

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their organizational and regular meetings held January 21, 2025.

The organizational meeting was called to order at 5:59 p.m. by President Pro-Tem Ross Stambaugh. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Elected Kelly Hug as President of the NwoESC Governing Board for 2025.
- Elected Ross Stambaugh as Vice-President of the NwoESC Governing Board for 2025.
- Established the following for regular monthly meetings; (4th Tuesday unless noted)

TIME: (6:00 p.m.)
LOCATION: NwoESC Conference Room
DATES: February 25, 2025
March 18, 2025 (3rd Tuesday)
April 22, 2025
May 27, 2025
June 24, 2025
July 22, 2025
August 26, 2025
September 23, 2025
October 28, 2025
November 25, 2025
December 16, 2025 (3rd Tuesday)

-Records commission to meet as needed 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 2025 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.

•Granted the Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, Abby Lorenzen:

- Authority to pay bills, process payrolls, invest Board funds and make all necessary cash advancements to grants during 2025.
- Serve as the designee for each NwoESC governing board member effective 01/01/25 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 2025, and then be brought to the Board for ratification.
- To permit the superintendent to hire employees during 2025 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.

- 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 Andy Hunter 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 2025.
- 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 2025.
- Appointed the following people to serve as OSBA Liaisons:
 - OSBA Legislative Liaison: Mr. Brian Baker
 - OSBA Student Achievement Liaison: Dr. Christine Smallman
- Appointed individuals to serve on the following Committees:
 - Audit/Finance Committee: Abby Lorenzen, Ross Stambaugh, Jim George, Mary Alice Nagel
 - Building and Grounds Committee - Kerri Weir, Abby Lorenzen, Chad Rex, Brian Baker, Deborah Gerken, Christine Smallman
 - Policy Committee - Kerri Weir, Abby Lorenzen, Nona Rupp, Lori Weber, Kelly Hug
- As the Organizational meeting was complete, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.**

The Regular Meeting of the NwOESC Board of Education was called into session at 6:16 p.m. by President Kelly Hug. Attendance was noted.

•OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON: Mr. Brian Baker reported on several items. The 136th General Assembly held its ceremonial opening session on Monday, January 6, 2025. The members of both chambers took their oaths of office and formally voted for House and Senate leadership. New bill introductions will begin next week, and both chambers are slated to return for session the week of January 20, 2025. Governor DeWine had until Thursday, January 9 to veto or sign into law the acts passed by the 135th General Assembly. Before the constitutional deadline, Governor DeWine signed the following pieces of legislation: SB 54 - the bill's substitute language dedicates millions to various programs and capital projects. An education-related appropriation of \$250,000 was made in the bill for the to promote suicide prevention in schools. The law will take effect on April 2, 2025. HB 315 - this omnibus bill made a plethora of changes to township and other local and state government law. Of interest to school districts, the bill included the ability for townships to extend a tax increment financing districts for 15 additional years, made changes to current agricultural use value (CAUV) property taxes for land in connection with the H2Ohio program, and added new requirements of the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to provide all school districts with best practices to help ensure the educational stability of students who are in the foster care system. Governor DeWine vetoed specific sections of the bill dealing with exemptions to ethics laws, clerk of court governance and "medical free speech". The law will take effect on April 2, 2025. SB 208 - this bill originally created open enrollment policy exceptions for military children but was amended by the House to include changes to school district and educational service center purchases of technological equipment, virtual services provided under special needs scholarship programs, public school employee in-service training in child sexual abuse prevention, pre-service teacher permits and student and driver training instruction in peace officer interactions. The bill also establishes early childhood education Regional Partnerships Programs and exempts home education groups from childcare regulations and county and township zoning regulations. The law will take effect on April 8, 2025. SB 234 - this bill will designate May as "Food Allergy Awareness Month" and "Lupus Awareness Month" and require schools and higher education institutions to include the national suicide and crisis lifeline telephone number on student identification cards, student planners and electronic portals (language formally a part of HB 571). The law will take effect on April 8, 2025. HB 8 - this bill enacts the "Parents' Bill of Rights" to require public schools to adopt a policy on parental notification on student health and well-being and instructional materials with sexually explicit content as well as a policy on release time for religious instruction (RTRI). Formerly language from HB 445 and SB 293, the Senate added the RTRI amendment to HB 8 and clarified that boards of education may include in their policy a requirement for background checks of employees and volunteers of RTRI sponsors as well as their own definition of core curriculum. Boards of education and the sponsoring RTRI entity are required to collaborate on when programming is offered during the school day. The law will take effect on April 8, 2025. HB 206 - this bill will make changes regarding the expulsion of a student from a public school for actions that endanger the health and safety of other students or school employees. In addition to the changes to expulsion procedures, the Senate amended the bill to include 2024-2025 school year exemptions for community school closures, new protocols for schools' storage of seizure medications, and an increase in funding for school choice program administration. The law will take effect on April 8, 2025.

•CFO/TREASURER: Mrs. Abby Lorenzen reported that on January 14, mid-year estimates were distributed to member districts, and the process of adjusting ODE deduction changes for several districts began. During the combined superintendent and treasurer meeting on February 18, fiscal year 2026 initial estimates will be handed out. These estimates are calculated using mid-year student count data, current year staff levels, and historical trends for salary and insurance increases. The administrative team will review these estimates to assess staffing needs and discuss potential changes requested by districts. The Auditor of State released the annual audit report, which was a clean audit, aside from the issue of not filing on a GAAP basis. This year marks the fifth year since the switch to OCBOA filing in 2020, a decision made to save on report preparation, audit services, and staff time, while also aligning with the majority of member districts. The business office was commended for its excellent work in producing a clean audit while supporting ESC employees. Several grants were updated in the appropriation modifications this month. The IDEA-B Special Education grant saw a decrease in allocation, a change that typically occurs at mid-year. There were also slight increases in the Title III, Early Childhood Special Education, and MEP ID and Recruitment grants.

•DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION: Mrs. Jill Gilliland provided a snapshot of the number of students served in various classroom programs, including preschool, MD classrooms, work transition classroom at Four County Career Center, the IEC program, HI classrooms at Archbold middle and high schools, and the HOPE Center. A description of HI program equipment was shared. Additional students will begin receiving services this semester, and new equipment is needed. Skylar Joseph, educational audiologist; Lisa Giesige, HI Itinerant Intervention Specialist and Audiological Assistant; and Michelle Kruse, Special Education Supervisor work together to manage and plan for the equipment needs of students. This includes monitoring warranties, repairs, replacements, and new equipment needs. Thank you to Lynlee Reinking, Kalli Hintz and students for planning and hosting a wonderful Christmas party at the NWOESC for students who attend our Wauseon MD program. Thank you to Michelle Kruse and Lisa Giesige for coordinating and hosting a Christmas party for students who are part of the HI program. This event was also held at the ESC with special guests, Abby White and Julian Henderson. Abby White is a member of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Literacy Team. Julian Henderson is an actor and also serves as a mentor for families who have a deaf child.

•DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Andy Hunter shared that the annual Franklin B. Walter celebration will take place March 10, 2025. The special event honors one senior and a teacher who has made an impact on their lives in each district. Additionally, he recognized and thanked our CFO/Treasurer, Abby Lorenzen, for winning a prestigious OASBO award. This honor included a \$1,000 scholarship, which Abby has generously chosen to contribute to our Franklin B. Walter award recipients. Mr. Hunter then highlighted the work of our EL Specialist who was hired in response to the growing need for English Learner (EL) support, Jamie Englehart has done a tremendous job in that role and has been such an asset to districts all across our service area.

•DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS: Mr. Chad Rex shared that he and Mr. Corey Todd are continuing work on the network closet cleanup project in the main office. This aids in our network/cyber security as well as overall organization. They are also working on a list of necessary device upgrades before the next school year and in the next fiscal year. Mr. Rex also reported that he completed his work, with the assistance of NWOCA and others, on setting up Google single-sign on for the Powerschool student information system that is used for the IEC and preschool programs. Mr. Rex worked with our E-Rate consultants to submit a Form 470 (i.e., formal RFP) to utilize our remaining dollars in Category 2 funding (i.e., internal connections, network equipment). A new 5-year budget for this category of funding will hopefully take place in the next funding year. Mr. Rex highlighted that the ESC has saved an average of \$28,000 per year over the last four years by utilizing E-Rate funding. Mr. Rex stated that his team has completed the work on the creation of two online courses for Drivers of Vehicles Other Than Buses (i.e., van drivers). These courses will serve as two-hour courses that drivers can use to complete their required hours of annual training. The content is from the State training manual and supports the four-hour online course that we provide for drivers to complete their required pre-service hours. Our two-hour courses will go live in the coming weeks after a few technical items have been finalized. A huge thank you and great job to Mrs. Pat Turpening for all her time and effort building the courses and Mr. Larry Davis for his assistance. Lastly, Mr. Rex commended Mr. Larry Davis for his cost-savings work. Mr. Davis completed the faucet rebuild project at the main office. He rebuilt 24 bathroom faucets after researching the parts that were needed to resolve the issue. This effort saved the ESC between \$5,000 (rebuild kits) and \$7,000 (new faucets).

•Approved the CFO/Treasurer Consent Items:

•Minutes from the regular board meeting and the Finance Committee meeting held December 17, 2024.

•Financial Transactions - appropriation modifications, transfers and advances, and monthly financial reports.

•Approved the Superintendent Consent Items:

•AGREEMENTS

-Above Pete's Garage to provide to NWOESC, 21st Century (Hicksville Elem), Extended Learning Opportunities Services for the period of 2/1/25-6/30/25.

-NwOESC to provide to Edon Northwest Local Schools, ELL Specialist Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NwOESC to provide to Elmwood Local Schools, Visual Impairment (VI) Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NwOESC to provide to Pike-Delta-York Local Schools, Focused Consultant Services for the period of 10/30/24-4/30/25.

•PURCHASES

-Phonak/Sonova USA to provide to NwOESC, Audiology Equipment from the General Fund (001-0000).

•Approved the Superintendent Recommendation Items:

Approved Resolution: NwOESC Governing Board Adoption and Implementation of DEW Special Education Model Policies and Procedures.

•Approved Personnel Consent Items:

•LEAVES

FMLA and Disability

•RESIGNATIONS

Ayers, Gracie, Floating Paraprofessional Effective- 12/31/2024

Ewing, Vivien, Paraprofessional Effective- 1/6/2025

Garcia, Alison, Payroll Specialist Effective- 1/24/2025

Meyer, Catherine, Intervention Specialist Effective- 1/17/2025

Michael, Nancy, Paraprofessional Effective- 1/4/2025

Miller, Christian, Paraprofessional Effective- 1/5/2025

Miller, Janell, Paraprofessional Effective- 1/10/2025

Ordway, Jodi, Paraprofessional Effective 1/6/2025

CONTRACTS

Certified Limited

Name	Contract	Length	Schedule	Column
Ayers, Gracie	CERT-1 YR	1/6/2025-7/31/2025	Teacher/IS	BA
Deuel, Jennifer	CERT-1 YR	1/13/2025-7/31/2025	Teacher/IS	BA

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length	Schedule	Column
Myers, Janet	CLASS-1 YR	1/15/2025-6/30/2025		

Substitute Paraprofessionals

Cynthia Roberts, Alyssa Smith Yackee

Substitute Teachers

Kamie Beck, Chace Boothman, Caitlin Brinegar, Brooke Collins, Kersten Davis, Karina Dickinson, Tatum Grime, Faith Harding, Daniel Hinojosa, John James, Kendyl Kime, Reid Lichty, Justin McCall, Faith Miller, Corey

Mohr, Kylie Myers, Maggi Nagel, Taylore Rethmel, Cynthia Roberts, Macee Sonnenberg, Casandra Sprow, Julie Torrence, Mary Job Vajen, Jill Van Horn, Natalie Wertz

Stipend for staff

Amanda Kelly
Kendall Shively

•Approved Personnel Recommendation Item:

FMLA Leave

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Policy Recommendations - 1st Reading

Bylaw 0100	Definitions	Revised
Bylaw 0142.1	Oath	Revised
Bylaw 0151	Organizational Meeting	Revised
Bylaw 0152	Officers	Revised
Bylaw 0155	Presiding Officer	Technical Correction
Bylaw 0163	Presiding Officer	Technical Correction
Bylaw 0164	Notice of Meetings	Revised
Bylaw 0165	Board Meetings	New
Bylaw 0165.1	Regular Meeting	Rescind
Bylaw 0165.2	Special Meetings	Rescind
Bylaw 0166	Agendas	Renumbered/New
Bylaw 0167.2	Executive Session	Renumbered
Bylaw 0167.7	Use of Personal Communication Devices	Renumbered/Revised
Bylaw 0173	Board Officers	Rescind
Policy 1130	Conflict of Interest	Revised
Policy 3113	Conflict of Interest	Revised
Policy 4113	Conflict of Interest	Revised
Policy 4121	Criminal History Record Check	Revised
Policy 5136	Personal Communication Devices	Revised
Policy 5136.01	Electronic Equipment	Revised
Policy 5200	Attendance	Revised
Policy 5500	Student Conduct	Revised
Policy 6110	Grant Funds	Revised
Policy 6111	Internal Controls	Revised
Policy 6112	Cash Management of Grants	Revised
Policy 6114	Cost Principles - Spending Federal Funds	Revised
Policy 6320	Purchasing and Bidding	Revised
Policy 6325	Procurement - Federal Grants/Funds	Revised
Policy 6460	Vendor Relations	Revised
Policy 7310	Disposition of Surplus Property	Revised
Policy 7450	Property Inventory	Revised
Policy 7530.01V2	Board-Owned Technology Resources Used for Communication	Revised

Policy 7530.02	Staff Use of Personal Communication Devices	Revised
Policy 7540.03	Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety	Revised
Policy 7540.04	Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety	Revised
Policy 7540.09	Artificial Intelligence ("AI")	New
Policy 8310	Public Records	Revised
Policy 9160	Public Attendance at School Events	Revised

- A reminder was provided to the Board that 2024 Ethics Commission Financial Disclosure Statements are due 5/15/2025.

•**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Superintendent Kerri Weir reported on several items. The posting for Montpelier Treasurer/CFO closes on February 7, 2025. Interviews are tentatively planned for President’s Day, with the goal of identifying a new leader by March. The selected candidate will transition into the role in early August for the 2025-26 school year. Abby and Kerri are working collaboratively on this search. OMEC program updates were provided recently by OMEC Director Jose Salinas. The leased space in Fremont recently changed ownership, but no significant changes are anticipated as a result. A new regional delivery model/map was implemented this fall, enhancing statewide coverage and access to services. OMEC recruiters serving the Haitian population report that families potentially eligible for services remain hesitant to connect due to the current political climate. Migrant student numbers are decreasing—a positive reflection of the program’s success. Many migrant graduates are leveraging traditional workforce opportunities, while visa restrictions (e.g., H2A visas now limiting stays to 9 months without family accompaniment) contribute to the shift. Despite lower numbers, the program remains vital. The OMEC team, including new staff, has shown exceptional adaptability and collaboration this year, and Jose’s leadership has been invaluable. The Administrative Team is actively planning enhancements to programs and services for the upcoming school year. Several new offerings will be introduced at the February Superintendent/Treasurer meeting, accompanied by an updated Program & Services Catalogue. Potential additions include Public Relations/Media support, Expanded Autism programming, and On-Board Instructor (OBI) support. NWOESC remains committed to expanding services that meet the evolving needs of our member districts and ensuring students in northwest Ohio have access to exceptional educational programs and opportunities. The Napoleon District recently joined the Coalition of Ohio Rural and Appalachian Schools (CORAS), with interest expressed by several other districts. CORAS is focused on addressing key issues affecting rural and Appalachian schools across Ohio including Fair School Funding, Transportation, Early Childhood Education, College Credit Plus, Facilities, and Workforce Development. On January 9, 2025, a federal court in Kentucky ruled in favor of those challenging the 2024 Title IX regulations, effectively vacating them. The 2024 regulations are no longer in effect. Districts must adhere to the 2020 Title IX regulations and follow existing policies when addressing complaints of sex-based discrimination or harassment. Schools should continue ensuring compliance with Title IX law, which includes maintaining trained staff to manage issues of discrimination or harassment. Lastly, Mrs. Abby Lorenzen was recently named the 2025 OASBO Distinguished Service Award recipient for the Northwest Region. The Distinguished Service Awards Program is a series of five regional awards, recognizing one individual from each region. One overall winner will be selected later this spring. Recipients of these awards are recognized for their professional accomplishments and/or for service to their profession and community. Abby is choosing to use her regional award to fund two \$500.00 scholarships to the NWOESC Franklin B Walters program being held in March. Congratulations to Abby on this well-deserved award! We are blessed to have her on our ESC team!

•**Adjournment:** As all the business of the evening was complete the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Board will take place on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH 43502.