

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held February 27, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Deborah Gerken. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

•Approved the appointment of Ross Stambaugh as Treasurer Pro Tem for the 02/27/2024 NwoESC Board and Records Commission Meeting.

## **REPORTS:**

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker shared several legislative items of interest. The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) named Joy DeMarco as their next executive director, effective Mar. 1. The OFCC manages Ohio's school facility programs which provide support for the construction and renovation of public K-12 schools. DeMarco is taking over for Director Cheryl Lyman who will retire on Feb. 29. The State Board of Education (SBOE) and its staff will no longer be moving their office to the campus of the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paul Craft notified the SBOE that the board will instead move about a half a mile down the road into the William Green Building in downtown Columbus. The move is set for April of this year. New bills recently introduced in the Ohio Legislature include HB 407, which requires chartered nonpublic schools that participate in certain scholarship programs to report student performance to the Department of Education and Workforce to be compared to other schools located in that school district and make that data publicly accessible on a web site. HB 408 requires public schools to provide meals and related services to students; and HB 411, would increase the State base teacher salary.

•**OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Dr. Christine Smallman shared items related to student achievement. West Branch Local's (Mahoning) West Branch High School launched an industrial maintenance program that provides training in manufacturing operations, welding, pneumatics, and hydraulics. The program, a partnership with regional companies, is meant to equip students with valuable workforce skills. Students at Elizabethton High School in Tennessee tackled a decades-old cold case involving a potential serial killer as part of a sociology class assignment. The iHeartRadio true crime podcast series "Murder 101," showcases the students' efforts and the benefits of project-based learning and community partnerships. A Superintendent in Massachusetts implemented a unique approach to enhance student behavior by encouraging teachers to practice yoga. The Breathe for Change program, focusing on yoga and social-emotional learning, resulted in reduced discipline referrals and improved teacher well-being. Elementary school teacher and author Jennifer Orr believes that if we want students to think critically across disciplines, they need to be given more time to talk in class. This technique builds literacy skills through conversations.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mr. Homer Hendricks shared that FY 2025 initial estimates were distributed on February 13. We ask that districts inform us of service changes as soon as possible and return the approved estimates by April 1 so that we can have them ready to process for the next fiscal year. The FY24 School Safety Training Grant was awarded, which will help offset costs for CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute) Training and materials. A transfer from the Building Maintenance Fund (remaining balance from the NwoESC/NwoCA FY23 contributions) will be completed to increase the Building Reserve Fund target, as discussed by the building committee at its annual meeting. We continue to move ahead with the steps necessary to move ahead with a new commercial credit/purchasing card program with Huntington National Bank. An agreement has been secured with the ESC of Northeast Ohio for Treasurer of Record Services on an interim basis. Finally, Mr. Hendricks expressed his appreciation to the NwoESC Board, Superintendent Weir, the Administrative Team, and the Business Office Staff (past and present) for their support during his tenure with NwoESC. We wish him well in his new role at Four County Career Center.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland shared that her department is really pleased with the decision to make the change in our preschool programs to using The Creative Curriculum. We have a representative, Megan Welch who is a "Teaching Strategies Partner in Success." Jessica Fredrick has held online meetings for teachers with Megan. These meetings are opportunities to ask questions

about resources, lesson plans, daily schedule, and overall implementation. Many NwOESC Intervention Specialists will administer the AASCD (alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities) in the next few weeks. IEP teams utilize the decision-making tool provided as a guide to determine if the assessment is appropriate for each student. Intervention specialists attend a training to be able to administer the assessment, which is given in a one-on-one setting. Students who are served through our MD programs generally take the alternate assessment. Students in grades 3, 4, 6 and 7 will be assessed in English language arts and mathematics. Students in grades 5 and 8 will be assessed in English language arts, mathematics, and science. Students taking the HS-AASCD will be assessed in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Andy Hunter noted that the renowned speaker and author, Scott Ervin shared invaluable insights on teaching these essential skills in classroom management and dealing with difficult students to educators. The training attracted nearly 100 teachers and received very positive reviews. The curriculum department also recently hosted Math Counts on Friday, February 16, 2024. 48 students from six different school districts competed in this prestigious nationwide math competition. Finally, Mr. Hunter shared the science of reading mandate updates explaining the different pathways educators can take. These training programs vary based on subject, grade level, and prior training under the dyslexia legislation. From 7 to 22 hours, these sessions encompass superintendents, principals, and teachers across all grades and subjects K-12. Additionally, the state plans to provide stipends to teachers based on the hours required to complete the training, further incentivizing participation and ensuring comprehensive professional development.

•**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Mr. Chad Rex informed the Board that he attended the Cybersecurity Incident Response Seminar conducted by the Ohio Cyber Reserve and coordinated by NBEC/NWOCA. This training proved beneficial in assisting the development of an Incident Response Plan focused on communications and operations, a critical element of our cybersecurity strategy. In response to the annual cyber insurance questionnaire, Mr. Rex updated several responses to reflect the ongoing cybersecurity efforts and accomplishments before submitting the questionnaire to the ESC's insurance provider. With the contract database project nearing completion, Mr. Rex initiated work on the sub-database project in collaboration with the business office and contractor. Mr. Rex provided the contractor with the current database and a workflow video, aiming to transition to the new database by April. Mr. Rex oversaw the setup of PhishNotify, a tool the ESC now employs for communicating potential phishing emails, integrated into their phishing training platform. Mr. Rex noted that he met with Jestine Curry, principal at IEC, for their annual technology planning meeting and facilitated the monthly Technology Leaders network meeting on February 23rd. Mr. Rex shared that the LED lighting project at IEC has progressed well ahead of schedule due to the diligent efforts by Mr. Chuck Lero and Mr. Larry Davis. They anticipate completion by the end of Summer. Mr. Rex participated in meetings with a potential presenter for the August Driver Inservice, following up on details for the event. Mr. Rex also highlighted that Mr. Lero is gathering quotes for several maintenance projects at IEC, and the ESC hosted a fire training session for the Archbold Fire Department focused on our solar field.

•**Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:**

•Minutes from the organizational and regular board meeting held January 30, 2024.

•**AGREEMENTS**

-NwOESC to provide to Anthony Wayne Local Schools, Instructional Services at the Liberty Education Center for the 2023-24 academic year.

-NwOESC to provide to Archbold Area Local Schools, Social Worker Services for the period of 2/26/24-7/31/24.

-NwOESC to provide to Evergreen Local Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 2/12/24-5/31/24.

•**LEAVES**

FMLA and Disability

**•RESIGNATIONS**

Savanha Jaqua, Paraprofessional- effective 2/28/2024  
Jakob Teeple, Paraprofessional- effective 2/21/2024 (position abandonment)

**•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS  
CONTRACTS**

**Certified Limited**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
Dunham, Jody	CERT-1 YR	02/21/2024-7/31/2024
Wittenmyer, Deborah	CERT-1 YR	02/20/2024-7/31/2024

**Classified Limited**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
Boyd, Courtney	CLASS-1 YR	2/16/2024-7/31/2024
Custer, Madison	CLASS-1 YR	2/14/2024-7/31/2024
Florez, Barbara	CLASS-1 YR	3/1/2024-12/31/2024
Hernandez, Maria	CLASS-1 YR	4/1/2024-12/31/2024
Sanchez, Abigail	CLASS-1 YR	2/20/2024-7/31/2024
Smith, Katelynn	CLASS-1 YR	2/13/2024-7/31/2024
Teeple, Jakob	CLASS-1 YR	2/20/2024-7/31/2024
Walter, Taylor	CLASS-1 YR	2/20/2024-7/31/2024

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Program Assistant**  
Hicksville Elementary- Hope Snider

**ESC Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional**  
Madison Custer  
Jaimie Mason

**ESC Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional**  
Carrie Wooley

**Substitute Paraprofessionals**  
Melissa Barry, Amanda MacFarlane, Joslyn Mohring, Alicia Pieracini, Miriam Torres

**Substitute Teachers**  
Molly Crall, Caleb Frank, Andrea Fry, Brianna Hayden, Molly Huntington, Briana Love, Sara Luke, Hunter Martin, Eduard Maurel, Makayla McAvoy, Michael Mohr, Kendall Okuley, Julie Pauken, Alicia Pieracini, Niki Polce, Courtney Rogers, Maggie Schlosser, Hayden Shultz, Katelyn Smith, Brooklynn Tracy, Xavier Williams

•Approved to award depository agreement with Huntington National Bank for the period of February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2029

•Approved the NWOESC Salary Schedules as presented and to reflect a 2.5% increase for the 2024-25 contract year and a 2.5% increase for the 2025-26 contract year.

•Approved the following policy recommendations:

Policy 5330	Use of Medications	Revised
Policy 5330.05	Procurement and Use of Naloxone (Narcan) in Emergency Situations	New

•Approved resolution appointing Treasurer/CFO of Record for the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center through the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- A calamity day closure is being implemented at the IEC/Opportunity School for the April 8, 2024, Eclipse
- 2023 Ethics Commission Financial Disclosure Statements are due 5/15/2024
- Discussion was held on NwoOESC's implementation of BoardDocs LT for board meeting agenda development and paper reduction.
- An updated contact information sheet was provided to Board Members.
- The OSBA Northwest Region Spring Conference will be held at the Penta Career Center on 3/21/2024 at 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM - Registrations Due 03/12/24
- A discussion was held regarding NwoOESC Administrative Search Services

•**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Kerri Weir shared several items. The Montpelier Superintendent Search is concluding interviews and may be completed soon. The NwoOESC CFO/Treasurer Search is in process. NwoOESC recently applied for and was awarded the Ohio Attorney General's FY24 School Safety Grant (SSG Grant). Funding can be used for school safety and security training efforts. We will again use the funding to help offset the costs of CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute) training that is required of all classroom-based staff. NwoOESC has several CPI trainers who conduct training for ESC and member district staff. The OSBA Board Member Basics training was held at Northwest Ohio ESC on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. Thirty-nine participants enjoyed dinner and an overview by OSBA Senior Executive Director, Board Management and Services, Teri Morgan, with feedback being positive. A regional Substance Abuse Prevention Breakfast is being held at the ESC on Thursday, February 29. This event is in its second year and is a collaborative effort among area Health Departments, the ADAMHS Board, and other prevention focused community agencies. Individuals from various sectors of the community (law enforcement, education, faith-based, mental health, etc.) will be participating. Planning is underway for our many fall events as we look forward to kicking off the 2024-25 school year: Administrators' Conference 2024 –Friday, August 2, 2024; Driver Training 2024 – Monday, August 5, 2024; Annual Fall Staff Meeting 2024 – Wednesday, August 7, 2024. The nomination period for the 2025 Ohio Teacher of the Year is open through March 31. Candidates must: Hold a valid Ohio Professional Teaching License; Be currently completing their 10th year or more of teaching; Be employed full-time in a state-approved public school, community school, or career-technical center; Work directly with students at least 50% of their contracted time; Have received no previous Ohio Teacher of the Year recognition and; Plan to continue in active teaching status. Anyone may submit a nomination for one or multiple teachers from a district or school building. Self-nominations are not accepted. To nominate a teacher, click: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025OTOY>. Each of Ohio's 11 State Board Districts will select one teacher to be recognized as their State Board District Teacher of the Year and candidate for Ohio Teacher of the Year.

•Entered into Executive Session for the purpose of consideration of the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee, or official.

•Approved a Treasurer Consultant agreement with Homer Hendricks, effective February 27, 2024, through June 30, 2025 on an as needed basis.

•As all the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. The next meeting will take place on March 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.