

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

#### **GUESTS/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Mr. Andrew Pass from APass Educational Group addressed the Board with information related to educational content development.

#### **REPORTS:**

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker provided a brief update on legislative activities at the State level. HB 214 has been signed and will go into effect October 24, 2024. The legislation enacts the "Religious Expression Days" or "R.E.D." Act to require each public school to adopt a policy that reasonably accommodates the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of students; and to require each public school to adopt a policy regarding certain expectations related to the performance of staff member professional duties. No other information was reported as the House and Senate are not in session.

•**OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Dr. Christine Smallman shared information related to student achievement. The 2024 Paris Olympics offer an opportunity to engage students in STEM subjects through sports like swimming and skateboarding and the newest Olympic sport — breakdancing. Concepts such as kinetics, aerodynamics and physics can be integrated into lessons to make learning dynamic and relevant. Activity stations can be used to promote literacy. According to an elementary teacher, the key to creating literacy stations that foster productive and engaging learning environments for students are creating heterogeneous groups and flexibility in instruction into the process. Literacy stations can run smoothly in the classroom by incorporating clear behavior expectations, accessible materials, and structured rotation schedules. Lastly, it was shared that new research shows how schools can use family engagement as a strategy to reduce absenteeism. Harvard professors Karen L. Mapp and Todd Rogers provide more information on how educators can enlist parents in both strategic and tactical ways at <https://osba.link/b77965>

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mrs. Abby Lorenzen reported that ODEW has released more grant allocations for the 2024-25 school year, and they are on the agenda for the Board's approval. These additional allocations include 21st Century, Early Childhood Special Education, and IDEA-B Special Education. The Title III -Language Instruction for English Learners grant allocation has not yet been released. We are the processing of completing and submitting the FY 2025 High Performing ESC application, a process and requires ESCs to show a minimum net 5% savings across five service areas we provide to our area districts as compared to what it would cost them to provide on their own or through a private provider. The requirement is in its 9th year. The application no longer affects our state funding with the current funding formula, however, is required for a federal procurement rule waiver that our districts must apply for with ODEW annually related to our service agreements. Registration for the OSBA Capital Conference for administrators and board members has been completed. The accommodations portal will be open in mid-September. The Auditor of State Fraud training is a new requirement for public entities, including ESCs. The training video will be shown at upcoming Board Meetings to enable us to meet the November 29, 2024 deadline. The training needs to be updated every four years.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Gilliland provided an update on our staffing plan, including positions for which we are currently interviewing candidates. Recruitment efforts in the areas of speech language pathology and school psychology were shared, which includes reach outs and visits to

universities to share about our organization and current and future available positions. Kris Ritter will be attending a specialized CPI training in September in order to provide this type of training for our IEC team. We discussed the many activities that our team members are engaged in to get the school year off to a great start for staff and students. These include ensuring that materials and equipment are in place in classrooms, coordinating enrollment of new students, working with transportation directors and district administrators to ensure that bus routes are covered, meetings and visits to school for new students are arranged, and new ESC team members have all they need to start the school year.

**•DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Hunter discussed the administrative conference and kickoff to the school year with keynote speaker Jonathan Alsheimer. Jonathan was extremely engaging and enthusiastic as he shared his message on next-level leadership. It was great to see area administrators back and ready to start a new school year. Next, Mr. Hunter discussed the data analysis program "Roots." He shared that over the last three years, the program has continued to grow and that the districts purchasing this service have continued this valuable work with the Regional Data Leads. Finally, he shared that the consultants would be offering OTES Evaluator training here at the ESC this week.

**•DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Mr. Chad Rex reported that he and Mr. Corey Todd have been working their way through the new staff and start of the school year needs. Mr. Rex expressed his gratitude for the patience and understanding of our dedicated staff. Mr. Rex recognized Mr. Todd for the work he has done in his technology role at the ESC for ten years and expressed his gratitude for Mr. Todd's commitment and hard work in supporting our organization and its employees. Mr. Rex shared that the preschool classrooms at Defiance City Schools received interactive displays on mobile stands. Training is being coordinated for these teachers as well as a few other staff new to this technology. As time permits, Mr. Rex stated that he has been researching cybersecurity funding opportunities. Mr. Rex met with Mr. Shane Patacca, NWOCA, to plan and organize the Technology Leaders Network meetings for this year. They will continue to meet monthly at our main office with a Zoom option for those that are unable to attend in person, but still desire to be involved in the discussion. Mr. Rex announced that he had a project kickoff meeting with NWOCA and DataServ related to our migration to an updated Cisco phone system. A timeline will be solidified soon, but it will be sometime this Fall. Mr. Rex shared that the ESC posted a position for IEC Building Custodian, and he is excited to present Mr. Chadd Speiser to be approved for this position. Mr. Rex highlighted that he and Mr. Larry Davis are working to make it a smooth transition. Mr. Rex recognized the work of Mr. Davis in helping to make our Fall events go smoothly, supporting the new staff and classroom needs as well as anything driver and vehicle fleet related for the new school year. The Driver Inservice was a success! Mr. Rex expressed his appreciation for Mr. Davis and Mrs. Pat Turpening for all their hard work in the success of this event. There is a lot of planning, coordinating and implementation in this event. The team has received several positive responses. Mr. Rex reported that there is a group of transportation supervisors that are asking for their assistance in coordinating the Day 2 portion of the START training. There were 364 attendees on August 5<sup>th</sup> - 20 were from non-member districts.

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

•Minutes from the regular board meeting held July 23, 2024.

**•AGREEMENTS**

-Above Pete's Garage to provide to NwoESC, 21st Century (Defiance MS), Extended Learning Opportunities Services for the period of 10/15/24-6/30/25.

-Ayersville Local Schools to provide to NwoESC, Paraprofessional Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-Defiance County Juvenile Probation to provide to NwoESC, Attendance Officer Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-Four County Career Center to provide to NwoESC, Leased Services (MD Program Classroom) for the period of 8/1/24-8/1/25.

-Hicksville Exempted Village Schools to provide to NwoESC, Paraprofessional Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NWOCA to provide to NwoESC, NBEC NOVA Services for the period of 8/1/24-7/31/25.

-ProCare Therapy to provide to NwoESC, SLP and Psych Services for the period of 8/5/24-6/13/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Anthony Wayne Local Schools, Hearing Impaired Classroom with Speech Therapy Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Archbold Area Local Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/24-11/30/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Bowling Green State University-The College of Education and Human Development, Field-Based and Teacher Internship/Student Teaching Experiences for the period of 8/1/24-8/1/29.

-NwoESC to provide to Defiance City Schools & Holy Cross Catholic School, Speech Therapy Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Defiance City Schools & St. John Lutheran School, Speech Therapy Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Defiance College, Practicum/Student Teaching Experiences for the period of 7/1/24-6/30/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West, Performance Services for the period of 8/21/24-6/30/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Augustine Catholic School, Occupational and Physical Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Augustine Catholic School, School Psychologist Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Augustine Catholic School, Speech Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. John Lutheran School, Occupational Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. John Lutheran School, School Psychologist Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Paul Lutheran School, Occupational and Physical Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Paul Lutheran School, School Psychologist Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Paul Lutheran School, Speech Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools, Independence Education Center Services for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NWOESC to provide to St. Mary Catholic School, Intervention Specialist Services for the period of 8/1/24-6/15/25.

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

-NWOESC to provide to Swanton Local Schools, Occupational Therapist Services-St. Richard Catholic School for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NWOESC to provide to Swanton Local Schools, School Psychologist Services-St. Richard Catholic School for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

-NWOESC to provide to Swanton Local Schools, Speech Therapist Services-St. Richard Catholic School for the period of 8/15/24-6/15/25.

**•PURCHASES**

-Interstate Migrant Education Council to provide to NWOESC (OMEC), Annual Participation Fees with Title I-C Migrant (505-9250) funds.

**•LEAVES**

FMLA and Disability

**•RETIREMENT**

McCann, Cynthia, Paraprofessional-effective 6/30/2024

**•RESIGNATIONS**

Hancock, Caroline, Paraprofessional- effective 8/6/2024

Johnston, Tamara, Office Coordinator- effective 8/22/2024

Kania, Kennedy, Paraprofessional-effective 7/31/2024

Lero, Charles, Building Maintenance Tech- effective 8/18/2024

Reinhart, Max, Job Trainer-effective 8/12/2024

Sanchez, Abigail, Paraprofessional- effective 7/31/2024

Schlosser, Maggie, Paraprofessional-effective 7/29/2024

Schroeder, Heidi, Paraprofessional- effective 8/12/2024

Spangler, Margaret, Paraprofessional- effective 8/1/2024

Weaver, Valerie, Paraprofessional- effective 7/31/2024

**•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**CONTRACTS**

**Certified Limited**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
Yeager, Julia	CERT-1 YR	8/7/2024-7/31/2025
Smiddy, Kristen	CERT-1 YR	8/1/2024-7/31/2025
Blair, Nicole	CERT-1 YR	8/7/2024-7/31/2025

**Classified Limited**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
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Babb, Sarah	CLASS-1 YR	8/19/2024-7/31/2025
Etue, Sarah	CLASS-1 YR	8/7/2024-7/31/2025
Hernandez, Jacqueline	CLASS-1 YR	8/20/2024-7/31/2025
Hounshell, Rebecca	CLASS-1 YR	8/27/2024-7/31/2025
Jacobs, Mandi	CLASS-1 YR	8/7/2024-7/31/2025
Kroeckel, Alexis	CLASS-1 YR	8/15/2024-7/31/2025
Michael, Nancy	CLASS-1 YR	8/7/2024-7/31/2025
Morris, Cari	CLASS-1 YR	8/28/2024-7/31/2025
Ordway, Jodi	CLASS-1 YR	8/26/2024-7/31/2025
Robinson, Jensyn	CLASS-1 YR	8/15/2024-7/31/2025
Sauder, Amy	CLASS-1 YR	8/26/2024-7/31/2025
Speiser, Chadd	CLASS-1 YR	8/30/2024-7/31/2025
Vargas, Micaela	CLASS-1 YR	8/28/2024-7/31/2025
Wells, Illya	CLASS-1 YR	8/20/2024-7/31/2025
Zeedyk, Tracy	CLASS-1 YR	8/27/2024-7/31/2025

### **Substitute Paraprofessionals**

Kamie Beck, Pamela Bernath, Ruthie Brenneman, Piyawan Chapman, Anne Cline, Carol Creque, Madison Custer, Cynthia Fay, Patricia Graffice, Kennedy Kania, Jody Kolbe, Ashley Kryder, Kyle Ludwig, Cynthia Pawlaczyk, Nevaeh Rogers, Natalie Rufenacht, Connie Salsbury, Blakelyn Sheets, Gracie Wolf, Lauren Yoder

### **Substitute Teachers**

Kimberly Askins, William Avery, Abigail Baldwin, Jerrell Barnhill, Christiana Bauer, Katelyn Barton, Ami Batt, Elizabeth Batt, Kendra Beck, Brittani Benavides, Arielle Bernal, Jenna Blair, Jordan Bok, Kendal Bonney, Nicole Bostater, Curt Bowerman, Chris Bowers, Ruthie Brenneman, Tami Brigle, Margaret Clark, Anne Cline, Amya Coulon, Heather Courtney, Carol Creque, Erika Damman, Brenda Detmer, William Duvall, Katelyn Eldridge, Addison, Elser, Stacey Elton, Cynthia Fay, Sara Fields, Emma Fifer, Breanna Gallup, Christopher Garcia, Mea Garretson, Riley Garretson, Kimberly Garrow, Kylie Gates, Michelle Gigax, Susan Good, Gavin Grime, Lynn Groll, Susan Guilford, Hallie Hamilton, Jessica Hammond, Kathryn Haver, Haley Haynes, Patricia Hill, Sylvia Hill, Carla Hikle, Brooke Hubbard, Kennedy Kania, Ashton Kessler, Erica Knapp, Victoria Koelsch, Jody Kolbe, Allie Kroetz, Ashley Kryder, Debra Langenderfer, Trinity Lichtenwald, Carissa Lower, Kyle Ludwig, Nancy Mack, Brook Mavis, Donald McCord, Weston McGuire, Alexis Miles, Sarah Millikan, Grace Mitchell, Sara Moden, Elle Mohler, Kathryn Mohler, Kelly Monnin, James Moore, Lindsay Moore, Janet Morr, Erica Musshel, Mackenzie Nofziger, Sheila Parcher, Elizabeth Patrick, Cynthia Pawlaczyk, Tory Pendleton, Madison Perry, Jocelyn Peterson, Niki Polce, Heather Poorman, Lexie Poulson, Shelbie Randall, Michelle Retcher, Leah Robinson, Stephanie Robinson, Nevaeh Rogers, Natalie Rufenacht, Cynthia Schlatter, Steven Schlosser, Michelle Schramm, Thomas Schutte, Dawn Sharpe, Blakelyn Sheets, Bailey Short, Keshia Shoup, Bethany Singer, Rebecca Sivik Sharon Sobota, Catherine Stockburger, James Stoll, Demi Storrs, Steven Suchocki, Alyssa Temple, Rebecca Thatcher, Amber Underwood, Isaac Vanarsdalen, Nevada Vogelsong, Cassidy Wachtman, Joelle Waidelich, James Watkins, Kaylynn Wellman, Macie Willson, Donna Wipfli, Trilby Wolff, Lauren Yoder, Julie Zedlitz

### **Substitute Bus Drivers**

Larry Davis, Maryann Reimund

### **Substitute Van Driver**

Michael Volkert

### **Student Teachers/Interns/Volunteers**

McBride, Tiffany, Field Experience as a University of Findlay Student, Fall 2024, Placed with Jistine Curry

McGannon, Alivia, Field Experience as a University of Toledo Student, Fall 2024, Placed with Matt Ferguson

### **21st Century Site Coordinators**

Defiance Elementary- Sandra Fackler

Defiance Middle School- Sandra Fackler

Hicksville- Rachel Wehrman

### **21st Century Teachers**

Defiance Elementary- Karri Ashbaugh, Angela Buchanan, Julie Houck, Jennison Vincent

Defiance Middle School- Olivia Hines

### **21st Century Specialized Education Assistant**

Defiance Elementary- Shannon Lopez

### **Bus Driver**

NwOESC - Sherryann Franks

### **Van Drivers**

NwOESC - Sara Buchenberg, Sara Fogt, Mikaela Funchion, Ashlee Grunden, Catlyn Pavel, Desiree Staugler

- Approved the following Classified Limited Employment contract:

George, Diana                      CLASS-2 YR                      8/1/2024-7/31/2026

- Approved resolution for employment of Substitute Teachers

Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, the Governing Board authorizes the employment of substitute teachers who do not hold post-secondary degrees, as is otherwise required pursuant to Ohio law and regulations. To be eligible to serve as a substitute in the ESC, the Board requires that the employee have a high school diploma or equivalent diploma to fulfill the educational requirement. In addition to fulfilling the educational requirements adopted by the Governing Board, an individual must be of good moral character and must have completed all required criminal background checks, as well as obtained a valid, temporary, non-bachelor's degree substitute teaching license or pre-service teacher permit issued by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to serve as a substitute teacher in the ESC.

- Approved tuition reimbursement agreement for Michael Altman to obtain gifted licensure through Drake University beginning in the Fall 2024 and finishing in Summer 2026.

- Approved tuition reimbursement agreement for Dorothy Lambert to obtain gifted licensure through Drake University beginning in the Fall 2024 and finishing in Summer 2026.

- Authorized employer pickup of STRS contributions for the superintendent.

- Approved the NwOESC Consortium Substitute Handbook for the 2024-25 School Year as recommended.

- Approved a resolution for Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center to opt out of career-technical education for students in grades seven and eight for the 2024-25 school year and submit the waiver as required by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

## INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Biennial Review of Policy 2413 - Career Advising; The policy was reviewed, and no changes were recommended. The next review will occur by August 27, 2026.
- Combined Calendar 2024-25; Information was shared with the Board regarding NwoESC member district school calendars for the 2024-25 school year.
- The OSBA Northwest Region Fall Conference will be held on Thursday, 10/24/2024; 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM at Lima Senior High School in Lima.

•**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Kerri Weir shared that the Ohio School Boards Association is recognizing ESC Board President, Deborah Gerken, with the 2024 OSBA Aptitude Award, part of OSBA's STAR Awards Program—Service, Training, Aptitude and Recognition. The award is presented to a very select group. Of the more than 3,400 board members in Ohio, only 62 will receive the honor in 2024. OSBA would like to officially recognize Deb for her dedication and commitment to education. She will be recognized at the regional fall conference in October in Lima. Congratulations, Deb!

On August 2, the Administrators' Conference was held at the NwoESC bringing area Superintendents, Treasurers, Principals, and other administrators together to gear up for the year with a motivational message as well as updates from ODEW, legal, and professional organizations. We had great attendance representing all 23 member districts, Four County Career Center, and NWOCA. There were roughly 25 administrative changes in area districts this fall.

The NwoESC, under the direction of Chad Rex, facilitated the annual bus and van driver in-service trainings held on August 5 at Archbold High School with roughly 364 attending this in person event. Thanks to Chad, Larry Davis, and Pat Turpening for their coordination of this event, as well as to Archbold Schools for allowing us to use their facilities.

The NwoESC Fall Staff Meeting was held on August 7, with a theme of "Thriving Together with a Marigold Mindset!" Approximately 365 staff were present for the structured morning event featuring keynote speaker Dr. Katie Peters. In addition, ESC updates and resources were shared; and staff were recognized for milestone years with NwoESC (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 35). After the program, staff enjoyed lunch from several food trucks on site, and utilized the remainder of the day for small group meetings or self-directed work. A big thank you to the many staff who helped make this day successful!

- Milestone Years/Recognition with NwoESC:
  - 5-Years: Lisa Bailey, Shelby Clark, Marlo Hanak, Melinda Jones, Reagan Keller, Michael Remer, Deborah Roddy, Abbie Rohrs, and Alexis Willey
  - 10-Years: Jessica Cheek, Erin Elliott, Kallie Gensler, Amy Miller, Michaela Quigley, Lynlee Reinking, Corey Todd, and Michelle Winters
  - 15-Years: Heidi Bell, Cagney Bostelman, Kim Dickmann, Nichol Herold, Neeley McGill, Laura Parker, and Sara Weirich
  - 20-Years: Darcy Ashbaugh, Jill Kovnesky, Rebecca Nofziger, Annette Rosebrock, and Kathy Whitney
  - 25-Years: Tracey Weis
  - 35-Years: Amy Bauerle (upcoming recognition)
- Special Recognition: Chuck Lero (24 years) and Sally Kovar (upcoming retirement)

The first NwoESC Superintendents' meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 in conjunction with a Business Advisory Council (BAC) meeting. The NwoESC BAC meets quarterly to share information and foster connections among business and education across our region. The NwoESC BAC is co-chaired by me, Mike Remer, and Andy Hunter. Based on end of year survey results, planning is in place for a robust program that will include off-site visits to area schools and businesses as well as continues opportunities for networking and information sharing across members. The Superintendent group meets monthly to discuss issues common across the region; receive ESC, legal counsel, and ODE updates; and network with one another. Treasurers are included four times throughout

the year (October, January, February, and April) as financial information, billing estimates, and additional legal updates are reviewed. We are looking forward to a productive year!

NwOESC continues to bring awareness of student loan forgiveness programs to our teachers and all employees. Two main programs exist for this - a Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and a Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program. Information is on our website regarding these opportunities. Staff are encouraged to investigate options that may be applicable to them:

On August 13, Kerri Weir was honored to be formally installed as Region 1 Representative to the BASA Executive Council. The 18 member BASA Executive Committee serves as the governing board for the organization. Composition of the Executive Committee is made up of individuals elected by the membership from each of the 10 regions, the president, president-elect, and the past president elected by the statewide membership, and those appointed by affiliate organizations (OALSS, OACTS, OESCA, The Management Council, Large Schools, and Central Office). She will serve in this capacity for a 2-year term. BASA has and continues to be a great resource to area Superintendents.

The Ohio ESC Association (OESCA) has revamped their website with new information and resources for members and the general public. The site offers an unbranded "What is an ESC?" video, infographics, and text ESCs can use as we present to our local stakeholders about the impact of ESCs. The website can be found at [www.oesca.org](http://www.oesca.org).

The following NwOESC Board Meeting times/dates have been adjusted: September 24, 2024 – start time is 6:30 p.m. The October meeting has been rescheduled to October 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio ESC, 205 Nolan Parkway.

As all of the business of the evening was complete the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next meeting will take place on September 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center.