

Minutes in Brief

Southern Oregon ESD SOESD Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 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	Present
Bob Moore	Absent
Rebecca Mueller	Absent
Richie Owens*	Present – 6:03 pm

Present: 6, Absent: 3.

Staff and Guests in Attendance:

Mark Angle-Hobson	Kylee Harrison
Diane Dunas	Liz Littleton
Karla Clark	Ryan Swearingen
Forest Evergreen	Amy Szeliga*
Isobel Evergreen	
Tanya Frisendahl	

*Attended via video/audio conference

1. Preliminary
 - 1.A. Call to Order

Chair Mannenbach called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
 - 1.B. Roll Call
 - 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

Licensed Association President Amy Szeliga shared that the association has reached agreement on a bilingual stipend MOA for licensed staff, recognizing critical bilingual skills that support students and families. She noted a few active grievances related to step placement and unpaid leave and expressed appreciation for all licensed employees in honor of Licensed Appreciation Week.

Classified acting co-president Isobel Evergreen reported that the union’s MOU to bring part-time classified staff under representation has been approved by the union and is moving toward ratification. She also described ongoing work toward a bilingual recognition MOU for classified staff and praised the Brailist team for clarifying expectations and advancement pathways.

1.F. Requests to Address Agenda Items

No requests to address agenda items were received.

2. Consent Agenda

During consent agenda review, Member Barton asked about the timing of Title I-C preschool funds. Superintendent Angle-Hobson, joined by Assistant Superintendent Harrison, noted that about 39% of funds have been received, which is roughly the same as last year, and that because many federal grants are reimbursement-based and run through September 30, administration is not concerned.

IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER BARTON AND SECONDED BY MEMBER CLARK TO: Approve all items on the consent agenda as presented.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Absent, Owens: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

3. Communications

3.A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Angle-Hobson reported progress with office moves and ongoing Cabinet-to-Cabinet meetings with all thirteen component districts to review SOESD’s Local Service Plan (LSP). Member Barton asked about the meetings in Klamath Falls. Superintendent Angle-Hobson and Assistant Superintendent Harrison outlined meetings with Klamath County School District leaders to clarify technology services and the LSP, visits to the current SOESD regional office, and tours of two potential city-owned sites.

It was noted that SOESD’s lease at the current regional office ends in mid-July, and staff are being prepared for a smooth move to a new site or, if needed, an interim location to keep services running.

4. Administration

4.A. 2026 - 2027 Proposed Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

The proposed 2026–2027 board meeting schedule was discussed. Superintendent Angle-Hobson suggested using the new District Office for the July 15 organizational meeting and the August 19 board retreat, with possible later rotations of locations. Superintendent Angle-Hobson noted that he and Board Secretary Liz Littleton are working with OSBA Board Development Specialist Janet Avila-Medina to schedule a four-hour, half-day board retreat, based on the board’s preferred schedule.

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

Approve the proposed SOESD Board of Directors meeting schedule for 2026-2027, with the meeting location designated as the District Office, the Operations Center, or a combination of both.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Absent, Owens: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

4.B. Administrator and Confidential Employee Appreciation Week

Superintendent Angle-Hobson then introduced a new Resolution 8 to formally recognize administrators and confidential employees, aligning with existing resolutions for classified and licensed staff.

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

Approve the 2025-2026 SOESD Resolution 8- Administrator and Confidential Employee Appreciation Week, June 1-5, 2026.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Absent, Owens: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

5. Business Affairs

5.A. JDEP Program Transition and Name Change Approval

Assistant Superintendent Kylee Harrison presented information on transitioning the Juvenile Detention Education Program (JDEP) from Medford School District to SOESD, noting it serves short-term youth in detention and will provide a trauma-informed, well-rounded educational program. She explained that, through a collaborative process with staff and youth, the school will be renamed Momentum Learning Center to reduce transcript stigma and emphasize forward movement, with the first year focused on stability and added special education, transition, and career-planning supports.

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

Approve renaming the JDEP program to the Momentum Learning Center and transferring operation of the program from the Medford School District to the Southern Oregon Education Service District, effective July 1, 2026.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Absent, Owens: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

5.B. Long Term Care and Treatment (LTCT) Integrated Program Plan Review and Approval.

Special Education Coordinator Diane Dunas presented the new integrated plan for SOESD's Long Term Care and Treatment programs, including the Grants Pass Day Treatment classrooms and the Medford girls' residential program. She summarized the needs assessment work, student and staff feedback, and the overall focus on strengthening literacy and math, building tiered systems of support for academics and behavior, improving family engagement, and expanding career-related learning opportunities.

The plan will be supported by High School Success (Measure 98) and Student Investment Account funds. After questions, the board approved submitting the LTCT Integrated Program Plan application to the Oregon Department of Education.

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

Approve the SOESD LTCT Integrated Program Plan application for submission to the Oregon Department of Education

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Absent, Owens: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

5.C. Southern Oregon iBuild Student Scholarships

Superintendent Mark Angle-Hobson introduced, and STEM Hub Program Manager Karla Clark described, a four-week summer iBuild program for students ages 16–24 that will provide OSHA 10 and CPR/First Aid certifications, hands-on construction experience, and employability and career-exploration activities. Rogue Workforce Partnership will supply up to \$30,000 so SOESD can offer scholarships up to \$1,500 each for up to twenty students, with no cost to participants.

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

Approve acceptance of up to \$30,000 from Rogue Workforce Partnership to fund student scholarships.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Absent, Owens: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

5.D. Bonds for Deputy and Deputy Clerk

Superintendent Mark Angle-Hobson explained that the board is being asked to renew the Clerk and Deputy Clerk bonds for the 2026–27 fiscal year. CFO Jeanetta Woodside, who could not attend, confirmed beforehand that the existing \$50,000 bond for each position is still appropriate. Angle-Hobson emphasized that the bond is a form of protective insurance, not a salary or benefit, and it covers the fiscal responsibilities of the Clerk and Deputy Clerk.

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

Approve the bond amount for the Clerk and Deputy Clerk at \$50,000 each for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Yea, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Absent, Owens: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

6. Miscellaneous

6.A. SOESD Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 6:00 PM, SOESD Operations Center, 101 N. Grape St., Downstairs Conference Room

6.B. SOESD End of Year Events

11th Annual Graduation Sensation

- Wednesday, May 27th - Parade - 12 Noon
- Main Street, Klamath Falls

Grants Pass Regional Office End of Year Breakfast

- Monday, June 1 – 8:30 AM
- 550 S.W. 6th Street, Grants Pass

SOESD Family Ice Cream Social & Retiree Recognition

- Tuesday, June 2 — 4 pm - 6 pm
- Twin Creeks Park South Gazebo, Central Point

Allen Creek Preschool Ribbon Cutting

- Wednesday, June 3 - 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
- 711SW Ramsey, Grants Pass

Winston End of Year Event

- Wednesday, June 3rd – 3 PM - 5 PM
- Civic Wayside Park, Winston

7. Adjournment

Chair Mannenbach adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm.