

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held September 22, 2026.

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

REPORTS:

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker shared that while things are quiet at the statehouse, House Bill 455, signed by Governor DeWine in July, will take effect October 9 and includes several provisions affecting education. Regarding board vacancies and military service - HB455 protects school district and ESC board members from removal due to an absence related to qualifying military deployment. It also extends the timeline for boards to fill a vacancy from the next eligible meeting to within 45 days of the vacancy. If the vacancy is not filled within 45 days, the county probate court will proceed as provided under existing law. Regarding the State Board of Education - HB455 modifies the State Board of Education changes included in HB 96. Rather than ultimately reducing the State Board from 19 members to five, the board will transition to seven members appointed by the Governor. The legislation also establishes experience requirements intended to provide representation from rural, suburban, and urban school districts, vocational schools and ESCs, as well as community schools and chartered nonpublic schools. These changes will take effect October 9 and will be implemented as existing State Board terms expire.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mrs. Abby Lorenzen reported that auditors from Clark, Schaefer, and Hackett will be onsite in October to begin fieldwork for the annual audit. Their onsite work is expected to last approximately one week, although additional work will continue after they leave. The ESC received its FY27 NBHP Wellness Grant funds, which support annual wellness programs and employee incentive rewards. Rooms have also been secured for Board members and administration attending the OSBA Capital Conference. Mrs. Lorenzen reviewed proposals for the ESC's copier contract, which expires in October. Both proposals offered significant savings compared with the current contract, with Perry ProTech providing the lowest projected overall cost. Based on anticipated usage, the Perry ProTech proposal is expected to save approximately \$74,000 over the five-year contract period. Mrs. Lorenzen recommended Board approval of Perry ProTech as the ESC's copier provider. The Finance Committee will meet at 5:40 p.m. on October 27, 2026, in the Buckeye Conference Room prior to the Board meeting.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland reported that ODEW selected Hicksville, Evergreen, Archbold, and Defiance City Schools to participate in Cohort 1a Special Education Desk Reviews. The NWOESC will support participating districts throughout this new process by facilitating collaboration, sharing information, and learning alongside district teams. ESC staff assigned to these districts will also participate in required training. The review process will continue throughout the 2026–27 school year and includes team development, data review and root cause analysis, One Plan development, and implementation and monitoring. The IEC will host an Open House on Friday, October 16, for area administrators. Visitors will have an opportunity to see the great work happening in our IEC Behavioral Classrooms, Opportunity School/Suspension Center, and Autism Classrooms.

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Andy Hunter shared that Senate Bill 19 will bring several changes to mathematics instruction, assessment, and intervention in Ohio schools. The legislation changes K–3 diagnostic assessment requirements and requires academic intervention for students who score Limited on applicable state mathematics and English language arts assessments or diagnostics. Schools will also be required to develop math and reading improvement plans for identified students. In addition, SB 19 expands opportunities for advanced mathematics, including pathways that may allow qualifying sixth-grade students to accelerate through seventh- and eighth-grade mathematics and move into Algebra the following year. The Curriculum Department is working with area administrators and curriculum directors to better understand these requirements and identify training, resources, and supports for implementation. Mr. Hunter also shared that several Curriculum Department consultants are participating in state training to serve on three-person Instructional Implementation Teams. These teams will support districts that received a 1- or 2-star rating on the literacy component of the 2025 state report card. Consultants are being trained to use a literacy learning-walk tool that examines instructional trends across classrooms, identifies areas of strength, and helps determine opportunities for continued growth. This work will provide an additional layer of targeted literacy support for districts across the region.

•**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Mr. Chad Rex reported that the Cybersecurity Co-Pilot Quarterly Business Review was held this month with Superintendent Weir and Mrs. Abby Lorenzen. He noted that

the updated report showed strong progress toward improving and maintaining the organization's security posture, with development and implementation of the Incident Response Plan identified as a key focus moving forward. Mr. Rex shared that the solar field project remains in a waiting pattern as the insurance claim and technical details related to panel installation are addressed. He added that roof repairs are also needed at the Independence Education Center, where a potential hail damage insurance claim is being evaluated while the organization awaits the report and a repair quote. Additionally, Mr. Rex stated that the migration to network-based fire monitoring is now in place. He explained that the remaining legacy analog lines will be eliminated in conjunction with the transition to the new door access system, which is anticipated to move forward within the coming months. Mr. Rex highlighted the start of this year's professional network meetings. Technology Leaders will meet monthly from September through May, while Transportation Supervisors and Maintenance Technicians/Supervisors will meet three times during the year. Mr. Rex reported that beginning with the 2026-27 school year, van drivers will be required to complete four hours of annual in-service training, an increase from the current two-hour requirement. He noted that this change will be incorporated into future transportation training efforts. Finally, Mr. Rex shared that he will attend the EdTech Leaders Alliance Conference in Columbus in October. He expressed appreciation for the continued opportunity to participate in professional learning and networking with K-12 educational technology leaders from across Ohio.

•**Approved the Following Consent Items:**

- Minutes from the regular Board Meeting held August 25, 2026.

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

•**AGREEMENTS**

Approved the following service agreements and MOUs:

-Perry ProTech to provide to NwOESC, Tiered Copier/Printer Equipment and Services for the period of 9/22/26-9/22/31.

-NwOESC to provide to Anthony Wayne Local Schools, Instructional Services at the Liberty Education Center for the 2026-27 academic year.

-NwOESC to provide to Defiance City Schools/Holy Cross Catholic School, Speech Therapy Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Edon Northwest Local Schools, ELL Specialist Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Paulding Exempted Village Schools, Special Education Supervision Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Van Wert City Schools, Independence Education Center Services & Related Services-Speech Therapy for the period of 8/25/26-6/15/27.

•Approved resolution to appoint Lori Weber (Defiance County), to the 4CCC Joint Vocational School District Board of Education for a three-year term of office to commence on January 1, 2027 and expire on December 31, 2029.

•Approved resolution to appoint Stephanie Parsons (Fulton County), to the 4CCC Joint Vocational School District Board of Education for a three-year term of office to commence on January 1, 2027 and expire on December 31, 2029.

•Approved resolution to appoint Deborah Gerken (Williams County), to the 4CCC Joint Vocational School District Board of Education for a three-year term of office to commence on January 1, 2027 and expire on December 31, 2029.

•**Approved Personnel Consent Items:**

Resignations

- Kimpel, Teresa, Instructional Assistant - Autism, Effective 9/21/2026
- Lee, Kristen, Paraprofessional, Effective 8/6/2026
- McCabe, Hanna, Instructional Assistant - Autism, Effective 9/1/2026
- Schwab, Cora, Instructional Assistant - Autism, Effective 9/21/2026
- Verburg, Brianna, Paraprofessional, Effective 9/9/2026

•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**Contracts****Certified Limited**

Name	Contract	Length
Hollenbeck, Courtney	CERT - 1 YR	8/1/2025-7/31/2026
Hollenbeck, Courtney	CERT - 1 YR	8/1/2026-7/31/2027
Peggs, Terra	CERT - 1 YR	8/31/2026-7/31/2027

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Carrizales, Brandy	CLASS - 1 YR	9/14/2026-7/31/2027
Clymer, Jessika	CLASS - 1 YR	9/10/2026-7/31/2027
Dishop, Kameron	CLASS - 1 YR	9/1/2026-7/31/2027
Garretson, Heidi	CLASS - 1 YR	9/15/2026-7/31/2027
Kimpel, Teresa	CLASS - 1 YR	9/21/2026-7/31/2027
McCabe, Hanna	CLASS - 1 YR	8/31/2026-7/31/2027
Ritter, Mason	CLASS - 1 YR	9/10/2026-7/31/2027
Verburg, Brianna	CLASS - 1 YR	9/8/2026-7/31/2027
Weisenburger, Micayla	CLASS - 1 YR	9/1/2026-7/31/2027

•Approved the following teaching assignments for staff in positions listed for the First Semester 2026-27

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location
Ball	Madison	Intervention Specialist	Independence Education Center
Beasley-Tonjes	Lorelei	Intervention Specialist	Independence Education Center
Burke	Bobbi	Intervention Specialist	Patrick Henry Elementary School
Cardarelli	Mallery	Intervention Specialist - Preschool Teacher/Itinerant	Defiance City Schools
Diehl	Heather	Intervention Specialist - Preschool Teacher	Pike-Delta-York Local Schools
Hollenbeck	Courtney	Intervention Specialist	Holgate Elementary School
Klausing	Sandra	Intervention Specialist - Preschool Teacher	Defiance City Schools
Liro	Donna	Intervention Specialist	Independence Education Center
Lutz	Rebecca	Intervention Specialist	Wauseon Primary School
Peggs	Terra	Intervention Specialist - Preschool Teacher	Montpelier Elementary School
Rodger	Michelle	Intervention Specialist - Hearing Impaired	Archbold High School
Rodriguez	Jennifer	Intervention Specialist	Wauseon Middle School
Seiler	Bronwyn	Intervention Specialist	Independence Education Center
Sidle	Shanna	Intervention Specialist - Hearing Impaired	NWOESC Multiple Locations

•Approved the following substitute teachers and paraprofessionals:**2026-27 Substitute Paraprofessional**

Rita Bare, Joni Culler, Susan Davis, Heidi Garretson, Riley Gorey, Meghan Grieser, Ashlee Grunden, Brienne Hetrick, Katelyn Konrad, Jessica Newman, Machetta Porter, Sharon Sobota

2026- 27 Substitute Teachers

Ethan Adams, Melissa Amos, Caitlan Bales, Rita Bare, Kevin Boesger, Clinton Bostelman, Cliff Brown, Riley Brown, Kristin Campos, Tina Chambers, Katelyn Eldridge, Danica Ford, Jenna Gibson, Riley Gorey, Sophia Green, Meghan Grieser, Ashlee Grunden, Tegan Hamilton, Faith Harding, Rachel Haver, Abigail Herman, Samantha Hernandez, Brienne Hetrick, Ingrid Hoffman, Breanna Huffman, Jessica Keppeler, Ashton Kessler, Rebecca McClarren, Kami McKanna, Andrew McMaster, Jill McMurray, Adrian Mendoza, Eadyn Miller, Shannon Miller, Catherine Minard, Katelyn Moreno, Makayla Murphy, Joseph Nye, Autumn Peoples, Ashley Plotts, Machetta Porter, Joni Poynter, Allie Ruffer, Allison Salmi, Meghan Schweikert, Sydney Shilling, Brooke Sintobin, Sara Upham, Rebecca Westrick

•Approved the following 21st Century Staff:

21st Century Site Coordinators

Defiance Middle School- Melissa Barnhart

21st Century Teachers

Defiance Middle School- Lauren Helton, Matthew Manson, Kristin Siler

21st Century Program Assistants

Defiance Elementary- Jenna Bishop, Michelle Wright

•**Approved the following Student Teachers/ Interns/ Volunteers:**

Greene, Myah, Field Experience as a BGSU student, Fall 2026, Placed with Mary Beth Beck

McGowan, Paige, Field Experience as a BGSU student, Fall 2026, Placed with Mary Beth Beck

Rahimi, Roya, Practicum as a BGSU student, Fall 2026, Placed with Kaitlin Kersey

Tester, Johanna, Field Experience as a BGSU student, Fall 2026, Placed with Christi Ranzau

•Approved the following Van Driver:

Van Driver:

NwOESC - Brooke Lerma

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- NwOESC Business Advisory Council - Minutes from the 05/05/2026 Quarterly Meeting were reviewed.
- NwOESC Business Advisory Council – The Annual BAC Plan for FY27 was shared and will be submitted to ODEW by September 30.
- The OSBA Northwest Region Fall Conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2026, from 5:30–8:30 PM at North Baltimore MS/HS, North Baltimore, OH.
- The OESCA Annual Awards Brunch will be held on Monday, November 16 in conjunction with the the OSBA Capital Conference.

•**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Superintendent Kerri Weir shared several updates highlighting the work underway across the NwOESC and the continued focus on serving our staff, member districts, and community partners. The Administrative Team is once again developing annual departmental priorities to guide our work throughout the 2026-27 school year. A draft is currently in progress and will be shared with the Board over the coming months for input and discussion. These priorities will help keep our work focused while continuing to respond to the evolving needs of our districts and students. On September 10, the Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition, Northwest Ohio ESC, and Four County ADAMhs Board hosted the sixth annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Breakfast at the ESC. Nearly 110 representatives from area schools and community agencies participated. The event has become a meaningful annual tradition and an important opportunity to bring schools and community partners together around suicide prevention and awareness. The Northern Buckeye Health Plan (NBHP) will establish 2027 health, dental, and vision insurance rates later this month. Superintendent Weir and Treasurer/CFO Abby Lorenzen will keep the Board informed as rates are finalized and as the potential impact on employee benefits becomes clearer. The ESC will also be reaching out to member districts this fall through the NwOESC District Partnership & Needs Survey. The survey is an important opportunity to listen to our districts and better understand what is working well, where we can improve, and how the ESC can continue to be a valuable partner in the years ahead. Weir emphasized the importance of using this feedback to help shape future services and priorities. Members of the NwOESC Administrative Team, General/Gifted Consultants, and Special Education Supervisors attended the OESCA Fall Conference in Columbus on September 8 and 9. In addition to receiving state-level updates and connecting with colleagues from across Ohio, the team spent time with a team-building experience that provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships and talk about the ESC's commitment to service. Weir shared her appreciation for the team and the many roles they play in supporting NwOESC staff and member districts. Weir also highlighted the ESC's continued efforts to strengthen connections with the local business community. On September 1, she joined Mike Remer, Director of the Fulton County Economic Development Council, for a segment on WMTR 96.1 with Max Smith. The conversation focused on the partnership between the NwOESC Business Advisory Council and local businesses, as well as a new student innovation challenge that will be piloted in Fulton County this year. Weir expressed her appreciation for the relationship with Remer and the opportunities it provides to connect education, students, and the business community in meaningful ways.

•**Entered into Executive Session** for the purpose of: A. Consideration of the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee, or official.
No action was taken upon exiting the Executive Session.

•**Adjournment:** As all the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 6:56PM. The next regular meeting of the Board will take place on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH 43502.