

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their organizational and regular meeting held February 25, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Kerri Weir. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Appointed Brian Baker president pro tempore for assuming the duties of the president during this regular Governing Board Meeting due to the absence of Nona Rupp, President and Ron Crawford, Vice-President.

- Appointed Ross Stambaugh 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: Brian Baker reported on his trip to Washington D.C. as part of the Federal Relations Network, an advocacy group for public education. Mr. Baker had opportunities to meet with Senator Portman, Senator Brown, and Representative Latta to discuss public education, including career tech and ESCs issue of interest. At the state level, over 50 hours of testimony was given over a 10 day period related to the EdChoice Voucher issue – more work is to be done in March in anticipation of an April deadline. The Senate Education Committee held a first hearing on SB 218 which prohibits public schools from beginning the school day earlier than 8:30 a.m. In addition, the committee held a first hearing on SB 219 which establishes a career pathways apprentice program. The committee held a second hearing on HB 164 which addresses student religious expression and would title the law the Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2019. The OTES framework is being revised due to legislative changes contained in Senate Bill 216, which requires the State Board to revise the standards-based framework for the evaluation of teachers based on the recommendations of the Educator Standards Board. The State Board must adopt the revised framework not later than May 1, 2020. Recommendations were made regarding the revised OTES framework at the State Board’s December 2019 meeting.

- OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON: Christine Smallman reported on student achievement items of interest. Norwood High School launched a program to help develop leadership skills among student-athletes. A group was formed to allow students an opportunity to focus on their personal growth and community leadership. Lakeshore Compact Construction Management Program, a partnership of Mentor EV, Wickliffe City and Euclid City schools has developed a program in the business of renovating and flipping homes to teach 24 hand-picked students carpentry, trades and business skills required for home construction. Students with visual impairments are embracing science as a guest teacher at the Massachusetts School for the Blind uses larger-than-life 3D models, sonic graphs and touch-based activities to spark curiosity in students, some of whom go on to pursue STEM careers. Reports show that approximately 530,000 tons of food may be wasted each year in U.S. schools. Efforts are underway to curb cafeteria waste, including the Food Waste Warriors program, which helped participating schools cut food waste by an average of 3%, with the top three schools slashing food waste by more than half. The Education Week Research Center surveyed approximately 670 K-2 and special education teachers and 530 education professors who teach reading courses. The findings, among the first to look at teacher and teacher-educator knowledge and practices in early reading across the country, indicate an array of strategies are employed to teach reading skills. Although methods vary, studies over many decades have shown that systematic, explicit phonics instruction is the most effective method for teaching early readers.

- CFO/TREASURER: Homer Hendricks reviewed the distribution of the fiscal year 2021 estimates and service agreements to districts on February 11 at the combined superintendent & treasurer meeting. He also discussed the NWOESC fiscal committee meeting with superintendent and treasurer representatives from member districts with topics such as potential billing process changes, annual financial statement reporting, and the Auditor of State’s ESC operational review. Mr. Hendricks shared Unified Talent will be onsite February 19 and 20th to continue the implementation process for the new human resources system. He also reminded board members to complete their Ohio Ethics Commission fiscal disclosure form.

•DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION: Jill Gilliland shared information on a PD (Understanding and Managing Trauma in Children). Holly Wichman, Laura Kamp, and Beth Lewis are NWOESC trainers. There is a new Parent Mentor website with resources to support families. The NWOESC Special Education Office is the hub for scheduling Early Childhood Screening appointments for children birth to age five in our four county area. Families can locate this information on our website or can call our office.

•DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Kris Dobbelaere submitted a report sharing local events coordinated by NWOESC Consultants including Williams County Spelling Bee and Quiz Leagues. Also shared were Professional Development events including PD at Patrick Henry, Data Dives at Hicksville, Teacher Talks with Art Teachers, Family Consumer Teachers and Ag Science Teachers. Kris also shared updates on Graduation Requirements and upcoming Teacher Evaluation Trainings. The NWOESC is also collaborating with County Economic Development Directors to host an Educator Boot Camp in June.

•DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY: Chad Rex reported that the communication system at the IEC has been installed and the staff will be trained on the new system soon. A new data backup software solution that works with Google Drive and other G Suite programs has been implemented. More information on this solution will be provided to staff in the near future. We are leveraging new funds from the federal E-Rate program for network infrastructure at the IEC. Mr. Rex attended the Ohio Educational Technology Conference where he was recognized along with other colleagues that achieved the nationally recognized Certified Educational Technology Leader certification. Mr. Rex is among thirty-five other technology leaders in Ohio that have earned this designation.

Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

•Minutes from the regular board meeting held January 27, 2020.

•FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

•AGREEMENTS

-TSA Consulting Group, Inc. to provide NWOESC with Retirement Plan Compliance and Administration Services including 403(B) and 457(B) plan administration and common remitter services effective March 1, 2020. (All services at no cost to NWOESC)

-NWOESC to provide to Anthony Wayne School District, Instructional Services at the Liberty Education Center for the 2019-20 academic year.

-NWOESC to provide to Defiance City Schools, Speech Language Pathologist Services for the period of 1/1/20-6/15/20.

-NWOESC to provide to Edgerton Local Schools, Speech Therapist Services for the period of 10/1/19-1/5/20.

-NWOESC to provide to Wauseon Exempted Village Schools, Speech Therapist Services for the period of 1/29/20-6/15/20.

•LEAVES

FMLA and Disability

•RESIGNATIONS

Kristine Dobbelaere, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development, effective 7/31/2020.

•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTRACTS

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Campbell, Debra	CLASS-1Yr	2/18/2020-7/31/2020
Flores, Jenna	CLASS-1Yr	2/4/2020-7/31/2020
Trivelas, Alexandra	CLASS-1Yr	2/3/2020-7/31/2020

Substitute Paraprofessionals

Brigette Bartko, Corinne Ehrhart, Calla Gilson, Rene Hadding, Wendy Schortgen, Vanessa Vershum

Substitute Teachers

Brigette Bartko, Brittani Benavides, Deborah Dominique, Corinne Ehrhart, Katelyn Eldridge, Calla Gilson, Emily Hamman, Ashley McClure, Jacob Nobis, Kyle Rupp, Wendy Schortgen, Elizabeth Strang

Van Driver

IEC – Shannon Wurster

•Approved the updated 403(B) Plan Document and Adoption Agreement and the updated 457(B) Plan Document and Adoption Agreement effective March 1, 2020 and authorize the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer to sign the agreements. (Both the documents and agreements were provided by TSA Consulting Group, Inc.)

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Calendar Year 2019 Financial Disclosure Statements due to Ohio Ethics Commission are due May 15, 2020
- Building Maintenance Technician vacancy update – the position has been posted and applications filtering in
- NWOESC 2020-21 Salary Schedule – Review and discussion

•**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Kerri Weir reported the Public Water System at the Independence Education Center has been selected for PFAS testing (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). This is part of a 2020 statewide initiative through the Ohio EPA to better understand the occurrence of PFAS in Ohio drinking water. Ohio and states nationwide are faced with challenges related to PFAS, which have been manufactured and used for years in everyday items such as nonstick cookware, water-resistant clothing and personal care products. PFAS chemicals have also been widely used in firefighting foams, at military installations and fire training facilities. NWOESC will again be serving as the territory lead and coordinating the 2021 Ohio Teacher of the Year Recognition program for the SBOE District 1 territory (see map on back). Nomination and submissions will again be available on line this year, which greatly increased program participation last year. Nominations are open through April 3, applications are due June 12, and each District makes a selection by July 26. 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 2020. The state winner has the opportunity to advance to the national level. The ESC Operational Study/Performance Audit of all ESCs as mandated by Senate Bill 3 in 2016 is coming to a close. The final report is set to be released in mid-March from the Auditor of State’s Office. The report includes a profile of each ESC across the state. Phase 1 included gathering background/baseline data related to Fiscal, Staffing, Services, Member Districts, Student Population and holding site visits. Phase 2 included analysis and recommendations which will likely focus on uniformity of data (Financial/coding, staffing, services) and transparency of data by making more information available to the public. On Wednesday, February 19, NWOESC hosted OSBA for a Board Member training opportunity, bringing professional development to the local area. There were 27 participants including area board members, superintendents, and treasurers. The Franklin B. Walter Awards and Recognition Celebration is set for Monday, March 9, 2020 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. The Wellness Committee and Administrative Team are in the beginning stages of planning an “End of Year Celebration” for staff slated for June 4, 2020. This new event would replace the Retirement Open House and be an opportunity for food, fun and celebration of all staff. Recognition of our retirees will be included.

•As all of the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.