

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held February 26, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Nona Rupp. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Appointed Sandra Friess as treasurer pro tempore for assuming the duties of the treasurer during this regular Governing Board Meeting due to the absence of Homer Hendricks, CFO/Treasurer.

#### **REPORTS:**

- OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON: Mr. Brian Baker shared about his recent experience meeting with U.S. legislators in Washington D.C. as part of the OSBA Federal Relations Network to advocate for public education issues. At the State level, Mr. Baker shared the House Finance Committee conducted hearings on HB 62, which funds the state transportation budget and may affect school districts by increasing fuel tax refunds. The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee conducted sponsor hearings on HB 22 which requires a study of all school buildings eligible for school facilities funding regarding air conditioning, accessibility, school safety and other amenities; HB 23 which permits international students possessing an F-1 visa to participate in interscholastic athletics; and HB 43 which eliminates the right of first refusal for charter schools, STEM schools and college-preparatory boarding schools when acquiring school district property. The Senate Judiciary Committee conducted sponsor testimony on SB 16, which requires public high schools to instruct students in proper interactions with peace officers during traffic stops and other encounters. The Senate Ways and Means Committee conducted sponsor testimony on SB 26, which permits teachers to deduct from their state income taxes up to \$250 for out-of-pocket expenses for classroom supplies and professional development.

- OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON: Mrs. Sandra Friess shared information relevant to student achievement. One article stated that in many classrooms today, teachers use apps, websites and software that borrow elements from video games to connect with students living technology-infused lives. Studies have found that some can be effective. However, there also is skepticism about if students who use them are better educated rather than better entertained. In another article, a recent study indicated individuals with Down syndrome continue to learn new skills well into adulthood. Guideposts - based on the responses of thousands of parents - can help clinicians know when children may be falling behind their peers with Down syndrome and, when necessary, refer parents to additional supports, resources and therapies. The study indicated many individuals with Down syndrome are able to walk by 25 months of age, speak reasonably well by the time they are 12 years old and manage their own hygiene by age 13. The research is based on a survey of more than 2,600 parents of those with Down syndrome — including young children to adults in their 40s — in the United States and Netherlands. Parents who participated were asked about their children's skills in 11 areas: walking, eating, speaking, grooming/personal hygiene, reading, writing, preparing meals, working at a job, going on dates, traveling and living independently. The study found that the majority of those with Down syndrome could work independently by age 20. Meanwhile, roughly half can read and write reasonably well by age 31 and about a third live independently by that point. Contrary to some public beliefs, people with Down syndrome never stop learning, and functional skills can still be attained and improved well into adulthood.

- CFO/TREASURER – Homer Hendricks shared the NwoESC audit report for the fiscal year 2018 was released recently and we received the Auditor of State Award certificate. It is the second year in a row NwoESC has received this award and as Treasurer/CFO, he is very proud of the Business Office staff this year for achieving the award while completing the software conversion during the fiscal year 2018. Fiscal Year 2020 estimates were distributed to districts on February 5 at the combined superintendent & treasurer meeting. The service agreements were delayed slightly as federal procurement standard processes were clarified through a seminar NwoESC coordinated with Ennis Britton on February 20. Ohio Ethics Commission filings are due by May 15 for those required to complete.

- DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION – Jill Gilliland shared about potential additions to the IEC playground. A team from the IEC is meeting with a company representative for further discussion and possible recommendations. Mr. Baker recently met with U.S. legislators through OSBA's Federal

Relations Network and shared information about special education services provided in our four county area through the NwOESC. Mr. Baker advocated for the needs of students with disabilities in our service region. He shared information including the number of students with disabilities served through NwOESC specialized programs, barriers to offering high quality education to students with disabilities, and the impact of shortages in certain staffing areas on students.

- DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** – Kris Dobbelaere shared recent Four County events coordinated by Education consultants including Math Counts, Quiz Leagues, Spelling Bees and County Music Festivals. Upcoming professional development opportunities were shared as well as an invitation to attend the Franklin B. Walter celebration on March 11.

- DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY** - Chad Rex shared his experiences from his attendance at the Ohio Educational Technology Conference. Mr. Rex also presented at this conference as a part of the Ohio Department of Education's Future Ready initiative that the Educational Service Center's support. The theme of the conference was artificial intelligence (AI) in education. An update on the Northwest Ohio eLeague's progress was also shared. The first drone-racing event continues to be planned for April 13; however, it is now being hosted at Ayersville Local Schools. The event will be a scrimmage and professional learning opportunity for the leaders of the district initiatives. Mr. Rex also announced the NwOESC's development of a mobile app. The goal of the app is to enhance stakeholder communications. The target for release of the app is July 2019. Other updates shared related to the monthly technology leader meetings that continue to be a valuable service to area districts and the progress of the special education department's web database project that is on schedule for an April release.

Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

- Minutes from the organizational and regular board meeting held January 22, 2019.

- Financial Transactions

- AGREEMENTS**

- Defiance County Juvenile Probation to provide to NwOESC, Attendance Officer Services for the period of 8/15/18-6/15/19.

- LEAVES**

- FMLA and Disability

- RETIREMENTS**

- Cynthia Gustwiller, Paraprofessional, effective 6/1/19

- RESIGNATIONS**

- Abbie Williamson, Paraprofessional, effective 2/8/19

- EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- CONTRACTS**

- Classified Limited**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
Reeves, Robyn	CLASS-1 Yr	2/4/19- 7/31/19
Wurster, Shannon	CLASS-1 Yr	2/5/19-7/31/19

- Substitute Paraprofessionals**

- Ashley Castillo, April Cook, Erin Ford

- Substitute Teachers**

- Lydia Badenhop, April Cook, Jenna Gorsuch, Jeffery Gribler, Reuben Lopez, Devin Rummel, Abbey Sachs, Heather Szymanski, Elizabeth Ward

**Van Driver**

NwOESC/North Central - Amy Kramer

- Approved resolution for the Creation of a County School Financing District; R.C. §3311.50

**WHEREAS**, the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board (hereafter, the “Board”) has previously created other county school financing districts (hereafter “CFSD”) within the territory of the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire and intent of the Board to create an additional CSFD for the benefit of school districts located within the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center territory that desire to participate in the activities of that CSFD; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board will serve as the taxing authority of the CSFD created by this resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board as the taxing authority of the Northwest Safety & Special Education Financing District

- Approved the NwOESC Salary Schedules for the 2019-20 contract year as presented.

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- OSBA Northwest Region Spring Conference – Thursday, March 14, 2019 at Apollo Career Center. Congratulations to NwOESC appointee to the Four County Career Center Board of Education, Carol Kleck, for achieving 45 years of board of education service. Mrs. Kleck will be recognized at the event.

•**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT** – Kerri Gearhart shared district service contracts for school year 2019-20 will be distributed to member districts soon, as this year we are navigating new federal procurement requirements that affect our typical processes. It is our goal to work through with each district their wants and needs for the coming school year, and begin to put the puzzle pieces together related to staffing and programming. As has been the case these past few years, there will be changes, but our goal remains solid – partnering with member districts through providing high quality services and programs that advance their educational objectives. NwOESC will again be serving as the territory lead and coordinating the 2020 Ohio Teacher of the Year Recognition program for the SBOE District 1 territory. The process this year allows for online submissions, which makes it more user-friendly. Nominations are open through April 5, applications are due July 14, and the territory District 1 selection is made by July 12. The State BOE then selects a state winner from all the District selection for the 2020 Ohio Teacher of the Year, to be named in the Fall of 2019. The state winner has the opportunity to advance to the national level. With the regionalization of the state Migrant Education Programs, we anticipate employment changes with the staff who have worked in the summer and fall migrant programs. The regionalization was implemented by ODE in an attempt to increase the number of migrant students served across the state. Putnam County is heading up the regional program in our area and will design summer and fall programs that operate with the resources provided through the grant. NwOESC maintains fiscal agent responsibilities for the overall state program (OMEC). For the past seven years, I have been an active member of the Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition, which meets monthly at the ADAMHS Board. Suicide affects all communities and ages, and our schools take proactive steps to address and educate. During the 10-year period (2008 – 2017), the total number of suicide deaths in Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams counties was 185. The highest number of suicides in the four-county area was middle-aged residents ages 40-59 (44%) which follows state and national trends. Males represented 84% of the area deaths, with firearms (39%) being the primary means. In 2018, the Center for Disease Control released a report demonstrating that from 1999 to 2017, suicide rates in the U.S. rose by 30%, with rates specific to Ohio rising by 36%. There is more work to be done in order to prevent deaths by suicide. The Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition’s initiatives in 2018 included an ongoing awareness campaign targeting the reduction of suicide deaths by firearms, Mental Health First Aid trainings designed to educate lay community members in

recognizing and managing mental health crisis, and the Signs of Suicide program designed to educate middle and high school youth on how to identify suicidal risk factors in themselves and their peers. All of these efforts support the FCSPC's firm belief that even one suicide death in our four-county area is too many. The Franklin B. Walter Awards and Recognition Celebration is set for Monday, March 11, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the NwOESC. Member districts and Four County Career Center are invited to participate, as we honor and celebrate area students, teachers, and special education professionals. A special thank you to Linda Schlosser for coordinating monthly "Celebration Days" for the NwOESC building staff. Linda developed this event at the start of the 2017-18 school year and it has been an excellent way to build office comradery with day-to-day and traveling staff.

- As all of the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm. The next meeting will take place on March 26, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.