Minutes in Brief
Southern Oregon ESD SOESD Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 6:00 PM
SOESD Operations Center, 101 North Grape Street, Medford, OR 97501

Board Members in Attendance:

Mary Barton*	Present
Ariel Bloomer*	Present
Brian Clark	Present
Jessie Hecocta*	Present
Rhonda Lawrence*	Present
Ana Mannenbach:	Present
Bob Moore:	Absent
Rebecca Mueller:	Present
Richie Owens:	Present

Present: 8, Absent: 1.

Staff and Guests in Attendance:

Mark Angle-Hobson	Kylee Harrison
Tom Bigboy	Liz Littleton
Forest Evergreen	Amy Szeliga*
Isobel Evergreen*	Jeanetta Woodside

*Attended via video/audio conference

1. Preliminary

1.A. Call to Order

The Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at SOESD's Operations Center in Medford, Oregon. Chair Mannenbach called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

1.B. Roll Call

1.C. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Mannenbach read the SOESD land acknowledgment.

1.D. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Mannenbach led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.E. Comments from Representatives of the Associations

Co-President Isobel Evergreen of the Classified Union reported that the union approved an updated constitution allowing electronic voting, improving efficiency and member access. Updates were provided on completed MOUs covering bilingual staff stipends, support for the Migrant Education program, expanded bereavement leave provisions, and communication partner support for the PDHH and PVI programs. The union also reviewed several job description updates in collaboration with Human Resources. Increased member participation was noted, and efforts will continue to engage and empower both new and longtime members.

Amy Szeliga, Licensed Association President, congratulated the Classified Union on its recent accomplishments and thanked the Human Resources and Back-to-School Planning teams for providing opportunities for the association to connect with new hires and current members. The association also reported working collaboratively with the district to address a time-sensitive member concern, resulting in a positive outcome for the employee, students, and families.

1.F. Requests to Address Agenda Items

No requests to address agenda items were received.

2. Consent Agenda

Superintendent Angle-Hobson recognized CFO Woodside for responding to board feedback by adding a written financial summary to accompany the budget figures in the board packet. The additional context is intended to improve understanding of district finances, and the board will provide feedback on the format after several months of use.

Board Member Owens noted that the minutes from the Board's Special Meeting should be amended to reflect that he had to leave early. Board Secretary Littleton will amend these minutes to reflect this update.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MUELLER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER OWENS TO:
Move to approve all items on the consent agenda as presented.
Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Yea, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea
Motion Carried: Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

3. Communications

3.A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Angle-Hobson presented a revised monthly report format designed to better align updates with the Strategic Plan, superintendent evaluation goals, and key district priorities. Superintendent Angle-Hobson highlighted ongoing efforts to increase visibility and engagement across component districts and ESD programs through site visits, regional collaboration, and participation in district events. Updates included visits to Rogue River School District, Josephine County ESD program sites, and the Klamath Falls City Schools Back to School event. Superintendent Angle-Hobson also recognized significant facility improvements completed by the Early Learning Hub team and reported that Southern Oregon ESD received the 2026 Pathway Enterprises Business Partner of the Year Award. Discussion also covered opportunities to better inform board members about upcoming district visits and engagement activities.

3.B. Southern Oregon Early Learning Services (SOELS) presentation

Rene' Brandon, SOELS Director, provided an overview of the Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub, which serves children ages birth to five and their families in Jackson and Josephine counties. The presentation highlighted efforts to address regional childcare challenges, strengthen family engagement, and support early learning through community partnerships. An update was provided on the expansion of the Growing Together Family Community Center and the renovation of its new facility to increase programming and family support services. Board members discussed service accessibility throughout the region,

transportation barriers for families, inclusive programming for children with disabilities, and opportunities to expand the community center model into Jackson County.

4. Administration

4.A. Superintendent-Board Operating Agreement

Superintendent Angle-Hobson presented revisions to the Superintendent-Board Operating Agreement based on outcomes from the board retreat. Board members discussed the provision requiring authorization for individual board members' visits to ESD sites and expressed interest in greater flexibility. Superintendent Angle-Hobson reported that OSBA advised that the current language is consistent with existing board policy. He will consult with OSBA regarding potential revisions and bring any recommendations back to the board. The board agreed to proceed with the updated operating agreement and to consider future amendments if policy changes are recommended.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER OWENS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER CLARK TO:

Approve the Superintendent - Board Operating Agreement as presented.
Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Yea, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea
Motion Carried: Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

4.B. Superintendent Goals and Leadership Priorities

Superintendent Angle-Hobson presented his goals and leadership priorities, developed from the board retreat, including a crosswalk that aligns strategic plan implementation, district priorities, and superintendent evaluation standards. Superintendent Angle-Hobson noted that the alignment process helped integrate multiple work streams into a cohesive framework. Board members discussed the relationship between the goals and the Oregon Administrator Standards and agreed that additional discussion regarding evaluation criteria would occur with OSBA consultant, Janet Avila-Medina, at a future meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER OWENS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER MUELLER TO:

Approve the Superintendent's Goals and Leadership Priorities as presented.
Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Yea, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea
Motion Carried: Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

4.C. Revised Superintendent Evaluation Proposed Timeline

Superintendent Angle-Hobson presented a revised superintendent evaluation timeline based on the OSBA consultant's availability and to ensure compliance with contractual deadlines. The proposed timeline incorporates a targeted feedback survey and aligns the superintendent evaluation process with evaluation procedures used for other administrators and licensed staff. Board members discussed the timing of the superintendent's self-evaluation and requested additional information about potential schedule adjustments. Following discussion, the board approved the revised evaluation timeline.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER OWENS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER MUELLER TO:
Adopt the OSBA Evaluation Process Timeline as presented.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Yea, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea
Motion Carried: Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

4.D. First Reading of SOESD Revised Board Policies

Superintendent Angle-Hobson presented CPA - Layoff and Recall for Administrators, CPA-AR - Layoff and Recall for Administrators Administrative Regulation, and IKJ - Artificial Intelligence for first reading. Discussion on the layoff and recall policy focused on implementation considerations and the factors used in layoff decisions. Discussion of the Artificial Intelligence policy focused on instructional use, student data privacy, governance, and approval criteria for AI tools, including questions about religious exemptions recognized under state requirements and potential religious exemptions related to AI use.

4.E. SOESD Board Policies for Approval

Superintendent Angle-Hobson presented KNA - Immigration Enforcement on ESD Property and the accompanying Administrative Regulations KNA-AR(1) and KNA-AR(2) for approval, noting that adoption was required by the September 30 statutory deadline and that the model policy arrived too late to allow the board's customary first-reading process. Superintendent Angle-Hobson explained that cabinet reviewed the policy options and recommended adopting the available language to provide clear, consistent procedures across all ESD sites. The policy designates primary and alternate immigration liaisons and outlines procedures for responding to immigration enforcement activity on ESD property, including coordination with site administrators.

Board members discussed notification requirements, the timing and methods of communication, and how to balance timely notification with minimizing disruption at ESD sites. The board requested revisions to include notification of the Board of Directors and, when practicable, of visitors and volunteers for whom actionable contact information is available. Administration also described potential communication methods, including email, Teams, and ParentSquare, to notify staff and families as appropriate to the circumstances. Following discussion, the board approved the policy and administrative regulations, incorporating the requested revisions.
IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER OWENS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER MUELLER TO: Approve the KNA policies with revisions.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Yea, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea
Motion Carried: Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

5. Business Affairs

5.A. Contract for Staffing Service Increase

CFO Woodside presented a contract with Aya Education for up to 2.5 FTE of occupational therapy services, with a total cost not to exceed $250,000. The additional services are intended to support occupational therapy needs in the Eagle Point and Klamath County school districts. Administration noted that the agreement extends through the current fiscal year and may be reduced or replaced as permanent occupational therapists are hired.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MUELLER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER OWENS TO:
Approve the AYA Education contract for occupational therapy services totaling 2.5 FTE, not to exceed $250,000.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Yea, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea
Motion Carried: Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

5.B. SOESD Surplus Property Declaration

CFO Woodside reported that the consolidation of six ESD locations resulted in surplus furniture and equipment. Items were inventoried, with federally funded assets excluded and select furnishings retained for future ESD use. Remaining items were made available to staff and nonprofit organizations, followed by a public surplus sale on September 25, 2026, prior to the SOESD warehouse closure at the end of the month.

6. Miscellaneous

Klamath Falls Regional Office Ribbon Cutting — October 9, 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Superintendent Angle-Hobson reported that the ribbon-cutting event for the Klamath Falls Regional Office scheduled for October 9, 2026, may be postponed due to delays in installing the audiology booth. A new date will be confirmed and communicated once it is determined.
Next SOESD Board of Directors Regular Meeting — October 21, SOESD Operations Center
OSBA Annual Convention — November 12-14, Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront. Please let Board Secretary Littleton know if you plan to attend.

7. Adjournment

Chair Mannenbach adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.