

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their organizational and regular meeting held January 25, 2022.

The Organizational Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Pro-Tem Brian Baker. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

-The Treasurer administered the oath of office to Brian Baker, Christine Smallman, and Ross Stambaugh.

•Approved the appointment of Kelly Hug as the new Williams County District 8 board member and Mary Alice Nagel as the new Defiance County District 6 board member for the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center effective January 25, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

-The Treasurer administered the oath of office to Kelly Hug and Mary Alice Nagel.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

•Elected Brian Baker as President of the NWOESC governing board for 2022.

•Elected Deborah Gerken as Vice-President of the NWOESC governing board for 2022.

•Established the following for regular monthly meetings; (4th Tuesday unless noted)

TIME: 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: NWOESC Conference Room, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, Ohio
DATES: March 1, 2022 (1st Tuesday of subsequent month)
March 22, 2022
April 26, 2022
May 24, 2022
June 28, 2022
July 26, 2022
August 23, 2022
September 27, 2022
October 25, 2022
November 29, 2022 (5th Tuesday)
December 20, 2022 (3rd Tuesday)

-Records commission to meet two times after the regular NWOESC governing board meetings.

•Approved the appointment of the Superintendent, Director of Special Education, and the Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development as purchasing agents for 2022 with the dollar limit of \$15,000 for the Superintendent per purchase, and \$7,500 for the Director of Special Education and the Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development per purchase. Purchase requests in excess of the Superintendent's limit will require Board approval.

•Approved motion to grant the Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, Homer Hendricks:

- Authority to pay bills, process payrolls, invest Board funds and make all necessary cash advancements to grants during 2022.
- Serve as the designee for each NWOESC governing board member effective 01/01/22 to comply with the requirements of the Ohio Public Records Law.

•Approved motion to allow the Superintendent, Kerri Weir (or her designee as applicable):

- To participate in Federal, State or other funded grants, contracts or agreements as they become available to the Board in 2022, and then be brought to the Board for ratification.

- To permit the superintendent to hire employees during 2022 contingent upon Board approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- To authorize the Superintendent, on behalf of this Board, and to acknowledge acceptance of such offer on behalf of this Board, to accept resignations which have been submitted by employees during times when this Board is not in session, subject to ratification by this Board; provided however, that upon ratification by this Board, such resignations shall be deemed effective as of the date and time of the Superintendent's acceptance
- To approve school bus drivers and van drivers for Board certification who have met all of the established requirements. At the next regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting, these names will be approved also by the NwOESC Governing Board.

•Approved Motion to set the fees to individuals requesting copies of the schedule of meetings, agenda, or notice of individual meetings.

•Approved a resolution expressing public purpose for educational service center activities.

•Appointed Jill Gilliland as Compliance Officer female representative and Steve Hastings as Compliance Officer male representative for the purpose of coordinating the Center's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination/retaliation or denial of equal access (i.e. Civil Rights, Anti-Harassment, Section 504, ADA, and Title IX) for 2022.

•Appointed Jill Gilliland and Andy Hunter as Title IX Coordinators for the purpose of coordinating the Center's efforts to comply with applicable Federal regulations regarding nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities for 2022.

•Appointed the following people to serve as OSBA Liaisons:

OSBA Legislative Liaison: Brian Baker

OSBA Student Achievement Liaison: Christine Smallman

•Appointed the following Committees Members:

Audit/Finance Committee - Homer Hendricks, Ross Stambaugh, Jim George, Mary Alice Nagel

Building and Grounds Committee - Kerri Weir, Homer Hendricks, Chad Rex, Brian Baker, Deborah Gerken, Christine Smallman

Policy Committee - Kerri Weir, Homer Hendricks, Nona Rupp, Lori Weber, Kelly Hug

•As the Organizational Meeting was complete, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m. The regular meeting immediately followed.

REGULAR MEETING:

The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Brian Baker.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of former NwOESC staff member, Mary Huerta, who passed away recently. Mary worked at the NwOESC from 2002 – 2009 as a paraprofessional in the Evergreen, Liberty Center and Wauseon School Districts.

REPORTS:

•OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON: Brian Baker reported on various legislative items. The Ohio Supreme Court ruled 4-3 that the Ohio Congressional map approved by the General Assembly is unconstitutional.

The General Assembly has 30 days to approve a new map. The Ohio Redistricting Commission reconvened to start drawing new House and Senate state legislative maps. The members of the commission will remain the same, except Rep. C. Allison replaces Rep. Emilia Strong Sykes. The commission has until January 22, to approve new maps. The House Ways and Means Committee held a second hearing on HB 234, which would repeal the commercial activity tax with a five-year phase out. The committee also held a second hearing on HB 482, which would create the temporary Tax Fraud Study Commission to report on state income tax fraud. The committee held sponsor testimony on HB 501, which would authorize school districts to levy property taxes for school resource officer services, among other changes. The House State and Local Government Committee held a second hearing on House Joint Resolution 1, which would request a constitutional convention to impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and members of Congress.

•OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON: Christine Smallman reported on several student achievement topics. School districts nationwide report an uptick in chronic absenteeism, which has reached 25% among freshmen and sophomore students in California, according to data examined by School Innovations and Achievement. To ensure students are on track, administrators at Murray County High School in Georgia are connecting every incoming ninth-grader with a counselor and a social worker to assist in increased attendance. According to a consultant group, parent-teacher conferences are often private conversations among adults and exclude students. The group recommends inviting students to present some of their work and share their learning in the meeting can be encouraging and motivating to students. There are several educational technology trends to watch for in 2022. Those include artificial intelligence and machine learning; cloud technology; enhanced cybersecurity; asynchronous learning; and growth in e-sports programs. A 5th grade science teacher New Albany-Plain Local Schools has established a long-term garden project for this students and suggests other multiyear project ideas, including studying and comparing math data sets over multiple school years. Ohio is offering residents Second Chance Grants to encourage them to complete their college degrees. About 1.3 million residents are eligible for the \$2,000 grants that will go to 1,500 applicants. For more information on Second Chance Grants, visit www.ohiohighered.org/second-chance.

•CFO/TREASURER: Homer Hendricks shared about the distribution of the mid-year cost estimate updates and beginning the preparation of the fiscal year 2023 estimates. He discussed the recently released audit report. Mr. Hendricks reviewed grant fund changes and upcoming grant opportunities. He also reminded the board about their annual Financial Disclosure filings with the Ohio Ethics Commission.

•DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION: Jill Gilliland reported that flyers for Early Childhood Screenings are being shared far and wide. These screenings occur across our four county area starting in February and going through April. Parents of children ages birth to five years old can bring their child to a free developmental screening. Members of our preschool team and special education office team work with other agencies to coordinate and offer these screenings. This year, NwOESC has employed several individuals to serve as full time substitutes deployed as priority demands. Excellent feedback is being received on our substitutes and we appreciate their work! CPI trainings are scheduled, with sign up via the NwOESC website. With the lifting of COVID restrictions, we are now able to provide the full training. Those with expired certification (from the 2020-21 school year through present) should sign up for the refresher training, to renew their certification as required.

•DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Andy Hunter reported that the curriculum department has conducted several training sessions on value added this month including "Teaching with Value Added" as well as "Leading with Value Added." He reminded the board that this year the local Franklin B. Walter celebration will be hosted on March 7, 2022 at NwOESC. OESCA will be hosting a statewide event in April for select honorees. Mr. Hunter concluded by pointing out that the curriculum department is in the middle of hosting a number of different county events including county spelling bees, quiz bowls, and Math Counts. He thanked all of the consultants for their hard work to put on these events and congratulated all of the area participants for their success.

•**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Chad Rex shared that the Northwest Ohio Tech Leaders met on January 21 and will meet again on February 18. His department is completing a video surveillance project for the administration office at the IEC to aid in the safety and security of the building. Mr. Rex was a part of a tech director group that the State asked to evaluate a new online platform for technology coordinators/directors statewide. Mr. Rex reported that he met with Dustin Ruffell, District Services Supervisor at NWOCA, who is new to this position. They will collaborate on the technology leaders' network meetings and related projects. Mr. Rex and Corey Todd met with the contractor that performed our Google Admin Console environment audit. An action plan will be developed to address various items. Regarding operations, plumbing was installed in the main office cafe for a new addition to the Marketplace, a hot beverage machine! A hot cup of coffee can now be purchased at the kiosk (12-oz for \$1.69). Other drinks available are cappuccino, mochaccino, cafe mocha and hot chocolate. Edgerton Local Schools recently offered student chairs and we accepted. They were graciously delivered to the IEC. Thank you, Edgerton! A School Safety Grant has been submitted through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and we are awaiting the award announcement. Mr. Rex continues to work on the Schedule Request (i.e., room reservation requests) workflows and features with the software company in an effort to ensure it is ready for implementation.

•Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

•Minutes from the regular board meeting held December 21, 2021.

•**DONATIONS**

-Loyal Order of Moose-Defiance Lodge to the IEC Activity Fund - \$500.00

-United Way of Defiance County to the IEC Activity Fund - \$800.00

•**PURCHASES**

-K-Log, Inc. to provide to NwoESC (St. Mary Catholic School-Edgerton, EANS), classroom furniture with EANS Program funds.

•**LEAVES**

FMLA and Disability

RETIREMENTS

Ruffer, Julie, Paraprofessional, effective 6/2/2022

•**EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

CONTRACTS

Classified Limited

| Name | Contract | Length |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Damman, Kimberlee | CLASS-1 Yr | 1/3/2022-7/31/2022 |
| Fast, Mykenzie | CLASS-1 Yr | 1/6/2022-7/31/2022 |
| Maginn, Mariah | CLASS-1 Yr | 1/19/2022-7/31/2022 |
| Schliesser, Sheri | CLASS-1 Yr | 2/1/2022-7/31/2022 |
| Wolford, Kaitlyn | CLASS-1 Yr | 1/20/2022-7/31/2022 |

21st Century Teachers

Defiance - Lauren Perry

Swanton After School Teacher

Sarah Durst

Substitute Paraprofessionals

Courtney Bice, Dawn Buskirk, Tamantha Dockery, Christina Hammer, Rhonda Lamb-Moore, Tasha Miller, Alissa Mireles, Allison Schaffner, Carrie Wooley

Substitute Teachers

Mackenzie Arme, Anjelita Avers, Makenzie Boecker, Christopher Brown, Tamantha Dockery, Tori Flower, Ella Ford, Luke Holsopple, Sarah Johansen, Emily McBride, Cora Schwab, Kellie Sharpe, Michael Vasco, Carrie Wooley, Alicia Wright, Dominic Zarba, James Zoltowski

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Financial Disclosure Statements are due May 15, 2022 for ESC Board Members and within 15 days of appointment for newly appointed board members
- FY23/24 Salary Schedule preliminary discussion

•**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Kerri Weir reported the North Central Superintendent Search is underway to secure a new superintendent effective August 1, 2022 due to the retirement of Mr. Bill Hanak. NwoESC rolled out the vacancy announcement in late December with applications accepted through February 9, 2022 as NwoESC assists in the search. Conversations are and will continue to be underway with our member districts regarding services for the coming year. The administrative team is updating the programs and services catalogue, which will be distributed at the February Superintendent/Treasurer meeting. To date, NwoESC will play a key role in the following new additions: Patrick Henry –Multiple Disabilities Classroom at the Elementary Level and additional W/F section of Preschool; Edgerton – Classroom with a focus on Communication/Autism at the Elementary Level, with the capacity to add an additional classroom at the JH/HS level if there is interest. Northwest Ohio ESC submitted a FY22 School Safety Grant through the Ohio Attorney Generals' Office. If awarded, funds will help offset expenses related to Crisis Prevention Intervention, including workbooks, trainer recertification, and building trainer capacity. We recently received notification that the Remote EDx Grant funding was increased significantly to allow for the creation of additional courses as well as to support ESCs statewide on use and facilitation efforts. This grant is a collaboration of NwoESC, NWOCA, Butler County ESC, Lake Geauga Computer Association, and ESC of Western Reserve to develop and scale up content for statewide online learning modules available at no cost. NwoESC is proud to serve as the fiscal agent. ODE has extended the deadline for districts to elect to receive American Rescue Plan Homeless funds and/or join a consortium if their allocation is below \$5000. NwoESC has formed a consortium, which currently has 11 member districts and 5 out of area districts participating. Use of funds include to identify homeless students, provide wrap-around services to address challenges of COVID-19, and enable homeless students to attend school and fully participate in school activities. For the upcoming months of February, March, April and May, the Wellness Committee has developed and will be rolling out an "Honoring Healthy Habits" challenge to our staff. Each month will have a specific focus, with the goal of building healthy habits in a variety of areas: Nutrition/Hydration, Mental Health and Physical Health. This program will conclude with a BINGO card challenge putting all the pieces together. We are thankful to have wellness grant funding through NBEC to support this and other wellness endeavors. A Board Member Basics training will be held at Northwest Ohio ESC on Wednesday, February 16. Ohio School Board Association will provide this training, open to new and seasoned board members, as well as district administrative staff.

•As all of the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m. The next meeting will take place on March 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.