

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**DECEMBER 14, 2021**

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The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. for its regular monthly meeting. Members present were Ms. Charters, Mr. Lane, Mr. Hill, Mr. Lane, Mr. Mount, Mr. Peck, Ms. Saylor, and Mr. Wilt, along with Rachel Meyer, Treasurer, and Beth Justice, Superintendent. The guests present were Brianne Peck, Barb Lane, Colleen Mount, and Jodi Wilt.

**APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA (Resolution #4468)**

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

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

**MINUTE APPROVAL (Resolution #4469)**

It was moved by Ms. Saylor and seconded by Mr. Lane that the November 22, 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 open for public participation. None received.

**SUPERINTENDENT AND TREASURER EVALUATIONS**

Mr. Mount asked all board members to return their completed evaluations to him to compile.

**JANUARY 2022 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING (Resolution #4470)**

It was moved by Mr. Wilt and seconded by Mr. Hill to set the January board meeting date to January 18, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at Southern Ohio ESC, Wilmington.

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

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APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT (Resolution #4471)

It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Ms. Charters to approve a Superintendent contract for **Elizabeth "Beth" Justice** effective January 1, 2022, for a period of 30 months, through July 31, 2024, at an annual salary of \$111,000 (*amount will be prorated for 01/01/22-07/31/22 period*).

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

*Ms. Justice thanked the board.*

APPROVAL OF TREASURER CONTRACT (Resolution #4472)

It was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Ms. Saylor to approve a Treasurer contract for **Rachel Meyer** effective January 1, 2022, for a period of 30 months, through July 31, 2024, at an annual salary of \$94,000 (*amount will be prorated for 01/01/22-07/31/22 period*).

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

*Ms. Meyer thanked the board and expressed her appreciation.*

ESTABLISHING EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR (Resolution #4473)

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Ms. Charters to approve the modifications of educational requirements for the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center substitute teachers for the 2021-22 school year.

[See Minute Page #1876 - #1877]

A roll call vote was taken for present board members: Ms. Charters, Mr. Hill, Mr. Lane, Mr. Mount, Mr. Peck, Ms. Saylor, and Mr. Wilt unanimously approved the motion. President of the board, Mr. Mount, declared the motion carried.

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GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

Mr. Lane did not share a report.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Peck referenced a copy of "The Link" publication provided in board member packets.

**General Assembly advance multiple bills before winter break**

The first half of the 134th General Assembly will soon be completed, and legislators will head back to their districts for a month-long winter break. Each General Assembly is a two-year cycle. The weeks that have led up to winter break have been a flurry of activity as both chambers worked to move legislation. The following bills have seen legislative activity:

- Senate Bill (SB) 229, a bill referred to as the K-12 omnibus bill due to the multiple and extensive education-related provisions, was sent to Gov. **Mike DeWine** for his approval. SB 229 contains provisions regarding blended learning, online learning, remote learning, third-grade reading guarantee, state report card, and various other education-related provisions.
- HB 218 is the most recent vaccination bill that would temporarily restrict certain COVID-19 vaccine requirements for public and private employers and also establish exemptions for students and employees should an approved COVID-19 vaccine be required by a school or employer. Additionally, the bill would prohibit an individual from being required to show proof of vaccination and would extend a school district's civil immunity. The vaccination provisions were amended into a bill that pertained to bar curfews, and the bill's original language was removed. The vaccination language that was inserted is mostly the vaccination language of HB 435, the House leadership bill that stalled in October. The bill passed the Ohio House on Nov. 18 by a vote of 58-32. The Ohio Senate is currently holding committee hearings on HB 218 in the Senate General Government Budget Committee.

**Recently introduced legislation**

HB 497 introduced by Reps. **Gayle Manning** (R-North Ridgeville) and **Phillip M. Robinson Jr.** (D-Solon), to modify the English language arts assessment to be administered once in the third grade and to eliminate retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

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BOARD COMMUNICATION PLAN

Ms. Charters prepared a draft "elevator speech" to be used as a cohesive way to speak to the community about what the SOESC is and does. It will be reviewed in January 2022. She indicated it could be an easy tool to distinguish ourselves from local school districts.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms. Meyer reviewed the monthly reports with the Board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS (Resolution #4474)

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Wilt that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of \$924,304.15.

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

APPROPRIATIONS MODIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS (Resolution #4475)

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved Mr. Hill and seconded by Ms. Charters to approve the following appropriations and modifications as presented.

**[See Minute Page #1878 - #1879]**

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

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TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Fiscal Office Update:**

- Amanda Ely and I will be sending out the third of six invoices for primary services the week of December 6.
- Amanda Ely is completing all payroll and benefits information into the AF Comply software. If you recall, American Fidelity utilizes this software to deliver Affordable Care Act (ACA) Compliance services for 2021. Currently, the IRS has a deadline of January 31, 2022, to complete and distribute IRS Form 1095-C (Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage) to employees.

**Professional Development:**

- On December 2, 2021, the entire fiscal team attended the Calendar Year-End Fiscal Zoom Meeting provided by MVECA.
- On December 7, 2021, I will attend the Legal Update workshop sponsored by Brown Co. ESC and Southern Ohio ESC. The workshop will be held at Hopewell, and representatives from Ennis Britton LPA will provide updates on current legal topics.
- On December 7, 2021, I will attend the BWC Employer Update Webinar. This webinar will provide information on BWC grants available to employers, claims, and other reports available on the BWC website.
- On December 9, 2021, I will attend the OULP Treasurer Seminar, where Todd Wolford, STRS Employer Education Coordinator, will provide information on STRS issues and updates.
- On December 13, 2021, I will attend the Safety Training Seminar sponsored by Southwestern Ohio EPC and Hunter Consulting Group. They will provide participants with information on the following topics: seasonal safety areas of interest, review, discussion of workplace accidents, safety-related videos, and safety articles for school district best practices.

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PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENTS (Resolution #4476)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Mr. Wilt 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 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	Comments
Hughes, Ronda	Intervention Specialist	2021-2022	1 Year	As Needed	Master's	MA A/ Step 12/ \$47.60 per hour	Supplemental	SOLC home instruction
Miller, Diana	Intervention Specialist	2021-2022	1 Year	As Needed	Master's	MA A/ Step 14/ \$50.33 per hour	Supplemental	SOLC home instruction

East Clinton Substitutes

1. Drew Juniet      2. Cynthia Saylor      3. Ethel "Jean" Tedrick

Six board members approved the motion with abstention from Ms. Saylor. President of the Board, Mr. Mount declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF UNPAID LEAVE ABSENCE REQUEST

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Wilt to approve an unpaid leave of absence request for **Mackenna Harper** from November 29, 2021, to January 19, 2022.

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

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SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Justice shared the following with the Board:

1. Special Thanks – Roger and Nancy for the pumpkin bread and Dennis and Colleen for hosting the December meeting at their home.
2. Waddell Scholarship Meeting – Mr. Hixson, Mr. Lane, and Mr. Peck will meet before January's board meeting.
3. Highland County Collaboration – Ms. Justice shared she is working with the Highland County DD and the Superintendents of Highland County to develop Austim classes.
4. SOESC Board President for 2022 – Ms. Justice stated Mr. Mount will serve as President Pro-temp at the January meeting until the board has selected its new President. Roy Hill is currently the Vice President. If we keep with the same rotation as we've had in the past, the next President would be an Adams County representative, and the Vice-President would be a Clinton County representative.
5. Mid-year staff meeting – Held on December 20, 2021. Missy McClain will speak and address trauma issues and how educators can develop coping skills.
6. COPE – Kim A Adams presented on December 14 and generated a lot of interest. She did a fantastic job.
7. Fairfield Superintendent Search – The position will be posted on January 3, 2022.

*Ms. Justice presented Ms. Charters and Ms. Saylor with poinsettias to thank them for their service.*

*Ms. Saylor thanked the board for having confidence in her and allowing her to serve on the board.*

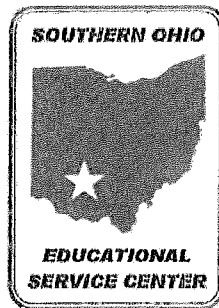
ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Ms. Saylor to adjourn to meet again in regular session on **Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.**, at Southern Ohio Educational Service Center, Wilmington, Ohio.

  
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BOARD PRESIDENT

  
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TREASURER

**Southern Ohio Educational Service Center  
Governing Board**



**Resolution**

**#4473**

**December 14, 2021**

**ESTABLISHING EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR  
SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center (SOESC) Governing Board recognizes the issuance of a substitute teaching license requires an applicant to meet certain educational requirements, which minimally include a post-secondary degree.

**WHEREAS**, On October 28, 2021, Governor DeWine signed into law Senate Bill 1 (SB1) provides governing boards with the authority to establish their own educational requirements to employ substitute teachers for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. SB1 specifically provides that a governing board “may in accordance with the district's policy individual set of educational requirements, employ an individual who does not hold a post-secondary degree as a substitute teacher, for the 2021-2022 school year only, provided that all other applicable requirements and procedures contained in the Revised Code and the Administrative Code with respect to that individual's qualifications to be a substitute teacher in the SOESC are satisfied.”

**WHEREAS**, consistent with SB 1, the Board desires to establish its own set of educational requirements to employ substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that:

**SECTION 1**

Notwithstanding any policy, administrative guideline, or job description to the contrary, the Board modifies its educational requirement for the employment of substitute teachers, for the 2021-2022 school year only, such that the educational requirement for the employment for substitute teachers is as follows:



The individual possesses an associate degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education or completes at least two years of coursework at an accredited institution of higher education (defined as forty-eight (48) semester hours or seventy-two (72) quarter hours).

The individual "also is deemed to be of good moral character and successfully completes a criminal records check".

To be employed as a substitute teacher, an individual must satisfy all other applicable requirements and procedures contained in the Revised Code and the Administrative Code with respect to that individual's qualifications to be a substitute teacher.

SECTION II

It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in these formal actions were in meetings open to the public and in compliance with all legal requirements, including R.C. 121.22 and Section 12 of H.B. 197 and any amendments thereto.

MR. Hill moved and Mrs. Charters seconded

the motion, and upon roll call, the vote resulted as follows:

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0

ADOPTED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021.

Dennis Mount  
Dennis Mount, Board President

Rachel Meyer  
Rachel Meyer, Treasurer

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting held on the 14th day of December, 2021, together with a true and correct extract from the minutes of said meeting to the extent pertinent to consideration and adoption of said resolution, and The Treasurer advised the Board that the notice requirement of R.C. 121.22 and Section 12 of H.B. 197 and any amendments thereto were complied with for the meeting.

Rachel Meyer  
Rachel Meyer, Treasurer



**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 7/3/21)