

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their organizational and regular meeting held February 23, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Nona Rupp.

REPORTS:

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Brian Baker shared several legislative updates. The House Finance Committee held a second hearing on HB2, which establishes the residential broadband expansion program. The Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee held a third hearing on SB22, which would establish the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee to provide legislative oversight of the governor's executive orders and certain public health orders. The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee held sponsor testimony on HB67, which waives state testing requirements for the 2020-21 school year and requires ODE to seek a federal waiver from testing. The House Ways and Means Committee held sponsor testimony on HB66, which requires the state's tax expenditure report to include information on property tax exemptions and requires a periodic review of each property tax exemption. The House State and Local Government Committee held sponsor testimony on HB6, which modifies the laws governing school nurses who have a bachelor's degree and pharmacy technician trainees who are enrolled in an approved career-technical school program. Governor DeWine asked school districts to design plans to help students make up for any lost learning due to the pandemic. The Senate passed SB18, which incorporates changes in the Internal Revenue Code into Ohio law as it relates to changes in federal adjusted gross income that impacts school districts that levy income taxes. The bill passed with an emergency clause. The House Government Oversight Committee held sponsor testimony on HB43, which permanently authorizes public bodies to meet via teleconference and video conference. The Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee held a second hearing on SB23, which allows the use of cameras to capture images and videos of vehicles illegally passing a stopped school bus and establishes a civil penalty when a driver who illegally passes a school bus cannot be identified. The House Finance Committee held sponsor testimony on HB1, which creates a new school-funding formula.

•**OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Dr. Christine Smallman shared items related to student achievement. A Pickerington Local teacher created a card game inspired by the classic story of the Three Little Pigs for math instruction to help students learn about math offline. A recent report indicates that teachers committed to equity in their classrooms may still miss areas of bias in their own practice. There are ways educators can evaluate their pedagogy and classroom management tactics for signs of bias. Dr. Smallman summarized a report indicating that districts should take precautions to ensure data privacy in their operations, implementing safeguards that protect data.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Homer Hendricks shared the fiscal year 2022 program cost estimates were distributed to districts on February 9th. Districts have been asked to review these estimates and have the service agreements approved by April 1st. He also announced all board minutes have scanned and are in a system through Strategic Solutions. This system allows the minutes to be searched more efficiently and PDF copies created easily. Mr. Hendricks also commended his staff for shuffling duties to assist in the coordination of the COVID-19 vaccines for NwoESC staff and substitutes. It is greatly appreciated.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION;** Jill Gilliland reported that a Parent Mentor Supplemental Grant was awarded to the NwoESC. Thanks to Niki Herold for applying for this grant! The funds will be used to provide a dyslexia simulation and workshop for families and educators. The NwoESC is the hub for scheduling appointments for early childhood screenings. Parents of children age birth to 5 can schedule online via a link from our website or by calling our office at 567-444-4818 to schedule their appointment. The Special Education Department is happy to welcome Jennifer Nichols-Ewing to their team! She will be transitioning into the role of Special Education Office Coordinator.

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Josh Clark reported that the curriculum and instruction department is planning for next August's PD Palooza Event, to be held at the NwoESC. Weston Kieschnick, nationally recognized educator and speaker, will be the

keynote speaker, and the curriculum department and special education department will provide professional development opportunities. Mr. Clark also reported that county events continue to be a success, as education consultants have coordinated with local health departments to make sure the events can happen safely. Mr. Clark went on to say that planning is underway for next year, as the curriculum department understands the important nature of bridging the COVID era with “normalcy.”

•**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Chad Rex shared that he met with Sally Kovar, ESC education consultant, to discuss how the technology department could support the community liaison project. Mr. Rex stated that he will report more details about this web resource in coming months. Mr. Rex also highlighted the energy project’s solar array progress. Chad reported that the ground work on the west side of the building will begin in March and the infrastructure should be completed by May.

•Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

•Minutes from the organizational and regular board meetings held January 26, 2021.

•**FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS**

•**AGREEMENTS**

-Externship/Field Experience Agreement between California University of Pennsylvania and NwoESC to place a student teacher in the classrooms of NwoESC, for the period of 1/28/21-renewed every five years with annual review unless terminated by either party.

-To approve Annual Service Agreements with the following districts for the 2021-22 school year per R.C. 3313.845:

- Fayette Local Schools

•**LEAVES**

FMLA and Disability

•**RESIGNATIONS**

- Hill, Erin, School Nurse, effective 2/8/2021
- Posey, Jodi, Paraprofessional, effective 2/19/2021

•**EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

CONTRACTS

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Blanchard, Heather	CLASS-1 Yr	2/1/2021-7/31/2021
Nichols-Ewing, Jennifer	CLASS-1 Yr	2/22/2021-6/30/2021

Certified Continuing

Name	Contract	Beginning
Fouts, Jill	CERT-CONT	1/8/2021

Substitute Teachers

Brittani Benavide, Rebekah Cales, Shellie Dales, Stephanie Duvall, Alexandria Fitch, Rebecca Mansel-Pleydell, Jared Nelson

Student Teachers/Interns/Volunteers

Koupal, Cozette, Speech-Language Pathologist Externship as a California University of PA Student, Spring Semester, 2021 Placed with Heidi Bell

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Board Member Recognition - Distribution of OSBA Certificates/Plaques and Ohio Senate Letters of Honor. The Board was commended for their dedication and service to NwOESC and the students of Northwest Ohio.. Special recognition was given to Mr. Brian Baker, honoring his 25 years of service as a board member. Brian has served 25 years on the NwOESC Board and 14 years on the Four County Career Center Board.

●**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Kerri Weir reported on several items. The Pettisville Superintendent Search is wrapping with the selection of the final candidate in process. The Ayersville Superintendent Search is progressing, as the board has reviewed candidates and the round 1 interviews will begin in early March. Both positions are expected to be filled effective August 1, 2021. The NwOESC Wellness Committee rolled out a "biggest loser" competition recently, with 14 teams of 5 ESC staff participating. Teams have from February 1 through May 1 to compete on percentage of body weight lost as well as physical activity. Laura Kamp, NwOESC School Climate Facilitator, provided information on recent efforts. The School Climate Office now includes Sources of Strength ("Sources"), a strength-based approach to suicide prevention. Sources focuses on developing protective factors, as opposed to focusing on risk factors. Sources is "upstream prevention," providing a strong continuum of suicide prevention when combined with Signs of Suicide and Mental Health First Aid, which both provide crisis identification (risk factors) and intervention. Laura will work with the Maumee Valley Guidance Center to promote this band of mental health education. Sources of Strength fits well with other School Climate offerings like PAX, Trauma Informed and Resilient Schools training, and Social Emotional Learning competency training. The goal is for each district to develop a strong PBIS framework that incorporates any or all of these to cultivate school communities that are enriching social, emotional, behavioral and academic strengths. Jose Salinas, Ohio Migrant Education Council (OMEC) Director, provided a report on recent activities. OMEC worked with the five regional migrant programs in 2020 to coordinate the distribution of Chromebooks and hotspots to connect summer school teachers with migrant students for the delivery of summer educational services during the COVID pandemic. OMEC staff assisted the Ohio Department of Health's Rapid Response Team in the scheduling and coordination of summer COVID Pop-up Test sites in migrant farmworker communities throughout the state. OMEC has been asked to assist the Ohio Department of Health in their effort to distribute the COVID vaccine to migrant farmworkers when the first wave of families begin to arrive this spring. Training and re-certification of OMEC recruiters will begin in March. Recruiters will be ready to meet the families as they return to Ohio for another season. Director Salinas currently serves on ODE's English Language Advisory Committee. This committee is currently working on revising the Ohio Language Usage Survey. The new OLUS form will include a question to help identify transient migrant families much quicker and more efficiently. Kerri Weir shared that NwOESC will again be serving as the territory lead and coordinating the 2022 Ohio Teacher of the Year (OTOY) Recognition program for the State Board of Education District 1 territory. A candidate for OTOY must be a professionally licensed Ohio educator with a minimum of five years' teaching experience; currently employed in a state-approved public school (pre-kindergarten through grade twelve), community school or career center; and providing direct instruction to students as the teacher of record a minimum of 50 percent of their contracted time. In addition, the candidate shall not have been a previous regional or state OTOY honoree and shall be planning to continue in an active teaching status for the coming year. Nominations are open through April 9, with regional and state award winners selected in the summer and fall. See the NwOESC website for more information and to submit a nomination.

- As all of the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm. The next meeting will take place on March 23, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.