be honored.

13. Clinton County Countywide Professional Development (September 25, 2026) – The district superintendents from the four Clinton County schools have asked Southern Ohio ESC to again support the facilitation and co-leadership of a countywide professional development day for certified staff/teachers.

14. School District Visits/Campus Tours – Mr. Bradshaw has toured fourteen buildings so far and is scheduling visits with our remaining districts.

15. Spring 2026 Regional Board Meeting & Celebration (May 13, 2026) – At Laurel Oaks. "Save the Date" will be sent out to districts. Currently working to confirm a keynote speaker.

16. Cookout for District Administrators (11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) – Southern Ohio ESC will host an Appreciation Luncheon grill out in our Large Conference Room on three possible dates: 06/03, 06/09, or 06/10. Board members are asked to help serve food or help out in any way. This will be a very informal event.

17. Kamp Dovetail Volunteer Day – On 06/22/2026 at Rocky Fork.

Board Members thanked Ms. Huber and the Southern Ohio ESC for the wonderful appreciation dinner.

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ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hixson and seconded by Ms. Gausman to adjourn to meet again in regular session on March 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the R14/Hopewell Center, 5350 West New Market Road, Hillsboro, Ohio.

BOARD PRESIDENT

TREASURER

2563

SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FY 2026 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS

FUND	OBJECT	SCC	DESCRIPTION	FY2025 APPROP	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	TOTAL ACCOUNT
						GENERAL FUND							
001	100	0000	SALARIES	$ 3,472,431.00	$ 93,405.00	$ 62,250.00			$ 102,460.00				$ 3,730,545.00
001	200	0000	FRINGE BENEFITS	$ 1,867,916.79	$ 38,628.00	$ 33,597.00			$ 24,762.00				$ 1,964,843.79
001	400	0000	PURCHASED SERVICES	$ 763,544.18	$ 500.00		$ 1,000.00		$ 1,200.00		$ 1,583.02		$ 767,827.20
001	500	0000	SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	$ 86,816.00			$ 1,000.00		$ 1,500.00				$ 89,316.00
001	600	0000	CAPITAL OUTLAY	$ 33,000.00									$ 33,000.00
001	800	0000	OTHER OBJECTS	$ 103,719.74					$ 0.50			$ 4,250.00	$ 107,970.24
001	900	0000	CONTINGENCIES / TRANSFERS	$ 2,305,000.00									$ 2,305,000.00
			GENERAL FUND TOTAL										$ 8,998,503.23
						OTHER FUNDS							
001		9050	TERMINATION / RETIREMENT BENEFITS FUND	$ 27,382.50	$ 35,000.00								$ 62,382.50
007		0000	UNCLAIMED FUNDS	$ 297.49									$ 297.49
008		9271	WADDELL FUND	$ 53,300.00									$ 53,300.00
019		9908	HIGHLAND COUNTY MICRO INTERNSHIPS STIPENDS FY26 F	$ -		$ 2,000.00							$ 2,000.00
022		9245	HOPEWELL CUSTODIAL FUND	$ 5,830,948.00									$ 5,830,948.00
022		9500	D.A.R.E. CUSTODIAL FUND	$ 22,973.58									$ 22,973.58
451		9424	K12 NETWORK SUBSIDY	$ 1,800.00									$ 1,800.00
499		9017	STATE SUPPORT TEAM FY25 FUND	$ 3,228.52									$ 3,228.52
499		9018	STATE SUPPORT TEAM FY26 FUND	$ 115,140.50									$ 115,140.50
499		9708	STUDENT ASSESSMENT FY25 FUND	$ 6,252.34									$ 6,252.34
499		9709	STUDENT ASSESSMENT FY26 FUND	$ 13,344.32									$ 13,344.32
499		9861	ATTORNEY GENERAL SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT FY25 FUND	$ 2,500.00									$ 2,500.00
516		9234	IDEA PART B FY25 FUND	$ 70,160.42									$ 70,160.42
516		9235	IDEA PART B FY26 FUND	$ 1,281,694.00									$ 1,281,694.00
516		9818	PARENT MENTOR FY25 FUND	$ 1,042.02									$ 1,042.02
516		9819	PARENT MENTOR FY26 FUND	$ 25,000.00									$ 25,000.00
516		9920	EARLY LITERACY SSIP (IDEA) FY25 FUND	$ 6,479.27									$ 6,479.27
516		9921	EARLY LITERACY SSIP (IDEA) FY26 FUND	$ 89,880.00									$ 89,880.00
587		9516	EARLY LEARNING DISCRETIONARY FY25 FUND	$ 5,957.34									$ 5,957.34
587		9517	EARLY LEARNING DISCRETIONARY FY26 FUND	$ 75,993.02									$ 75,993.02
587		9607	EARLY LITERACY SSIP FY25 FUND	$ 1,696.86									$ 1,696.86
587		9608	EARLY LITERACY SSIP FY26 FUND	$ 27,000.00									$ 27,000.00
599		9511	SPDG MTSS-LITERACY FY25 FUND	$ 738.55									$ 738.55
599		9512	SPDG MTSS-LITERACY FY26 FUND	$ 20,000.00					$ 20,000.00				$ 40,000.00
			OTHER FUNDS TOTAL										$ 7,739,818.73
			Monthly Appropriation Changes		$ 167,533.00	$ 97,787.00	$ 2,000.00	$ -	$ 129,922.50	$ -	$ 1,583.02	$ 4,250.00	
			GRAND TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS - ALL FUNDS										$ 16,738,321.96

SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FY 2026 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 $1,920,000.00
General Fund - Building Fund $350,000.00 - continue to add $25,0000 per year, budget permitting, per 6/25/19 board direction
Hopewell General Fund - Emergency Fund - $700,000.00
Hopewell General Fund - Building Fund $30,000.00 - (security system, updates, repair, etc...)
Hopewell General Fund - Termination / Retirement Benefits setaside $45,000.00

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

Termination Benefits Fund - $35,000 (completed July 2025)