

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held March 22, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Brian Baker. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORTS:

•OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON: Mr. Brian Baker shared several legislative items of interest. Gov. Mike DeWine signed into law SB 9. The bill requires the Ohio Department of Education and other state agencies to reduce regulatory restrictions by 30% by 2025. The bill also includes an appropriation of \$9 million to assist local boards of elections with administering the May 3 primary election. The Ohio Supreme Court ruled 4-3 that the House and Senate state legislative maps approved by the Ohio Redistricting Commission are unconstitutional. The Ohio Redistricting Commission has until March 28 to approve new maps. DeWine signed into law SB 11. The bill makes changes to paid leave for Juneteenth. It requires school districts to grant regular nonteaching school employees who are employed on an 11-to-12-month basis paid leave and removes the requirement that school districts grant paid leave to regular nonteaching school employees who are employed on a nine-to-10-month basis. Additionally the bill modifies the procedures for uniformed services and overseas absentee voting in the 2022 primary election and makes an appropriation. The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee held a second hearing on HB 583, which would require the State Board of Education to issue a temporary short-term substitute teaching license to an approved applicant who will teach five or fewer consecutive days in the same classroom. The bill also would require the State Board to issue a temporary substitute teaching license to an approved applicant who will teach six or more consecutive days in the same classroom, if certain requirements are met, and allow a student teacher to work as a substitute teacher for up to five days. Lastly, the bill would sunset these temporary provisions after June 30, 2025. The Senate Finance Committee held a first hearing on HB 597, which would provide capital appropriations, including approximately \$442.8 million for local school construction through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission that received prior conditional approval. The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee held sponsor testimony on HB 458, which would eliminate the August special election, except in instances when the August special election is to nominate or elect candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives or if a school district is under a fiscal emergency. The bill also would allow a school district whose entire territory is located within the congressional district that is on the August ballot to put certain levies on the August ballot. The U.S. House of Representatives passed an omnibus appropriations bill by a 260-171 vote, containing a host of education funding appropriations.

•OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON: Dr. Christine Smallman shared several items related to student achievement. A West Virginia school district recently launched a Healthy “Grandfamilies” program to help grandparents who are raising their grandchildren navigate school technology. A recent presentation focused on school technology databases and other commonly used resources. NBA star LeBron James’ foundation is partnering with Crypto.com to help students in Akron learn about cryptocurrency. The program will teach students what cryptocurrency is, how it works, and the potential career pathways associated with it. Medford High School English teacher, Max Heinegg, is using art, folk music and other creative interpretations of poetry to help students broaden their thinking and interpretation of the literary form. Heinegg is offering his latest work “Through Traveler,” a compilation of poetry in the public domain that he has set to music. Students who identify as white, Black or Asian American scored higher in reading on the digital SAT than the paper version of the exam, while Hispanic students showed less of an improvement on the digital SAT and performed better on paper versions of the PSAT, according to a College Board study. The College Board recently announced it will have a shorter, all-digital exam that will also allow students to use calculators on the entire math section. A group of Kansas fifth-graders used a PowerPoint presentation during a city council meeting to pitch the idea of a community garden near the local visitor’s center. The project, an expansion of on campus and after-school gardening activities, is intended to bring the wider community together to address issues, including food insecurity, and won the backing of the elected leaders.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mr. Homer Hendricks presented the new statewide education jobs website through School Spring. The web address is www.ohio12jobs.schoolspring.com and presents a new modern interface with an interactive map feature. It replaces the old listserv system that was shut down last summer. He also updated the board on district service agreements for the 2022-23 school year. Mr. Hendricks also reminded the board about their financial disclosure filings with the Ohio Ethics Commission.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland highlighted a few NwOESC programs. Troy Merillat, NwOESC Supervisor, shared this information with district and ESC administrators recently in order to gather information about potential new students for the 2022-23 school year. Work Study Coordinators can work with students in grade 8 and higher in any district. The Work Transition Classroom is located at Four County Career Center. Both programs support students to develop work skills in the areas of finding and keeping a job, independent living skills, and social skills. All students build their resumes with job experiences as well.

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Andy Hunter recognized the 24 district winners from the annual Franklin B. Walter celebration and thanked all of the individuals that made the special evening possible. He also noted that the curriculum department had begun planning professional development for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Hunter also noted that with the addition of grant dollars recently awarded that the department was hoping to hire a couple of new positions to help put on those trainings.

•**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Mr. Chad Rex provided information on the various project quotes and agreements being developed in preparation for next year. One of the agreements that Mr. Rex described is the Remind communication application. This application provides staff to communicate via a phone call and text message to students and parents. Mr. Rex highlighted the progress on working with Mr. Larry Davis and Four County Career Center's landscape instructor and class to assist in the refreshing of the ESC building's landscape. Another project highlighted was the concrete improvements that Mr. Chuck Lero is coordinating in order to provide a safe environment.

•Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

•Minutes from the finance committee and regular board meeting held March 1, 2022.

•**DONATIONS**

-Liberty Center United Methodist Church to Summer Honors Academy Snacks - \$250.00

•**AGREEMENTS**

-To approve Annual Service Agreements with the following districts for the 2022-23 school year per R.C. 3313.845:

- Holgate Local Schools
- Millcreek-West Unity Local Schools
- North Central Local Schools
- Patrick Henry Local Schools
- Wauseon Exempted Village Schools

•**PURCHASES**

-SAVVAS Learning Company to provide NwOESC/IEC, English/Language Arts and Math Curriculum materials and subscriptions including professional development.

•**LEAVES**

FMLA and Disability

•**RETIREMENTS**

Renner, Sherry, Paraprofessional, effective 7/31/2022

Wittenmyer, Deborah, Intervention Specialist, effective 5/31/2022

•RESIGNATIONS

Hussey, Nichole, Paraprofessional, effective 3/4/2022

•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Certified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Margaret Hahn	CERT-1 Yr	3/21/2022-7/31/2022

ESC Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional

Megan Alvarez, Kirk Jesse, Brittany Marshall

Substitute Paraprofessionals

Amanda Brock, Jamie Englehart, Christine Spencer, Samantha Thompson

Substitute Teachers

Hannah Amrich, Amanda Brock, Brandy Cansky, Lyndsay Gladieux, Kelsey Johnston, Paula Lynott, Korbyn Martin, Porter Retcher, Tara Smith, Macey Stover, Samantha Thompson, Lisa Wagner

Summer Honors Academy Teachers

Katy Benson, Theresa Rickenberg

Van Drivers

Evergreen – Dalton Nicely

•Set the NwOESC Salary Schedules as presented and to reflect a 2.25% base increase for the 2022-23 contract year and a 2.25%base increase for the 2023-24 contract year.

•Approved the following policy recommendations:

Policy 1616	Staff Dress and Grooming	New
Policy 3216	Staff Dress and Grooming	Revised
Policy 4216	Staff Dress and Grooming	Revised
Policy 5511	Dress and Grooming	Revised
Policy 5772	Weapons	Revised
Policy 6110	Grant Funds	Revised
Policy 6114	Cost Principles – Spending Federal Funds	Revised
Policy 6325	Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds	Revised
Policy 6423	Use of Credit Cards	Revised
Policy 7217	Weapons	Revised

•Approved the Annual Report/Joint Statement of the NwOESC Business Advisory Council submitted on March 1, 2022 as required by ODE.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- NwOESC Business Advisory Council Quarterly Update – The December 14, 2021 Minutes were shared.
- Presentation, discussion, and acceptance of public comment on Independence Education Center/Northwest Ohio Opportunity School Calendar for the 2022-23 School Year; Adoption is anticipated at the April meeting.
- Financial Disclosure Statements due to Ohio Ethics Commission May 15, 2022
- Redistricting of ESC Territory and Governance – Homer Hendricks provided preliminary census data for the board’s review. Additional data will be gathered and provided as the board works through the process as required in ORC 3311.054.

•**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Kerri Weir share the North Central District Superintendent Search has concluded with the selection of Michael Bute to lead the district effective August 1, 2022. The Wauseon Treasurer posting closed recently and a meeting with the board is scheduled to review the applicants. Four County Career Center will be utilizing NwoESC to assist in the coordination of the superintendent search coming up soon, as Tim Meister will be retiring effective January 1, 2023. On March 10, 2022, the Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) officially took action to rescind the September 3, 2020 Director's Order Requiring Reporting and Notification Regarding Covid-19 Cases in K-12 Schools. As a result, schools now only must report positive results for tests performed by the school. Schools are no longer are required to maintain a Covid reporting system for parents to report positive Covid-19 cases; have a designated district Covid-19 coordinator; notify parents of positive Covid-19 cases among staff, students, or coaches; or report positive cases of Covid-19 to the local health department, unless the school tests the student for Covid-19 and the result is positive. Although the reporting standards have been rescinded, the quarantine and isolation measures set forth in the *Mask to Stay, Test to Play* protocols remain in effect. Additional reporting requirements remain in effect for preschool. The Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition, supported by our area ADAMHS Board, is active in its mission to increase awareness, decrease stigma, and increase people's ability to seek help aimed at suicide prevention. The group's efforts include awareness campaigns targeting schools, communities, healthcare professionals and other sectors. A group of trained professionals serves on the LOSS team, which provides supports and resources to those who have experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide. For more information on the Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition, visit www.4countysuicideprevention.org. A special thank you was given to Linda Schlosser for coordinating monthly birthday treat/mini potlucks recognizing our NwoESC building-based staff. A new initiative, "Shout Outs", has been implemented at NwoESC to share the great things happening in classrooms, programs, offices and districts. Northwest Ohio ESC staff make a positive impact in so many ways across our service area. A link has been created for staff to pass along submissions and photos. The "Shout Outs" will be shared monthly via email and highlighted on various social media platforms.

•As all of the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The next meeting will take place on April 26, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.