Minutes in Brief
Southern Oregon ESD SOESD Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 21, 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	Absent
Rhonda Lawrence*	Present
Ana Mannenbach:	Absent
Bob Moore:	Absent
Rebecca Mueller:	Present – 6:07 pm
Richie Owens:	Present

Staff and Guests in Attendance:

Mark Angle-Hobson	Liz Littleton
Tom Bigboy	Jessie McClung
Todd Bloomquist	Ryan Swearingen
Erin Green	Carlie Wiley-Wolter*
Kylee Harrison*	Jeanetta Woodside

*Attended via video/audio conference

1. Preliminary
   1.A. Call to Order
   Vice Chair Owens called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
   1.B. Roll Call
   1.C. Land Acknowledgement
   1.D. Pledge of Allegiance
   1.E. Comments from Representatives of the Associations
   Carlie Wiley-Wolter, Vice President of the Licensed Association, expressed solidarity with Bend educators, students, and families. The association is working with the district to address members' individual needs while minimizing impacts on job duties. It is negotiating an MOA on new-hire orientation and hopes to report an agreement at the next meeting. No Classified Association representatives attended this meeting.
   1.F. Requests to Address Agenda Items
   No requests to address agenda items were received.
2. Consent Agenda
   A. Approval of Agenda
   B. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting - September 16, 2026
   C. Personnel Report
   D. Approval of Proposed SOESD Board Policies
   - CPA - Layoff and Recall for Administrators
   - CPA-AR - Layoff and Recall for Administrators: Administrative Rule
   - IKJ - Artificial Intelligence

E. Financial Report

Board members expressed appreciation for the financial report narrative and discussed questions about the layoff policy. After considering whether to pull the policy for separate discussion, the board approved the consent agenda as presented.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER BARTON AND SECONDED BY MEMBER BLOOMER TO:

Approve all items on the consent agenda as presented.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Absent, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

3. Communications

3.A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Mark Angle-Hobson updated the board on flood response and restoration at the operations center, including relocation of IT staff and audiology equipment while repairs proceed. He highlighted recent student and community activities, including the regional Teacher of the Year celebration, Graduation Motivation, a career and technical student leadership conference, and White Cane Day. He also discussed Ukeru training as a trauma-informed approach to maintaining student and staff safety while avoiding restraint. Angle-Hobson noted that the expanded written report helps document his work for the board's later evaluation.

3.B. Klamath Promise Program Presentation

Jessie McClung, Klamath Promise Program Manager and Klamath Falls Regional Office Building Administrator, described the initiative's cross-sector partnerships supporting student success and family stability across the Klamath Basin, including community events and system-alignment work. She also outlined services and facilities at SOESD's Klamath Falls office. Board members asked about SOESD board representation on Klamath Promise's leadership team and the Courts to College diversion program and commended the work.

3.C. OAESD Advocacy Summit Report

Member Mary Barton summarized the October 9, 2026, OAESD Advocacy Summit, highlighting its focus on legislative engagement, including early relationship-building, communicating the value of ESDs, and sharing examples of SOESD's impact. Legislative Advocacy Day is scheduled for March 18, 2027. Board members were encouraged to attend, and travel reimbursement was confirmed as available.

3.D. BBE - AR - Board Member Vacancy Administrative Regulation Review

Superintendent Mark Angle-Hobson explained that the administrative regulation outlined the process for filling a board vacancy and did not require board approval. He said he shared it because the board had traditionally reviewed administrative regulations alongside related policies. Vacancies would typically be announced on the SOESD website and shared with component district boards, with possible notice in the newspaper of record. The board also discussed protecting applicants' residential addresses during eligibility verification.

3.E. Strategic Plan Review

Before the Strategic Plan Pillar updates, Superintendent Mark Angle-Hobson shared that SOESD staff had supported High Desert ESD and the Bend community following the October 15, 2026, tragedy, including staffing community drop-in sites. Kylee Harrison noted the value of ESDs supporting one another and praised the team's response and work.

Educational Equity and Student Support Systems

Assistant Superintendent Kylee Harrison described efforts to make information about SOESD services easier for districts to access through a consolidated workbook listing service contacts and assignments across the agency. The workbook incorporated feedback from district and ESD staff and was being prepared for distribution to districts. She also discussed reviewing the student services request process to ensure it captured the needed information and was easy to use. Next steps included using the workbook to review service delivery across the region, collecting district feedback, comparing referral systems with those of similar ESDs, and examining how quickly requested services reached students and what barriers could delay them.

People, Culture, and Organizational Belonging

CHRO Ryan Swearingen reported on human resources work, including revisions to employee entry and exit surveys, retention tracking, and staff and association feedback. He noted that the administrative team had begun a seven-part HR training series. Bilingual stipends for licensed and classified staff have been established, several job descriptions have been updated, and bereavement provisions for classified staff have been revised. He also described plans to revise all employee evaluation systems and to continue updating job descriptions.

Operational Excellence, Systems, and Stewardship

CIO Tom Bigboy and CFO Jeanetta Woodside described the development of a staff dashboard to make existing documents, systems, and procedures easier to find. Based on staff feedback, the team chose to improve access to existing resources rather than develop a new intranet. The dashboard will be tested and updated in the next quarter. Jeanetta Woodside reported that SOESD received a $40,000 ODE grant to support long-range facilities planning, including assessments of buildings, HVAC systems, roofs, and carpeting. Member Rebecca Mueller praised the team's use of staff feedback.

Regional Partnerships, Engagement, and Impact

CaP Coordinator Erin Green described efforts to strengthen partnerships with community programs, expand SOESD's communications, and share the agency's mission, vision, and core values. Upcoming work includes finalizing partnership agreements, creating an ESD advocacy overview, documenting existing regional partnerships, and developing an operational equity framework informed by examples from diverse communities. Questions were asked about the purpose of an equity framework, which Erin said helps guide decisions by considering bias, who is affected, and potential unintended consequences, and about Class Intercom, which she described as a tool for managing and cross-posting social media content.

Learning and Future Ready Practices

Director of Education Services Todd Bloomquist described visiting districts to learn what is working, the challenges they face, and how SOESD can support their priorities. He emphasized building a coordinated process for gathering and sharing feedback from educators, students, families, and districts, with attention to the resource constraints and access challenges in rural communities. He also discussed applying learning-science research to teaching, including strategies to support student engagement, collaboration, and content mastery.

Superintendent Angle-Hobson thanked the pillar champions for advancing the strategic plan alongside their regular responsibilities and said they would provide progress updates quarterly.

4. Administration

4.A. First Reading of SOESD Revised Board Policies

The board took a five-minute recess and reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

The following Revised SOESD Board Policies are presented for the Board's review:

- BG - Board-Staff Communications
- IGAC - Religion and Schools
- IGAC-AR - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs
- GCN/GDN - Evaluation of Staff

The board reviewed proposed revisions to BG, IGAC, and accompanying administrative regulation, and GCN/GDN. Superintendent Angle-Hobson will review IGAC with OSBA and legal counsel to determine whether an opt-out form is needed and will present his findings at the next Board of Directors meeting.

4.B. Resolution to Amend the 2024 OSBA Bylaws

The board discussed proposed OSBA bylaw amendments, including concerns raised by board members regarding the proposed process for establishing and discontinuing caucuses. Vice Chair Owens will communicate the Board's concerns to OSBA Board member Dawn Watson and request a response or presentation for the November Board of Directors meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MUELLER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER CLARK TO:
Send communication to Dawn Watson noting concerns about the plan to move oversight of starting and ending caucus assignment to the executive director rather than through the voting of member boards and ask her to respond by email prior to, or through discussion at, the next board meeting in November.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Absent, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER OWENS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER LAWRENCE TO:
Postpone the vote on the Resolution amending the 2024 OSBA Bylaws to the November regular meeting.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Absent, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

4.C. OSBA Election: Board of Directors, Position 5 Southern Region

The board discussed the candidates for OSBA Board of Directors Position 5, Southern Region. Board Members expressed support for Dawn Watson, citing her prior board experience, strong communication, and understanding of challenges facing school boards, including finances and legislative mandates.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER OWENS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER MUELLER TO:
Cast the SOESD Board of Directors' vote for Dawn Watson to the position of OSBA Board of Directors, Position 5, Southern Region.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Absent, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

5. Business Affairs

5.A. Budget Committee Calendar

CFO Jeanetta Woodside presented the 2027–28 Budget Committee calendar and acknowledged open seats on the Committee. CFO Woodside asked Board members if they knew of any qualified candidates in their zones who might be a good fit and to start a conversation with them. Candidates would then need to seek a nomination from their component school district board. Superintendent Angle-Hobson will inform component district superintendents of the vacancies at the next regional superintendents' meeting. CFO Woodside noted possible interest from Central Point School District. Nominees will be brought before the SOESD Board for a vote in March.

5.B. Related Party Questionnaire

CFO Jeanetta Woodside explained the Related Party Questionnaire. The questionnaire gives the auditors information about potential related-party matters. Board members were asked to complete and return the forms and to disclose any possible connection, even if they were unsure whether it applied.

6. Miscellaneous
    - Next SOESD Board Meeting — Wednesday, November 18, 2026
    - OSBA Annual Convention — November 12 -14, 2026; Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel
7. Adjournment

Vice Chair Owens adjourned the meeting at 8:49 pm.