

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held April 23, 2024.

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

-The CFO/Treasurer administered the Oath of Office to Board Member, Nona Rupp.

## **REPORTS:**

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker shared legislative updates. The Senate Education Committee amended HB 250, which would revise the “military enlistment seal” and would rename it the “military seal.” The committee adopted an amendment clarifying that teachers who are teaching outside of their licensure grade band, as allowed under current law, will count as being properly certified and licensed and highly qualified as it is reported on the state report card. The committee held a third hearing on SB 208, which would require a city, exempted village or local school district to include in its open enrollment policy an exception for military children. The committee amended SB 112, which would require school buildings to comply with national life safety standards and names this act the Ohio Childhood Safety Act. The committee also held a third hearing on HB 147, which would make changes to teacher licensure revocation, teacher hiring practices and conduct unbecoming the teaching profession. The committee heard sponsor testimony on SB 219, which would restore the preK-5 grades 4-9 and grades 7-12 educator licensure grade bands altered in HB 33, the biennial budget. The committee also amended SB 205, which would require the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to develop a list of evidence-based curricula, materials and instruction on the harmful effects of and legal restrictions against drug abuse, alcoholic beverages, marijuana and tobacco in schools. The House Economic and Workforce Development Committee heard sponsor testimony on HB 349, which would authorize the creation of areas within which incentives are available to encourage the development of natural gas pipelines and other infrastructure and to make an appropriation.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mrs. Abby Lorenzen reported that she attended the OASBO Annual Conference from April 16-19. It was an opportunity to gain experience from a variety of school business experts and reconnect with colleagues from across the state as well as to network with other ESC treasurers. Sessions attended include team building, cybersecurity, and updates from the Auditor of State’s office, ODEW, and legislative issues. Additional service agreements for 2024-2025 have been received from our member districts, with the remainder expected in May. The administrative contracts and salary notifications were prepared for this evening’s April board agenda. We will continue the practice of approving certified and classified contracts and salary notifications at the May meeting.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland shared that there are lots of spring events on the books, including graduation ceremonies at our Wauseon MD program and the LEC, and the employer luncheon with our Work Transition classes at Four County Career Center. These are great opportunities to celebrate with students! We are also working with school districts to coordinate services and adjust staffing needs for next year. Jessica Fredrick, NwOESC Preschool and Related Services Coordinator, has been meeting with each district superintendent to review preschool services and plan for the 24-25 school year. This is an opportunity to look at trends in enrollment and discuss which type of classroom will best meet the needs of the district. Thank you to Catherine Meyer for the April birthday party she held for her students at Patrick Henry Elementary. It was well attended by families, and it was fun to celebrate with students!

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Andy Hunter noted that approximately 350 students in grades 2-6 registered to attend this year’s summer honors academy. He also discussed plans for the 3rd annual Educator Bootcamp held the week of June 3rd-6th. This one-week crash course takes educators into businesses in their county and helps them to build relationships, but also have a better understanding of the needs of businesses and the skills

necessary for their students to be successful once they graduate. Finally, he highlighted the 3rd annual four-county High School Quiz-Off. Congratulations to the runners-up, Hicksville High School, and champion, Defiance High School. Andy also wanted to give a big shout-out to Sally Kovar who has been a driving force and an advocate for area academic teams for a long time. Her passion for academic teams and quiz competitions has truly helped to grow the competitions.

**•DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Mr. Chad Rex highlighted the work in the phone system upgrade, including determining the number of phone lines and handset needed. The Technology & Operations department will be installing phones in our two buildings to save cost. Mr. Rex shared we are implementing a password complexity and frequency policy to be compliant with cyber insurance requirements and to follow best practice. All ESC Google account holders need to change their passwords to meet this requirement. Additionally, any ESC employee with a laptop or desktop computer will need to meet this requirement. Mr. Rex noted that in the last 90 calendar days, they resolved 118 technology requests. Thank you to Corey Todd and Pat Turpening for their efforts in making these outstanding numbers happen! Four County Career Center' Junior Carpentry will be on the campus of IEC during the week of April 22nd to begin the roof renovation projects for the modular building and the storage shed. A new AED has been ordered for the IEC. Thanks to Carol Hesterman for her time and expertise. The new chiller project at the ESC main office is nearing completion. Woolace Electric completed their wiring this month and Wadsworth has been working on the final connections and programming related to our building automation system. The new 9 passenger van is scheduled to arrive at the dealer this week. Mr. Rex also shared that in the last 90 calendar days, the maintenance team has resolved 39 requests. Thank you to Chuck Lero and Larry Davis for their efforts in making these outstanding numbers happen! Further data was shared related to the events. In the last 90 calendar days, 139 events were scheduled at the main office meeting rooms. Thank you, Larry Davis, Crystal Blevins, Pat Turpening, Patricia Shotwell, and Corey Todd, for set up, clean up, tear down, support, and communication among the team!

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

•Minutes from the regular board meeting held March 26, 2024.

**•AGREEMENTS**

-New Direction Solutions/ProCare Therapy to provide to NWOESC, Tele-Educational Audiologist Services for the period of 8/5/24-6/13/25.

-NWOESC to provide to Pettisville Local Schools, Behavior Consultant Services for the period of 3/28/24-6/15/24.

-NWOESC to provide to Western Michigan University-College of Health and Human Services, OT Field-Based and Student Teaching Experiences for the period of 4/1/24-3/31/29.

-To approve Annual Service Agreements with the following districts for the 2024-25 school year per R.C. 3313.845:

- Bryan City Schools
- Edgerton Local Schools
- Hicksville Exempted Village Schools
- Northeastern Local Schools

**•PURCHASES**

-Dignified Learning to provide to NWOESC (Future Forward Ohio-OLC), Course Creation from Future Forward Ohio-OLC Grant funds.

-e3 Diagnostics to provide to NWOESC, Virtual Audiological Equipment from the General Fund (001-0000).

-Houghton Mifflin Harcourt to provide to NwoESC (ARP EANS-Divine Mercy Catholic School), Literacy and Math curriculum from ARP EANS Grant funds.

-Renaissance to provide to NwoESC (ARP EANS-Divine Mercy Catholic School), Accelerated Reader services from ARP EANS Grant funds.

-School Specialty to provide to NwoESC (ARP EANS-ST. Patrick Catholic School), Classroom Furniture from ARP EANS Grant funds.

-Teaching Strategies for Early Childhood to provide to NwoESC, The Creative Curriculum for Preschool from the General Fund (001-0000).

**•LEAVES**

FMLA and Disability

**•RESIGNATIONS**

Andrea Bohls, Speech Language Pathologist- effective 5/23/2024

Katelynn Smith, Paraprofessional- effective 3/26/2024

Nichole Tripp, Behavior Consultant Specialist- effective 7/31/2024

**•RETIREMENT**

Beth Bodette, Paraprofessional- effective 7/31/2024

Denise Howard, Paraprofessional- effective 5/31/2024

Kim Hutchison, Paraprofessional- effective 7/31/2024

Rochelle VanLoocke, Paraprofessional- effective 7/31/2024

**•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**CONTRACTS**

**Certified Administrative**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
Elchinger, Stacy	ADM-2 YR	7/1/2024-6/30/2026
Flegal, Brody	ADM-2 YR	7/1/2024-6/30/2026
Bell, Heidi	ADM-3 YR	7/1/2024-6/30/2027
Brown, Alissa	ADM-3 YR	7/1/2024-6/30/2027
Curry, Jistine	ADM-3 YR	7/1/2024-6/30/2027
Downing, Mariah	ADM-3 YR	7/1/2024-6/30/2027
Ensign, Ashley	ADM-3 YR	7/1/2024-6/30/2027
Fredrick, Jessica	ADM-3 YR	7/1/2024-6/30/2027
Merillat, Troy	ADM-3 YR	7/1/2024-6/30/2027
Myers, Jane	ADM-3 YR	7/1/2024-6/30/2027

**Classified Limited**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
Ehlinger, Patricia	CLASS-1 YR	1/2/2024-6/30/2024
Nafziger, Rustin	CLASS-1 YR	5/28/2024-8/9/2024
Stein, Lucas	CLASS-1 YR	5/28/2024-8/9/2024

**Certified Notice**

**Name**

Altman, Michael  
Gensler, Kallie  
Gilliland, Jill  
Hunter, Andrew  
Kovar, Sally  
Lambert, Dorothy  
Luderman, Alison  
Parrish, Stacey  
Rex, Chad  
Ritter, Kristine  
Salinas, Jose  
Sunderman, Cristin

**Certified Administrative- Salary Rate Notice**

**Name**

Nafziger, Brandi

**Classified Administrative- Hourly Rate Notice**

**Name**

Gutierrez, Maria  
Hollstein, Michelle  
Schlosser, Linda  
Sears, Melissa

**ESC Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional**

Jeri Beaverson, Katelynn Smith

**Substitute Teachers**

Jordan Bidwell, Brian Bowsher, Chad Brown, Emma Fifer, Emma Nafziger, Natalie Seibert, Casandra Sprow, Hannah Waterman, Ashtyn Wiyrick

**Substitute Bus Driver - IEC**

Maryann Reimund

**21st Century Program Assistant**

Hicksville Elementary- Daniel Ainsworth

**Summer Honors Academy Teachers**

Ann Frake, Jacob Palte, Grace Wenzinger, Ruth Wenzinger

- Approved a certified administrative notice for Emily Gerken.
- Approved a certified administrative notice for Michelle Kruse.
- Approved a separation agreement and accepted the resignation of Jana Lentz effective 04/12/2024.
- Approved the IEC/Opportunity School calendar for the 2024-25 school year as presented.

• Approved motion to honor employees for Staff Appreciation Week May 6-10, 2024. The Administrative Team and Board of Education would like to publicly thank all NwOESC staff for putting forth their best "Every Day!" NwOESC staff play a critical role in the agency mission and vision of providing quality services and building valued partnerships throughout the NwOESC service area.

• Approved Letter of Engagement, Standards for Tax Services, and Statement of Work with RMS US LLP for the purpose of tax services in relation to IRC Section 48 energy credit, effective 04/23/2024 through completion.

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- The Summer Operational Hours will be implemented June 3 - July 26, 2024; This includes a Monday – Thursday schedule of compacted hours with doors open to the public from 8:00AM - 4:00 PM
- A reminder was provided that Financial Disclosure Statements are due to the Ohio Ethics Commission by May 15, 2024

• **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Mrs. Kerri Weir provided an update on the Administrative Searches underway in Ayersville and Bowling Green City for Treasurer/CFOs. The Administrative Team is working through the May Certified and Classified contract recommendations. Recommendations for contract renewals and salary notifications will be made based on projections and staffing plans. As always, our goal is to secure great staff who will work to enhance the services and supports provided to our member districts on behalf of students. Administrative Professionals Day will be celebrated April 24. The administrative professionals throughout the NwOESC provide excellent customer service and take care of our internal and external customers in such a caring way. NwOESC hosted a Spring Legal Update for area Superintendents and Treasurers on April 9. Bronston McCord of Ennis Britton LLC provided information to the group on several legal hot topics, including social media and free speech. The Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools (CORAS) is working to expand their efforts beyond southeast Ohio to all interested rural public districts. Former Senator/Chancellor Randy Gardner attended a recent Superintendent & Treasurer meeting to discuss his role in this effort. The 2024 OESCA Spring Conference will be held in early May 6-8 in Columbus. This ESC focused event has been redesigned to promote collaboration and idea sharing with an emphasis on curriculum and leadership.

As all of the business of the evening was complete the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m. The next meeting will take place on May 28, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH