

Minutes in Brief

Southern Oregon ESD Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 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 Hecocta*	Present – at 6:29pm
Rhonda Lawrence*	Present
Ana Mannenbach:	Absent
Bob Moore:	Absent
Rebecca Mueller:	Present
Richie Owens*	Present

Present: 7, Absent: 2.

Staff and Guests in Attendance:

Mark Angle-Hobson	Erin Green
Tom Bigboy	Kylee Harrison
Celine Buczek	Debra Koutnik
Stephanie Cossey*	Agnes Lee-Wolfe
Nikki Donnelly*	Ryan Madrone
Isobel Evergreen	Jeanetta Woodside
Forest Evergreen	

*Attended via video/audio conference

1. Preliminary
 - A. Call to Order

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, March 18, 2026. Vice-Chair Owens called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Land Acknowledgement
 - D. Pledge of Allegiance
 - E. Comments from Representatives of the Associations

Celine Buczek expressed appreciation for classified employees during Classified Appreciation Week. She reported that the Licensed Association is preparing for Salem recruitment efforts while drafting an MOA for full licensure credit and an MOU for a Bilingual Stipend.

Isobel Evergreen shared that the Classified Association is gathering feedback on the Bilingual Stipend, developing an MOA to include part-time employees in the bargaining unit, and continuing participation in labor-management work.
 - F. Requests to Address Agenda Items

No requests to address the agenda items were received

2. **Consent Agenda**
 - A. Approval of Agenda
 - B. Approval of Minutes: February 18, 2026
 - C. Personnel Report
 - D. Financial Report

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, Hecocata: Absent, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Absent, Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

3. Communications
 - A. Superintendent's Report
Superintendent Angle-Hobson reported meeting with many community partners this month who were seeking to better understand the services the ESD provides. He also noted the ongoing work to prepare the new District Office building for opening next month. In response to questions, he explained his involvement with RESOLVE from his prior work as School Improvement Director, shared that his meeting with ScienceWorks led to a request for a follow-up meeting with their Executive Director and the School Improvement Career Connected Learning team, and the discussion with the YMCA Executive Director resulted in a clearer understanding of how the ESD is funded and the services we provide.
 - B. Collaborative Center for Autism Presentation
Dr. Deborah Koutnik and team members Celine Buczek, Nikki Donnelly, and Agnes Lee-Wolfe presented an overview of the Collaborative Center for Autism, noting the statewide need for timely, coordinated evaluations and explaining that the center's model began with the 2014 ACCESS grant, which funded training for local multidisciplinary teams. Ms. Lee-Wolfe highlighted that SOESD is the only ESD in Oregon with a physician on its evaluation team, making the model a statewide leader. The team summarized their multi-appointment evaluation process, expanded partnerships, including Spanish-speaking interpreters, and added assessment staff, and noted strong parent feedback for local access and support. They also noted upcoming opportunities related to the new evaluation space, sustainability planning, staff transitions, and development of a parent-coaching model.
4. Administration
 - A. Policy Update
Superintendent Angle-Hobson reported that the Board policy update process is now complete. Since beginning this work in September, the Board has read, reviewed, provided input on, and approved all policies, bringing SOESD fully up to date with state and federal requirements and the OSBA-recommended policies. Superintendent Angle-Hobson demonstrated how to access the policies from the SOESD homepage and acknowledged the Board's significant effort in completing these important updates.
 - B. Local Service Plan Update
Dr. Angle-Hobson reported that all 13 districts have approved the 2026 – 2027 Local Service Plan which confirms adoption of the LSP.
 - C. Strategic Plan Presentation
Superintendent Angle-Hobson presented the Year Zero document as a record of the foundational work completed this year to prepare for the implementation of the five-year strategic plan. He thanked the board for their support during his first year and expressed excitement about the future and the strategic plan.

Strategic planning Steering Committee members Erin Green, CaP Coordinator; Kylee Harrison, Assistant Superintendent; Tom Bigboy, Chief Information Officer; Ryan Madrone, Low Voltage Technician; and Rhonda Lawrence, Board Member, presented the updated Vision, Mission,

Values, and five-year strategic plan. The team outlined the plan's five pillars: Educational Equity and Student Support Systems; People, Culture, and Organizational Belonging; Operational Excellence, Systems, and Stewardship; Relationships and Regional Engagement and Impact; and Innovation, Learning, and Future-Ready Practices. Highlights included expanding equitable regional access, strengthening organizational culture, improving operational systems and communication, deepening district partnerships, and advancing future-ready pathways such as trades and apprenticeships.

The team also described the collaborative process used to develop the updated vision, mission, and core values, incorporating input from administrators, staff feedback, and a representative review group. They concluded with the next steps, including operationalizing the plan, defining value-aligned behaviors, developing an organizational scorecard, continuing leader rounding, and preparing for implementation through consistent standards and short improvement cycles.

Questions were raised about the development and use of the strategic plan scorecard. Superintendent Angle-Hobson explained that the scorecard has not yet been created and will be developed in partnership with Studer. He noted that some components will support internal monitoring, while progress updates will be shared publicly through regular reports to the Board.

Additional questions focused on language used in the Educational Equity & Student Support Systems pillar. The Board discussed the intent behind the wording and how it reflects the ESD's role in addressing geographic, economic, and justice-related barriers. Assistant Superintendent Harrison provided context on how the language was developed and how it is intended to describe the ESD's regional responsibilities and service model.

D. Authority to Layoff/Reduce Force

The Superintendent noted that the annual March request for authorization to implement layoffs or a reduction in force is a standard business item required each year. He emphasized that current legislative feedback indicates the state school fund, STEM Hub, and Regional Educator Network appear stable, with no indication of the need for reductions. The authorization is procedural and ensures that the administration can act if unforeseen budget or service-level changes occur.

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

Authorize administration to layoff/reduce in force for fiscal year 2026-2027.

Barton: Yea, Bloomer: Yea, Clark: Yea, Hecocta: Yea, Lawrence: Yea, Mannenbach: Absent,
Moore: Absent, Mueller: Yea, Owens: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

5. Business Affairs

A. Career Pathway Scholarship Request

CFO Jeanetta Woodside reported that the Southern Oregon Career Center will sunset at the end of the year. A winter fundraiser generated approximately \$15,000, and Coordinator Brad Capener has developed a plan to honor the students currently enrolled by distributing the remaining funds as post-graduation scholarships supporting college, trade programs, or workforce entry. Eight students are eligible. Donors will have the option to have their contributions returned or applied to the scholarships. The Business Office will manage the process, including a brief student application outlining their post-graduation plans to ensure that funds support a career-related path. The scholarships will not be competitive; all eligible students who complete the required application will receive funds.

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

Approve the reallocation of approximately \$15,000 in remaining Career Center donated funds to establish a one-time Career Pathway Scholarship for currently enrolled students, authorize administration to notify donors and offer the option to redirect or return funds, and approve distribution of the funds no later than June 2027.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

B. 2026- 2027 SOESD Budget Committee Membership

Member Mueller noted a typo in the list of Budget Committee vacancies. The document incorrectly listed Zone 5 twice and showed it as vacant. It was clarified that Zone 5 (Ashland, Phoenix-Talent, Pinehurst) is filled, and Emily Cozza is correctly designated as Pinehurst's representative, and that Zone 6 (Medford) has two vacancies.

CFO Woodside explained that two recent superintendent retirements created additional vacancies and confirmed the Klamath County School District formally designated Janet Melsness at their January meeting to serve on the committee.

The Board discussed desirable qualities for Budget Committee members, with CFO Woodside noting that familiarity with school funding is helpful but not required. Component district boards must designate their representatives, and Board members may encourage participation through their district contacts. Member Hecocta asked about the long-standing vacancy for Zone 4 (Klamath Falls City Schools). CFO Woodside will research the last appointed member for Klamath Falls City.

CFO Woodside explained that the Budget Committee typically meets once per year for about 90 minutes, since ESD funding is largely determined by legislative allocation and grants. Vacant seats do not prevent the committee from proceeding. The final opportunity to appoint committee members is at the April 15, 2026 Board of Directors meeting.

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

Appoint Janet Melsness to the 2026-2027 Southern Oregon ESD Budget Committee.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

6. Miscellaneous

A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 6:00 PM, SOESD Administration Office in Medford

B. SOESD Budget Committee Meeting, May 13, 2026, 6:00 pm, SOESD Administration Office in Medford.

C. OAESD Spring Summit, May 14 - 15, 2026 Sunriver, OR

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Owens adjourned the meeting at 7:56 PM