

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held February 28, 2023.

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

REPORTS:

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker reported on several legislative items. OASBO, BASA, and OSBA will be presenting an online seminar on the biennial budget proposal put forth by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, which includes additional phase-in of the Fair School Funding Plan. The Senate Education Committee amended SB 1, which would rename the Department of Education as the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) and would create the position of Director of Education and Workforce. The bill also would reform the functions and responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. This would result in a shift of power away from the Board and to a State cabinet level position. The committee also held sponsor testimony on SB 14, which would allow school districts to employ veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces that have met certain requirements as teachers without licenses. In addition, there are several backpack/voucher bills being proposed by legislators for consideration, which would likely divert funding from public schools. On a final note, Mr. Baker shared that Governor DeWine's State of the State address proposed creating a new cabinet-level state agency called the Ohio Department of Children and Youth, which would oversee programs dealing with early childhood education, foster care, children's behavioral health, and the health of mothers and children.

•**OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Dr. Christine Smallman reported on several items related to student achievement. Middle and high school students can be susceptible to burnout in the spring, according to National Board-Certified Teacher Miriam Plotnisky. She shared four strategies to help keep students motivated in the spring, such as setting manageable daily objectives, prioritizing movement, avoiding mental inertia, and celebrating successes. Butler Tech, which began an aviation exploration course in 2019, wants to expand its program by building a 25,000-square-foot facility at Middletown Regional Airport in Middletown. The facility will feature a large hangar with classrooms, community space and labs. The school is seeking a \$2 million grant from the city to help defray the cost. The terminology used to refer to students with disabilities can have wide-ranging effects, from the services they receive to how staff and fellow students treat them, says Michael Baker of the University of Manitoba. Baker encourages schools to look to the social model of disability, which views students with disabilities as different, not less than, and fosters a more equitable, inclusive education experience for students. An Advanced Placement (AP) California U.S. history teacher has created an educational app, [High5Wizard](#), to help students prepare for AP exams. The free app has been downloaded approximately 7,000 times and uses quizzes and games to guide students through lessons on U.S. history, government and politics, world history, English, psychology, and statistics. The final item related to use of student photos. Some researchers have questioned the sharing of student photos, especially those with identifying information, and implications/ethics for student privacy in educational settings.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Homer Hendricks shared about the distribution of district program cost estimates for the 2023-2024 school year. He announced the annual audit had begun earlier this month and next year the audit will be conducted by an independent public accounting firm instead of Auditor of State staff. Mr. Hendricks reviewed the resolution to update the OASBO 457 plan per IRS requirements. He also discussed the upcoming HVAC project and working to stay in compliance with federal grant requirements as part of the project.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Jill Gilliland shared updates about the HOPE Center program at Edgerton Local Schools. There continues to be interest in the program, and we are investigating the option of adding a second classroom for the 2023-24 school year. Thanks to Mr. Riehle, Ms. Dunham, and our fabulous teacher, paras, and related service providers, this program is off to a great start. A memo from ODE was shared that explains ODE has expanded the developmental delay eligibility definition. It now

includes students ages three through nine years old. Students transitioning from preschool to kindergarten could now retain the DD eligibility without needing a new evaluation.

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Andy Hunter reminded the board that the Franklin B. Walter Scholarship event will be held at the ESC on Monday, March 6, 2023. He noted that they were excited to host the event for this year's top area seniors and their honored teachers. Mr. Hunter also made note of some exciting professional development put on recently by Mr. Mike Altman on math fact fluency, pointing out the positive feedback of the event. Finally, he recognized some of the work that the regional data leads, Ashley Ensign and Mike Altman have been doing with deep dives into area test scores and data and breaking it down for districts to have a better understanding of what it means and how to utilize it.

•DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS: Chad Rex highlighted the ongoing cybersecurity efforts that he and Mr. Corey Todd are planning, implementing, and administering. A cybersecurity survey was completed in collaboration with Mr. Homer Hendricks. Mr. Rex met with NWOCA and DataServ to complete the interview portion of the Cybersecurity Readiness Program project. They will be conducting network penetration tests and then providing a report in the coming months. Google's multi-factor authentication was implemented on February 16. Mr. Todd and Mr. Rex have been working on the back-end setup policies and configurations for the password manager deployment and the phishing email training initiative. Mr. Rex facilitated the Northwest Ohio Technology Leader meeting on February 17. In the first two months of the calendar year, the technology office closed 120 technology tickets. In operations, Mr. Rex shared several exciting projects. Mr. Rex has been meeting with NWOCA and DataServ to refine the quotes needed for the new video surveillance and access controls systems at the IEC. This is a part of the Ohio Facility Construction Commission's K-12 School Safety Grant Program. We are also pursuing a grant from the Ohio Attorney General's office. This grant focuses on specific items, and we are pursuing panic buttons for our IEC building. The air conditioning units for both of our network closets at the main building and IEC building have been installed. Much of this cost was funded through grant dollars. This is an effort to maintain a stable network and business continuity. Contractors are nearing completion of the lobby door project that will enable us to program those doors and integrate it into our building security procedures. Landscape plans are underway for the remaining portion of the main building. We will be removing old plantings and placing river rock this spring and summer. New plantings will be the next phase. Mr. Rex met with a new vending company to explore a partnership to replace the outgoing company. In the first two months of the calendar year, the operations department has closed almost thirty maintenance tickets. In the first two months of the year, there were fifty events held in our meeting rooms at the main building. The largest meeting was the "Four County Substance Use Prevention: A Community Conversation" led by the local health departments. There were approximately 150 guests in the building for that event.

•Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

•Minutes from the organizational and regular board meeting held January 24, 2023

•AGREEMENTS

-Northern Buckeye Education Council to provide to NwoESC, Managed Internal Broadband Service for the period of 7/1/23-6/30/28.

-Sara's Garden to provide to NwoESC (New Horizons Academy-EANS), Leased Premises for the period of 7/1/22-9/30/24.

-NwoESC (Ohio Migrant Education Center) to provide to Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Farm and Food Worker Relief Services for the period of 10/1/22-9/30/24.

-NwoESC to provide to St. John Lutheran School, Occupational Therapist Services for the period of 12/14/22-6/15/23.

-NwoESC to provide to Wayne Trace Local Schools, Independence Education Center Services for the period of 2/8/23-6/15/23.

-To approve Annual Service Agreements with the following districts for the 2023-24 school year per R.C. 3313.845:

- Ayersville Local Schools
- Edgerton Local Schools
- Fayette Local Schools

•PURCHASES

-Dignified Learning to provide to NwoESC (Future Forward Ohio-OLC), course creation cost in the amount of \$33,000.00 which above the purchasing agent limit, with Future Forward Ohio-OLC Grant funds.

•LEAVES

FMLA and Disability

•RESIGNATIONS

- Esterline, Karrie, Paraprofessional, effective 3/10/2023
- Norden, Madison, Paraprofessional, effective 2/24/2023
- Patten, Lauren, Paraprofessional, effective 1/13/2023
- Walters, Jasman, Paraprofessional, effective 2/27/2023

•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTRACTS

Certified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Wagner, Allison	CERT-1 Yr	2/6/2023- 7/31/2023

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Chavez-Areola, Marta	CLASS-1 Yr	3/1/2023-12/31/2024
Florez, Barbara	CLASS-1 Yr	3/1/2023-12/31/2024
Hernandez, Maria	CLASS-1 Yr	4/1/2023-12/31/2024

Teaching Assignments for staff whose licensure does not align to assigned positions - Second Semester 2022-23

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location
Baden	Allison	Preschool Intervention Specialist	Defiance City Schools
Cheek	Jessica	Preschool Itinerant Intervention Specialist	Multiple Districts
Cole	Rachel	(Grade 6) Intervention Specialist	Independence Education Center
Cook	Adam	Intervention Specialist	Patrick Henry Middle School
Elendt	Samantha	Preschool Intervention Specialist	Defiance City Schools
Gombash	Scarlette	Preschool Intervention Specialist	Pike Delta York
Haines	Brooke	MS/HS Intervention Specialist	Edon Northwest Local Schools
Hug	Skeat	Junior High Intervention Specialist	Independence Education Center
Hutchison	Kimberly	Preschool Intervention Specialist	North Central
McBride	Tiffany	(APE) Intervention Specialist	Multiple Districts as assigned
Prigge	Cailyn	Preschool Intervention Specialist	Northeastern Local Schools
Rodger	Michelle	HI Intervention Specialist	Archbold Area Local Schools
Smith	Sue	Preschool Itinerant Intervention Specialist	Multiple Districts
Thomas	Cheyenne	Preschool Intervention Specialist	Pike Delta York
Weaver	Valerie	(Grade 5) Intervention Specialist	Independence Education Center

ESC Long Term Substitute Paraprofessionals

Michael Beals, Courtni Beaverson, Katelyn Konrad, Morgan Sowers

Substitute Paraprofessionals

Cynthia Cassidy, Madison Norden, Christina Reiniche

Substitute Teachers

Andrea Aeschliman, Donna Baldassari, Terry Baldwin, Cynthia Cassidy, Rebecca Dadisman, Eric Durre, Sarah Hallgren, Leah Hall, Jennifer Heisler, Cameryn Herevia, Cadlynn Hoellrich, Gavyn Kupfersmith, James Moore, Elicia Nehls, Amanda Nickels, Nicholas Pepple, Madison Pueschel, Peyton Spieth, Sherry Starry, Dennis Taylor, Mallory Timbrook, Michael Vasko, Laura Williams, Emma Willitzer

Student Teachers/Interns/Volunteers

Matthews, Sophia, Field Experience as a BGSU Student, Spring Semester, 2023 Placed with Jody Mohring

Sommer, Reilly, Field Experience as a BGSU Student, Spring Semester, 2023 Placed with Robyn Hahn Weidenhamer, Hailey, Field Experience as a BGSU Student, Spring Semester, 2023 Placed with Christi Ranzau

- Approved Participation in Ohio Schools Council Cooperative Advertising and Receiving Bids for School Bus Chassis and Bodies (9-passenger vehicle).

- Approved the purchase of audit services of fiscal year 2021-22 from the Ohio Auditor of State (Same as 2020-21).

- Approved the following resolution to change the Ohio School Council Governance Policy:

The Governing Board of Education of the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center hereby grants the Superintendent of Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center the authority to modify, amend, or supplement Ohio Schools Council Policy 1.1 Section 10 Agreement, Policy 1.3 Section 11 Bylaws, and any other Agreements requiring Ohio Schools Council Assembly approval. These modifications, amendments, and supplements may occur at any regular or special meetings of the Ohio Schools Council Assembly at which a quorum is present. Approval of a modification, amendment or supplement requires a simple majority vote of the quorum.

- Approved the resolution to restate the Ohio Association of School Business Officials 457 Deferred Compensation Plan:

- Approved the resolution dispensing with Statutory Bidding Procedures Due to Conditions of Urgent Necessity Related to the Repair of an Air Conditioning Unit Chiller:

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- The Northwest Region Spring Conference will be held on Thursday, March 23 from 5- 8:30 p.m. in Ottoville. Board President Brian Baker will be recognized as a recipient of the 2023 OSBA Service Award. The Service Award is a distinct award and is part of the OSBA STAR Awards Program—Service, Training, Aptitude and Recognition. Of the more than 3,400 board members in Ohio, only 52 will receive the honor in 2023. Congratulations, Brian!
- 2023-24 Program and Service Information – An updated guide was developed, shared recently with district superintendents and treasurers, and provided to the board members.

- SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Kerri Weir reported on several items. Administrative Searches at Holgate and Archbold are in the final stages. NwOESC recently applied for the Ohio Attorney General's FY23 School Safety Grant (SSG Grant), which can be used for safety and security training/materials. Funding will be used to help offset the costs of CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute) training that is required of all classroom-based staff. NwOESC has several CPI trainers who conduct trainings for ESC and member district staff. A

regional Substance Abuse Prevention Breakfast was held at the ESC on February 23. The breakfast was a collaborative effort among area Health Departments, the ADAHMS Board, and other prevention focused community agencies. Approximately 150 individuals attended representing various sectors of the community (law enforcement, education, faith-based, mental health, etc.). ESC staff who work with family/community connections and school climate attended. Planning is underway for our many fall events as we look forward to kicking off the 2023-24 school year: PD Palooza – Tuesday, August 1, 2023; Administrators’ Conference 2023 – Friday, August 4, 2023; Annual Fall Staff Meeting 2023 – Tuesday, August 8, 2023; and Driver Training 2023 (dates are still being determined). The 2024 Ohio Teacher of the Year nominations are open February 1 through March 31, 2023. Our area encompasses the SBOE District 1 territory. The Ohio Teacher of the Year program elevates the teaching profession by identifying exceptional teachers, celebrating their effective, inspiring work both inside and outside of the classroom and providing opportunities for professional growth, leadership, and advocacy. A candidate for the Ohio Teacher of the Year (OTOY) is eligible to apply if they hold a valid Ohio Professional Teaching License or a Career Technical Teaching License; currently completing their tenth year or more of teaching; working a minimum of 120 days in the current school year; and employed full-time in a state-approved public school, community school or career-technical center. Candidates also must work directly with students at least 50 percent of the time, have received no previous Ohio Teacher of the Year recognition and plan to continue in active teaching status. Anyone may nominate a teacher. School administrators, colleagues, community members, parents or students may submit a nomination for one or multiple teachers from a district or school building. Self-nominations are not accepted. The nomination link is: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/24_OTOY_Nom. Regional and state award winners will be selected by ODE in the summer and fall.

•As all the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm. The next meeting will take place on March 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.