Superintendent's Report

November 2026 | Mark Angle-Hobson, Superintendent

1. Superintendent's Focus: Visibility | Communication | Relationships

My focus continues to be strengthening SOESD's relationships, increasing our visibility across the region, and ensuring our work remains responsive to the needs of the districts and communities we serve.

This month, I continued connecting with component district leaders, visiting SOESD locations, engaging with regional partners, and participating in conversations about the future of education in Southern Oregon.

Highlights include:

- **Regional Superintendent Collaboration:** Met with the Rogue River School District Superintendent to plan our regional superintendent gathering and convened the monthly Regional Superintendent's Meeting at the SOESD District Office on October 26.
- **Travelin' Tuesday:** Visited the Grants Pass Regional Office and Allen Creek Preschool on October 20; Operations Center (Grape St) on October 27 and November 9; and our Childcare Resource Network (State St) on November 10. These visits provide valuable opportunities to connect with employees and better understand the work happening across our agency.
- **Coffee with Cabinet:** Met with employees at the Klamath Falls Regional Office on November 5. Strategic Plan Pilar Champions provided an update on our Q1 progress and highlighted Q2 direction. We also answered questions from those in attendance. These informal conversations are an important part of building relationships and strengthening connections across our geographically dispersed agency.
- **Higher Education:** Served as a panelist at the RCC/SOU Higher Education Center on November 9, participating in a conversation about the future of higher education in Oregon and the connections between K-12 education, higher education, and workforce development.
- **Regional Partnerships:** Participated in the Rogue Way to Well-Being cross-sector collaboration on October 22, featuring Senator Ron Wyden and keynote speaker Dr. Amy King.

2. Strategic Plan Implementation and Organizational Alignment

Implementation of our 2026–31 Strategic Plan continues to be a central leadership priority. On October 28, Cabinet and leadership engaged in strategic planning implementation and coaching with Studer Education.

Our emphasis remains on moving from planning to meaningful implementation: establishing clear ownership, aligning our work and resources with strategic priorities, and developing sustainable systems for monitoring progress and continuous improvement.

Additional activities supporting organizational alignment included:

- Regional Services Advisory Council meeting (November 2).
- EAC/REN Superintendent's Check-In and planning (October 23).
- EAC Funding Formula Workgroup (November 4).
- Meeting with Medford SD regarding potential 2027–28 Technology Services (October 30).
- Operations Center check-ins (October 27 and November 9).
- Resolve Board meeting (October 27).

These conversations help ensure SOESD remains attentive to regional needs while aligning our services, partnerships, and resources with our mission.

3. Communication and Organizational Culture

Building a people-first agency requires intentional attention to how we communicate, collaborate, and support one another.

This month, I continued engagement with employees and leadership through several opportunities:

- Office Professionals Meeting (October 29).
- Licensed Labor Management (November 4).
- Classified Labor Management (November 5).
- Coffee with Cabinet at the Klamath Falls Regional Office (November 5).

These meetings provide important opportunities for listening, strengthening relationships, addressing concerns, and maintaining open lines of communication across employee groups.

I remain committed to creating a culture where employees feel connected to our agency's purpose and understand how their individual contributions support the districts and communities we serve.

4. Progress Toward Annual Goals

My superintendent priorities continue to align with our 2026–27 Big Rocks and the Oregon Administrator Standards, with particular attention to:

- **Strategic Plan Implementation:** Establishing the structures, accountability, and leadership capacity needed to move our strategic priorities forward.
- **Communication and Visibility:** Increasing opportunities for employees, districts, and regional partners to understand SOESD's work and connect with agency leadership.
- **Relationships and Governance:** Maintaining meaningful engagement with component districts, our Board, regional partners, and employee groups.
- **Organizational Leadership:** Supporting Cabinet and administrators in building the systems and leadership capacity necessary for sustainable agency improvement.

These priorities are interconnected. Our ability to deliver excellent services externally depends, in part, on the strength of our relationships, systems, and culture internally.

5. What I'm Hearing Across the Region

One of the most significant conversations this month has centered on the proposed changes to how SOESD delivers Technology Services beginning in the 2027–28 school year.

At our October Regional Superintendent's Meeting, CIO Tom Bigboy and CFO Jeanetta Woodside presented a significant proposed shift from 5% to 10% core services. Recognizing that this change has important financial and operational implications for component districts, several superintendents requested individual follow-up meetings to better understand how the proposed model would affect their respective districts.

What I've heard in most of these conversations has been encouraging. Superintendents have expressed appreciation for SOESD's transparency, confidence in the way we are communicating and managing the change, and support for the proposed direction.

I believe this is an important example of how we want to do business as an agency. Significant changes are not always easy, but when we approach them with transparency, invite questions, listen to concerns, and invest in relationships, we create the conditions for trust and collaboration. Ultimately, our success depends on the confidence of the districts we serve and our ability to work through change together.

6. Board Awareness and Upcoming Engagements

Upcoming activities and engagements include:

- November 19: Standard Response Protocol and Safety Consult
- November 23: Equity Lens Review

SOESD will be closed November 26 and 27 in recognition of Thanksgiving.

I look forward to continuing these opportunities to strengthen relationships, celebrate student success, and remain engaged in the issues shaping public education across Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Angle-Hobson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

- Oct 20 Meeting with RRSD Superintendent to plan Regional Superintendent's Meeting
- Oct 20 Travelin' Tuesday: Grants Pass Regional Office (GPRO) and Allen Creek Preschool
- Oct 22 Rogue Way to Well-Being cross-sector collaboration with Senator Ron Wyden and Keynote Speaker Dr. Amy King
- Oct 23 EAC/REN Superintendent's Check-In and planning
- Oct 26 Regional Superintendent's Monthly Meeting at DO
- Oct 27 OC (Grape St) Check-In
- Oct 27 Resolve Board meeting
- Oct 28 Strategic Planning Implementation and Coaching with Studer Education
- Oct 29 Office Professionals Meeting
- Oct 30 Meeting with Medford SD re: 2027-28 Technology Services
- Nov 2 Regional Services Advisory Council Meeting
- Nov 3 Collaboration with Robyn from engage2learn re: Regional Supts Mtg presentation
- Nov 4 Licensed Labor Management
- Nov 4 EAC Funding Formula Workgroup
- Nov 5 Coffee with Cabinet at Klamath Falls Regional Office (KFRO)
- Nov 5 OAESD Governance Council Meeting
- Nov 5 Classified Labor Management
- Nov 9 Operations Center (Grape St) check-in
- Nov 9 Served as panelist at RCC/SOU Ctr on the future of higher education in Oregon
- Nov 10 Childcare Resource Network (CCRN) check-in at State St location
- Nov 12 HR for Education Leaders PD with SOESD administrators
- Nov 12 Phoenix Elementary School for Attendance Impact Award presentation
- Nov 13-14 OSBA Annual Conference in Portland
- Nov 16 Regional Superintendent's Meeting