

Minutes in Brief

Southern Oregon ESD SOESD Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 6:00 PM

SOESD Administration Office, 101 North Grape Street, Medford, OR 97501

Board Members in Attendance:

Mary Barton	Present
Ariel Bloomer	Present
Brian Clark	Present
Jessie Hecocsta*	Present at 6:07 PM
Rhonda Lawrence*	Present at 6:12 PM
Ana Mannenbach	Present
Bob Moore	Absent
Rebecca Mueller	Present
Richie Owens*	Present at 6:09 PM

Present: 8, Absent: 1.

Staff and Guests in Attendance:

Mark	Angle-Hobson	Erin	Green
Janet	Avila-Medina*	Roberta	Gudeman
Jaime	Banks	Kylee	Harrison
Tom	Bigboy	Liz	Littleton
Patty	Brown	Jewell	Stone*
Michael	Campbell*	Ryan	Swearingen
Stephanie	Cossey	Amy	Szeliga
Isobel	Evergreen	Jeanetta	Woodside
Forest	Evergreen		

*Attended via video/audio conference

1. Preliminary

- 1.A. Call to Order
- 1.B. Call to Order/Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Southern Oregon Education Service District Board of Directors was held in the downstairs conference room of the SOESD administration office in Medford and by video/audio conference on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. Chair Mannenbach called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

1.C. Land Acknowledgement

Southern Oregon Education Service District and the areas in which we serve are located within the ancestral homelands of the Shasta, Takelma, Latgawa, Klamath, Modoc, and the Yahooskin-Paiute peoples who lived here since time immemorial. The full text of SOESD's land acknowledgment can be read on the SOESD website:

<https://www.soesd.k12.or.us/equity>

1.D. Pledge of Allegiance

1.E. Comments from Representatives of the Associations

Amy Szeliga, President of the Licensed Association, thanked the board members for their engagement and expressed the Licensed Association's solidarity with educators, students, families, and communities affected by ICE. Ms. Szeliga also shared that the labor-management collaboration has been going very well, with strong district engagement and timely communication.

Isobel Evergreen, Co-President of the Classified Association, thanked the board during Board Appreciation Month and noted the union's appreciation for their enthusiasm and compassion. She reported the classified union has been actively working with the agency on code reviews, bilingual stipends, clarification on promotion procedures, and is pleased to find avenues to support staff.

1.F. Requests to Address Agenda Items

No requests to address agenda items were received.

1.G. SOESD Board Recognition

Superintendent Angle-Hobson thanked the board for its individual and collective strength, noting that employees and association leaders deeply appreciate their engagement and support. Dr. Angle-Hobson highlighted the governor's proclamation recognizing School Board Recognition Month and introduced a video prepared to express agency-wide gratitude. The SBHW Program created a thank-you chain displayed on the back table.

2. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes: November 19, 2025, Regular Meeting
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Approval of Proposed Board Policies
- E. Financial Report

IT WAS MOVED BY MARY BARTON AND SECONDED BY MEMBER CLARK TO:

Approve all items on the consent agenda as presented.

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Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Heceta: 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 reported multiple site visits, including trips to Grants Pass as the Ramsey remodel was completed. Students moved into the updated building on January 12, with positive feedback from staff. He noted that staff and maintenance teams worked through winter break to prepare the space, and that a spring ribbon-cutting will follow the playground installation. He also reported ongoing advocacy with the Educator Advancement Council regarding the potential elimination of Regional Educator Networks and efforts to preserve professional learning structures under reduced funding. Superintendent Angle-Hobson met with the SOU president and regional superintendents to explore collaborative opportunities with the School of Education amid budget concerns, with a shared focus on supporting future educators.

3.B. 2026 SOESD Core Value Survey

Erin Green, Communications and Partnerships Coordinator, reported that the agency is conducting a survey to help identify core values that will support the development of the new strategic plan. Administrators, cabinet members, office professionals, the strategic planning steering committee, and Board members will all be invited to participate, with results informing the upcoming work on mission, vision, and values at the mid-year administrative retreat. Superintendent Angle-Hobson noted ongoing coordination with Studer Education as part of the strategic planning process, stating the mission, vision, and values will center us on the why, and the strategic plan is the how.

4. Business Affairs

4.A. 2024 - 2025 SOESD Audit Report

Jewell Stone, of Isler Medford LLC, presented the results of the audit for fiscal year 2024–2025 and issued a clean opinion on all financial statements, supplementary schedules, the single audit, and Oregon compliance testing. The report noted a significant increase in cash position, supported in part by the district's new \$12 million loan for the Phoenix and Ramsey projects, and confirmed that major funds generally underspent their budgets. Additional single-audit testing of federal programs found no internal-control weaknesses, no compliance issues, and no questioned costs, with clean opinions issued on all major federal programs. Superintendent Angle-Hobson and CFO Woodside recognized the business office staff for completing the audit on time during a year of leadership transition.

4.B. Operational Support for Pinehurst Schools

CFO Woodside announced that, as of January 1, the ESD is now providing contracted business services to Pinehurst School District following the departure of their business manager. Services include payroll, budgeting, audit preparation, tax reporting, and other core business office functions. To support this work, the business office added 0.5 FTE, fully funded through the Pinehurst School District contract. She noted that this model is common among ESDs and may expand to additional small districts in the future, with Pinehurst being the pilot.

5. Administration

5.A. Superintendent Evaluation Targeted Feedback Survey Planning

Janet Avila-Medina, OSBA Board Development Specialist, guided the board through the planning process for the Superintendent Evaluation Targeted Feedback Survey, which the board and superintendent agreed to include this year to establish baseline data for a first-year superintendent.

Ms. Avila-Medina reviewed the survey's purpose, the need for a targeted respondent group, and the alignment of the questions with selected evaluation standards. The board reviewed a Selection of Standards and reached consensus on three standards:

- Standard 3 – Inclusive ESD Culture
- Standard 6 – Effective Organizational Management
- Standard 5 – Communication and Community Relations

Two open-ended questions will also be included. Standards were selected to ensure both staff and community respondents could provide meaningful feedback. The board confirmed that survey participation should be limited to individuals with direct interaction and relevant

insight into the superintendent's work. Ms. Avila-Medina emphasized keeping the survey targeted and manageable for a first-year superintendent to ensure meaningful, reliable data.

The following staff groups were identified to receive the survey: Cabinet, Cabinet-adjacent roles, program coordinators, full administrative team, office professionals, union leadership, and selected "Coffee with Cabinet" participants who have direct engagement with the superintendent.

The board's survey will be sent to the following community groups: Superintendents of the 13 component districts, SOU and RCC leadership, Resolve board members, OAESD executive staff.

The timeline for the Targeted Feedback Survey is as follows:

- January 30: Final participant list submitted
- February 16: Survey opens
- Mid-February–Mid-March: Survey window with reminders
- April 15: OSBA presents results

5.B. SOESD Local Service Plan (LSP) 2026-2027

Superintendent Angle-Hobson presented the revised Local Service Plan and noted that, while the document has been redesigned for clarity and transparency, the services offered remain unchanged from those in the current year. The board was briefed on the process for updating the plan, including multiple rounds of administrator review, incorporation of program impact statements, and collaboration with the business office to improve financial explanations and graphics.

Key updates include clearer financial summaries with graphics to support understanding; a new funding overview showing how resources and FTE are allocated across required divisions; improved transparency on where services are available across counties and programs; and the use of staff photographs and impact statements to better reflect the work and its outcomes.

Board members expressed appreciation for the clarity and quality of the revised document. After discussion and questions, the board proceeded to consider approval of the Local Service Plan.

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

Approve the 2026-2027 SOESD Local Service Plan.

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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.C. Employee Appreciation Weeks

- 2025-2026 SOESD Resolution #6 – Classified Appreciation Week, March 2-6, 2026
- 2025-2026 SOESD Resolution #7 – Licensed Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2026

The annual employee appreciation weeks are a formal opportunity to recognize the staff of SOESD.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER MUELLER AND SECONDED BY MEMBER BARTON TO: Approve 2025-2026 SOESD Resolutions #6 and #7.

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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.D. Oregon Association of Education Service Districts (OAESD) Election

The Board discussed the two candidates running for the OAESD Chair-Elect position, Jill Conant, Malheur ESD, and Paul Zastrow, Columbia Gorge ESD.

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

Cast the SOESD Board of Directors' vote for Jill Conant for the OAESD Chair-Elect position.

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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.E. Ongoing Contract for Services Tyler York

Administration requested Board approval of an ongoing services contract with Tyler York for the management and development of the OR Project and PVI support.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER CLARK AND SECONDED BY ARIEL BLOOMER TO:

Approve Tyler York's contract not to exceed \$89,000.00.

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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.F. First Reading of Proposed SOESD Board Policies

The proposed SOESD board policies listed below were reviewed in first reading by the Board. Content edits made by the Board and corrections reflected in these policies will be presented for second reading and approval during the February 18, 2026, regular meeting.

Section I - Instruction

IGBA: Students with Disabilities - Child Identification Procedures

IGBA-AR: Students with Disabilities - Child Identification Procedures

IGBAB/JO: Education Records/Records of Students with Disabilities**

GBAB/JO-AR: Education Records/Records of Students with Disabilities Management

IGBAC: Special Education - Personnel

IGBAI Special Education - Private Schools

IGBAI-AR: Special Education - Private Schools

IGBAK: Special Education - Public Availability of State Application

IGBAL: Special Education - Services for Home-Schooled Students with Disabilities

IGBHD: Program Exemptions

IIA: Instructional Resources/Instructional Materials

IIA-AR(1): Instructional Materials Selection

IIA-AR(2): Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials

IIBGA: Electronic Communications System - Version 2

IIBGA-AR: Electronic Communications System

IICC: Volunteers *

IN: Animals in ESD Facilities

ING-AR: Animals in ESD Facilities

Section J - Students

JFC: Student Conduct**

JB: Equal Educational Opportunity[**]

JBA/GBN: Sexual Harassment

JBA/GBN-AR1: Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure

JBA/GBN-AR2: Federal Law (Title IX) Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure

JBB: Educational Equity

JFCG/JFCH/JFCI: Use of Tobacco Products, Alcohol, Drugs or Inhalant Delivery Systems**

JFCJ: Weapons**

JFCM: Threats of Violence**

JFG: Student Searches**

JFG-AR: Student Searches**

JG 4/16/08: Student Discipline**

JGA: Corporal Punishment**

JGAB: Use of Restraint or Seclusion**

JGAB-AR: Use of Restraint or Seclusion

JHCD/JHCDA: Medications**/*

JHCD/JHCDA-AR: Medications**/*

JHFE/GBNAB: Suspected Abuse of a Child Reporting Requirements**

JHFE/GBNAB-AR1: Reporting of Suspected Abuse of a Child

JHFE/GBNAB-AR2: Abuse of a Child Investigation

JHFF/GBNAA: Suspected Sexual Conduct with Students and Reporting Requirements *

JHFF/GBNAA-AR: Suspected Sexual Conduct Report Procedures and Forms *

JO/IGBAB: Education Records/Records of Students with Disabilities**

JO/IGBAB-AR: Education Records/Records of Students with Disabilities Management

JOA: Directory Information*

JOB: Personally Identifiable Information**

6. Miscellaneous

6.A. Next Meeting: February 18, 2026

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Mannenbach adjourned the meeting at 10:07 pm