

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 22, 2021

The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board met on Tuesday, November 22, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. for its regular monthly meeting. Members present were Ms. Charters, Ms. Gausman, Mr. Lane, Mr. Mount, Mr. Peck, Ms. Saylor, Mr. West, and Mr. Wilt, along with Rachel Meyer, Treasurer, and Beth Justice, Superintendent. The guests present were Kim A. Adams, Curt Bradshaw, Todd Hixson, and Dr. Norma Kirby.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA (Resolution #4461)

It was moved by Ms. Charters and seconded by Ms. Saylor 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 #4462)

It was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Ms. Gausman that the October 26, 2021, meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Five board members approved the motion with two abstentions from Mr. Lane and Mr. Wilt. President of the Board, Mr. Mount declared the motion carried.

Mr. West arrived at 6:44 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

The meeting was opened for public participation on the issue of re-employment of Ms. Elizabeth "Beth" Justice upon retirement on December 20, 2021. No one from the public attended to comment.

The meeting was opened for public participation on the issue of re-employment of Ms. Rachel Meyer upon retirement on December 20, 2021. No one from the public attended to comment.

The meeting was opened for public participation; none was received.

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APPROVE PAYMENT OF SEVERANCE PAY (Resolution #4463)

It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Ms. Saylor to approve retirement severance payouts for:

Elizabeth Justice at the daily rate of \$447.581 x 31 days (estimated days through December, 2021) = \$13,875.01 to be paid upon evidence of retirement, effective December 20, 2021, per board policy GCPCA and GCPCA-R.

(Actual number of sick days will be used in calculation upon receipt of evidence of retirement)

Rachel Meyer at the daily rate of \$379.032 x 39 days (estimated days through December, 2021) = \$14,782.25, to be paid upon evidence of retirement, effective December 20, 2021, per board policy GDPCA and GDPCA-R.

(Actual number of sick days will be used in calculation upon receipt of evidence of retirement)

**Both resignations were approved at the 9/28/21 board meeting.*

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

SOUTHERN OHIO ESC SHARED EXPERTISE

Ms. Adams presented information on GT Ignite, which offers course subscriptions that are available free of charge via the RemotEDx Grant for participants from East Clinton, Eastern, Fayetteville Perry, and Ripley Union Lewis Huntington School Districts. The program offers gifted teachers the needed professional development to renew their licensure, and the platform enables them to connect with presenters in Ohio and nationally. The platform allows teachers to take courses anywhere. Ms. Adams also demonstrated the use of the platform.

Ms. Justice indicated this was a collaborative effort between Southern Ohio ESC and Brown County ESC in writing the grant to provide this opportunity to 35 teachers. Applications will open in Spring 2022, and we will request additional funding to continue these offerings.

GREAT OAKS ITCD REPORT

Mr. Lane reported that Great Oaks Board met in-person meeting on November 10 with 33 of 35 board members in attendance. He provided the 11th Grade Enrollment Analysis for all campuses. This analysis provided the percentage of students enrolled from each high school attending their campuses from 2016-17 to 2021-22. The analysis also indicated that Blanchester LSD has the highest percentage of juniors enrolled (42.19%), and Mason City Schools has the lowest percentage (2.70%).

Mr. Lane also reported that Great Oaks is looking at part-time enrollment opportunities for students.

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

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

Blended learning model bill picks up several amendments as it passes out of the Senate

The Ohio Senate passed Senate Bill (SB) 229 on Oct. 20 by a vote of 30-0. The bill went through significant changes in the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee before the Ohio Senate vote.

The changes to SB 229 primarily address the need to provide schools with legal alternatives to maintain educational instruction to quarantined students. SB 229 would do the following:

- temporarily extend the deadline to April 30, 2022, for a school district to submit a blended learning model to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) for the 2021-22 school year;
- permit a school district to adopt a resolution that provides remote learning to a student whose parent requests remote learning and
- require a district that operates an online learning school to allow a quarantined student in a traditional district school to participate in that online learning school during the quarantine period.

New quarantine recommendations aim to keep students in the classroom

Ohio Department of Health Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff released the Mask to Stay/Test to Play option for schools to keep students in school after being exposed to a positive COVID-19 individual in a school setting. The Mask to Stay option would be available to a student in a school setting regardless of vaccination status or whether they were wearing a mask. Students who had direct contact to stay in school would need to wear a mask for 14 days after the exposure, monitor for symptoms, and take a COVID-19 test if symptoms present. Students who participate in extracurricular activities can continue participating under the following conditions, wear a mask when able, test on initial notification, and test again between days five and seven from initial exposure. If the student receives a negative test after the test, the student would no longer be in quarantine.

Recently introduced legislation

- HB 454 introduced by Reps. Gary Click (R-Vickery) and Diane V. Grendell (R-Chesterland), to prohibit certain procedures to alter a minor child's sex; to prohibit all school personnel from encouraging or coercing a student to withhold from their parent the fact that the minor's perception of his or her gender is inconsistent with his or her sex; prohibits all school personnel from withholding information related to the minor's perception of his or her gender is inconsistent with his or her sex, and to designate this act as the Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act.

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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT (Cont.)

- HB 458 introduced by Rep. Thomas Hall (R-Madison Township) to eliminate the August special election, except in instances when the August special election is to nominate or elect candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives; and to allow a school district whose entire territory is located within the congressional district that is on the August ballot to put a levy on the August ballot.

BOARD COMMUNICATION PLAN

Mr. Mount reported that he shared the document Ms. Charters developed, the Board Member Interest/External Communication with the Leadership Cabinet, on November 3. The Leadership Cabinet was happy to see that the Board plan also addresses communication.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms. Meyer reviewed the monthly reports with the Board.

APPROVAL OF PAID BILLS (Resolution #4464)

Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Meyer, it was moved by Mr. Peck and seconded by Ms. Gausman that the paid bills for the previous month be approved as presented, for a total of \$767,669.48.

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

TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fiscal Office Update:

- **Travel Reimbursement Forms** - Board members need to sign their travel forms. They are included in your packet. Please sign and return them to me at the board meeting. Payments will be made in December.

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TREASURER DISCUSSION ITEMS (Cont.)

- **Cooperative Question/Answer Session:** We will hold an in-person meeting for a question/answer session around the possible changes coming to the funding model for related services provided via the Hopewell Special Education Cooperative Agreements. As I've mentioned before, the executive committee is evaluating the funding model for these services and determining whether to leave it the same or change it to more of a usage service model. Currently, only a portion of the costs is billed to participating districts based upon their usage of a service. It's possible there could be a phase in moving towards a 100% usage model for the related services provided by Hopewell. Superintendents and Treasurers from all five counties that Hopewell serves will be invited to attend. The meeting will be held on December 13.
- **GAAP Financial Statements:** I spoke with Jeremy Snellgrove of Plattenburg on November 9. He indicated that our GAAP financial statements would be completed within the next day or two. Our annual financial reports will be filed on the AOS Hinkle Filing System by the November 30 deadline.

NOTE: Auditor of State (AOS) Hinkle Filing System: Ohio law (ORC 117.38) requires that local public offices file their annual financial reports with the AOS. Further, OAC117-2-03(B) requires all counties, cities, school districts, including educational service centers and community schools, and government insurance pools to prepare their financial report pursuant to GAAP. Unless an extension has been approved by the AOS, entities filing on a GAAP basis have 150 days (November 30 for our ESC) following the end of their fiscal year to submit their financial statements to the AOS. Any entity failing to comply with the mandated basis of accounting, and/or the filing requirements may be subject to non-compliance citations and penalties established by the ORC.

GAAP – Generally Accepted Accounting Principles - incorporates components to eliminate misleading accounting and financial reporting practices. The components create consistent accounting and reporting standards, which provide reliable methods of evaluating an organization's financial standing. Without GAAP, accountants could use misleading methods to paint a deceptive picture of an organization's financial standing.

Professional Development:

- On November 9, 2021, I attended the BWC Update webinar. This webinar provided information about other state coverage and working out of state, the estimated annual premium, and BWC website updates.
- On November 16, 2021, I will attend the virtual ESC Treasurer Roundtable. This monthly informational meeting will provide networking opportunities and updates and information impacting ESCs.

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PERSONNEL CONTRACT RESIGNATION: ESC (Resolution #4465)

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

ESC Contract Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Contract Type</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Chambers, Kathy	Intervention Specialist	Retired Certificated/Administrator	8/31/2022

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

PERSONNEL CONTRACT AGREEMENTS (Resolution #4466)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Ms. Gausman 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
Barton, Terri	Substitute Administrator	2021-2022	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$325.00 Per Diem	Sub Administrator	R/R
Cover, Kristan	Family & Community Engagement Liaison	2022-2022	6 months	As Needed	Bachelor's	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$39.77 per hour	Certificated	5.50 hours per day/ Paid via timesheets/ Through June 2022
Fultz, Roy	Student Monitor	2021-2022	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$14.00 per hour	Classified	ACOV
Neuman, Jessica	Substitute Teacher	2021-2022	1 Year	As Needed	No Degree on Schedule	No Schedule/ No Step/ \$115.00 per diem	Certificated	SOLC

East Clinton Substitutes

1. Neumann, Jessica

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

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APPROVAL OF SATH MEMBERSHIP (#4467)

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Justice, it was moved by Ms. Charters and seconded by Ms. Saylor that the Board continues membership in Supplemental Assistance to the Handicapped, Inc. (SATH) for the school year 2021-2022 at the cost of \$500.00.

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

Ms. Justice provided an overview of KAMP Dovetail for Board members and guests in attendance.

Mr. Wilt shared that he attended the annual business meeting at the Capital Conference as a delegate on November 8. He was very discouraged and disoriented regarding items voted on that should never be voted on. The speaker, Patrica Henton, was very impressive, spot-on.

SUPERINTENDENT INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

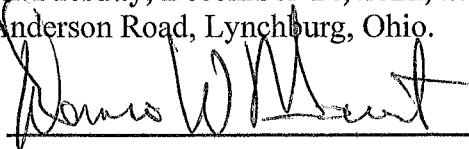
Superintendent Justice shared the following with the Board:

1. High-Performing ESC Designation – The sixth year in a row. No additional money but allows districts to not go through the certified Procurement process.
2. Fairfield Superintendent Search – Position will be posted in January 2022.
3. Mr. Bradshaw Receives Teamwork Award – One of the 25 to 30 administrators recognized at the OESCA Breakfast for the Reframing Education Network project.
4. BAC Update – Adams/Brown Counties engrained in the GRIT Project. Clinton County is working with the Port Authority and the Chamber of Commerce, and Fayette County is beginning to start a BAC for their county.
5. Superintendent/Treasurer Evaluations – Located in packets.
6. December Board Meeting – Taking place on December 12 at Mr. Mount's home.
7. Introductions – Ms. Justice asked guests, Mr. Todd Hixson and Dr. Norma Kirby to introduce themselves and provide a little information.

Ms. Justice and Ms. Meyer thanked the Board for their consideration and approval of severance and willingness to move forward with the retire/rehire process.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. West and seconded by Mr. Wilt to adjourn to meet again in regular session on **Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the home of Dennis and Collen Mount, 2714 Anderson Road, Lynchburg, Ohio.



BOARD PRESIDENT



TREASURER