

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held April 28, 2026.

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. by President Kelly Hug. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board observed a Public Comment period for the retire/reemployment request of School Psychologist, Jenifer Kitchenmaster.

REPORTS:

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker reported on several legislative items of interest. A new statewide coalition - Ohioans to Protect Public Services - has launched a coordinated educational effort to ensure Ohioans have accurate information about the real-world impact of eliminating property taxes. The broad coalition brings together trade associations representing public schools and local governments, business organizations, nonprofits, and other entities around the shared commitment to protecting the essential public services Ohioans rely on every day. BASA, OSBA, and OASBO have been actively engaged members of the coalition since its formation. As part of this effort, the coalition has launched a website at www.ProtectPublicServices.org, that contains data, fact sheets, and other resources to support informed conversations about the consequences of eliminating property taxes in Ohio. Mr. Baker shared that school districts and district personnel may provide neutral, factual information to the public regarding the district's finances and operations and the impact that eliminating property taxes may have on the district. In Senate activity, the chamber passed SB 320, which would enter Ohio into the Athletic Trainer Compact. SB 320 now moves to the House for consideration. The Senate also passed HB 462, which would allow students to possess and use a nasal epinephrine delivery device in public and private schools in addition to an epinephrine autoinjector as already permitted under law. The bill now goes back to the House for a concurrence vote on the Senate's amendments. The Senate Education Committee amended and passed SB 290, which would require public and chartered nonpublic schools to purchase and install an exterior secure master key box on each school building. The committee heard a presentation from Craig Burford, executive director of the Ohio Educational Service Center Association, on the importance of ESCs to Ohio's education system. Burford shared information on how ESCs are governed, the types of services they provide to districts, statewide cost savings and how ESCs can continue to help implement state initiatives.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mrs. Abby Lorenzen reported on several items. She shared that she attended the Ohio Association of School Business Officials Annual Conference from April 14–17, where she participated in professional learning sessions and connected with school business officials from across the state, including fellow ESC treasurers. Sessions included topics such as investing, retirement, legal updates, and information from the Auditor of State's office, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, and legislative representatives. She noted that public school funding and property tax issues were prominent themes throughout the conference. She reported that additional service agreements for the 2026–2027 school year are included on the current agenda for Board approval, with three more still pending. She has followed up with those districts and anticipates those remaining agreements will be brought forward in May. Ms. Lorenzen also reviewed items on the current agenda, including administrative contracts and salary notifications requiring Board approval, noting that some items are listed individually rather than within the consent agenda. She added that certified and classified contracts and salary notifications will continue to be presented for approval at the May meeting. She concluded with reminders that the Audit/Finance Committee met prior to the meeting and will likely meet again in July; and that Board members must complete their Ohio Ethics Commission filings by May 15.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland shared that the special education department is exploring the possibility of expanding Hearing Impairment (HI) services into Paulding County for the coming school year. Planning continues for a second autism classroom at the IEC, with ongoing communication between districts to determine a start date. Supervisors are actively monitoring enrollment across all ESC programs and keeping Mrs. Weir and Mrs. Gilliland informed to support planning for the upcoming school year.

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Andrew Hunter shared that the Summer Honors Academy filled all 360 available spots within hours of opening registration, reflecting strong interest in the program. Serving students in grades 2–6, this year's theme, "A Kaleidoscope of Learning," offers a variety of engaging course options. The program will once again be hosted in partnership with Archbold Area Schools this June under the leadership of Jenna Storrer and Michelle Leatherman. Mr. Hunter also shared that plans are being finalized for the 5th annual Educator Bootcamp, scheduled for the week of June 1. This

immersive experience places educators in local businesses to build relationships and better understand workforce needs. Participants will present their key takeaways to business leaders and earn college credit upon completion, with Williams County Economic Development serving as this year's partner.

•DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS: Mr. Chad Rex reported that he collaborated with Mrs. Linda Schlosser to design a new feature on the NwOESC webpage dedicated to the monthly ESC Essentials communication for employees. He noted that the page provides organized access to each month's Essentials documents for the calendar year and is available on the website within the Employees tab. Mr. Rex highlighted that he and Mr. Larry Davis attended the annual building maintenance meeting along with Superintendent Weir and NWOCA leadership. He explained that, as a result of the meeting, they are working to design and implement a new door access control system and integrated surveillance camera system for the full building. He stated that these upgrades will replace legacy systems and provide improved performance, enhanced features, and greater cost-effectiveness, with a goal of completing the project by the end of the summer. Additionally, Mr. Rex reported that he participated in the Cybersecurity Co-Pilot program's quarterly business review meeting with Superintendent Weir and Mrs. Abby Lorenzen. He shared that DataServ presented an upgraded monitoring and reporting system, and he noted that several security control items were updated as part of ongoing efforts. He added that he and Mr. Corey Todd completed additional tasks this month and made continued progress within the security framework, with larger-scale projects still in progress. Mr. Rex shared that he also attended the Ohio Cyber Reserve seminar hosted by NWOCA, which concluded a year-long seminar series. He explained that he collaborated with colleagues to design an upcoming workshop focused on Google single sign-on (SSO) authentication in a multi-platform environment. He emphasized that the workshop, developed in partnership with two school districts, will be delivered following the May Technology Leaders meeting and will serve as a strong conclusion to a year of meetings that again averaged over 30 participants. Finally, Mr. Rex shared that he met with Mrs. Jill Gilliland and Mrs. Jestine Curry for the annual planning meeting focused on the Independence Education Center's technology and operations needs. He noted that plans are in place for both preventive maintenance projects and upcoming technology initiatives.

•Approved the Following Consent Items:

- Minutes from the organizational and regular Board Meeting held March 24, 2026.
- Financial Transactions – appropriation modifications, transfers and advances, and monthly financial reports.

•AGREEMENTS

Approved the following service agreements and MOUs:

-Learn21 to provide to NwOESC, the renewal of the EdTech Leaders Alliance (ETLA) District Membership for the period ending on 06/30/27 in the amount of \$2,500. This agreement includes Data Privacy Agreement services and a district CoSN institutional membership for this same time period.

-ProCare Therapy to provide to NwOESC, Audiologist Services for the period of 8/11/26-5/26/27.

-Williams County Commissioners/Williams County Common Pleas Court-Juvenile/Probation Divisions to provide NwOESC, Attendance Officer Services for the period of 8/1/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Archbold Area Local Schools, Fiscal Services for the period of 4/8/26-4/30/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Archbold Area Local Schools, Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer Search Services for the period of 2/19/26-position is finalized or until agreed upon by both parties to terminate services.

-NwOESC to provide to Lakota Local Schools, Visual Impairment (VI) Services for the period of 3/17/26-6/15/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Liberty Center Local Schools and Genacross Family & Youth Services, Liberty Education Center Services for the period of the 2026-27 school year.

-NwOESC to provide to Millcreek-West Unity Local Schools, Fiscal Services for the period of 4/1/26-6/30/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Montpelier Exempted Village Schools, Fiscal Services for the period of 4/2/26-6/30/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Paulding Exempted Village Schools, Audiology Services for the period of 3/11/25-6/15/26.

-To approve Annual Service Agreements with the following districts for the 2026-27 school year per R.C. 3313.845:

- Ayersville Local Schools
- Evergreen Local Schools
- Fayette Local Schools
- Hicksville Exempted Village Schools
- Holgate Local Schools
- North Central Local Schools
- Pettisville Local Schools
- Pike-Delta-York Local Schools
- Stryker Local Schools

•Approved the following policy recommendations as presented:

Policy 3440	Job-Related Expenses	Revised
Policy 4440	Job-Related Expenses	Revised
Policy 6109	Acceptance of Payment by Credit Card	Revised
Policy 6320	Purchasing and Bidding	Revised
Policy 6325	Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds	Revised
Policy 6423	Use of Credit Cards	Revised
Policy 6424	Procurement Cards	Revised
Policy 6425	Use of Center Tax Exempt Certificate	New
Policy 6460	Vendor Relations	Revised
Policy 6465	Affinity, Rewards, or Other Discount Programs	New
Policy 7540.09	Artificial Intelligence (“AI”)	Replacement

•Approved the IEC/Northwest Ohio Opportunity School Calendar for the 2026-27 school year as presented.

•Approved motion to recognize and honor all NwOESC employees during Staff Appreciation Week, May 4–8, 2026.

The Administrative Team and Board of Education extend their sincere appreciation to each staff member for the meaningful connections built every day in service to students, families, and districts across our region. Your dedication, collaboration, and commitment to our shared mission truly reflect that building connections is heart work. Your impact is deeply valued, and we are grateful for the care and excellence you bring to Northwest Ohio ESC.

•Approved Personnel Consent Items:

•LEAVES

FMLA and Disability

Retirements

- Davis, Susan, Paraprofessional - Preschool, Effective 7/30/2026
- Huddle, Beth, Paraprofessional, Effective 5/31/2026
- Link, Sara, Paraprofessional, Effective 5/13/2026
- Millen, Catherine, Paraprofessional, Effective 6/30/2026
- Schwab, Terri, Paraprofessional, Effective 5/31/2026
- Weis, Tracey, Paraprofessional, Effective 5/31/2026

Resignations

- Alvarez, Kristen, Bus Driver/Van Driver, Effective 4/17/2026
- Ayers, Gracie, Floating Teacher, Effective 7/31/2026
- Bidlack, Melissa, Intervention Specialist, Effective 7/31/2026
- Gifford, Chantel, Paraprofessional, Effective 3/30/2026 (position abandonment)
- Smith, Amanda, Paraprofessional, Effective 7/21/2026
- Soto, Landis, Recruiter - Ohio Migrant Education Center, Effective 4/16/2026

**•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
CONTRACTS**

Certified Administrative

Name	Contract	Length
Brickner, Kristine	ADM - 1 YR	7/1/2026-7/31/2027
Lambert, Dorothy	ADM - 1 YR	7/1/2026-7/31/2027
Leatherman, Michelle	ADM - 2 YR	7/1/2026-7/31/2028
Storrer, Jenna	ADM - 2 YR	7/1/2026-7/31/2028
Elchinger, Stacy	ADM - 3 YR	7/1/2026-7/31/2029
Flegal, Brody	ADM - 3 YR	7/1/2026-7/31/2029
Parrish, Stacy	ADM - 3 YR	7/1/2026-7/31/2029
Ritter, Kristine	ADM - 3 YR	7/1/2026-7/31/2029

Classified Administrative - Hourly Rate

Name	Contract	Length
Schlosser, Linda	ADM - 3 YR	7/1/2026-6/30/2029
Sears, Melissa	ADM - 3 YR	7/1/2026-6/30/2029

Certified Supplemental

Wagner, Staci	LPDC - 1 YR	5/1/2026-6/30/2026
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Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Florez, Barbara	CLASS - 1 YR	8/1/2026-6/30/2027

Certified Administrative Notice

Name
Altman, Michael
Brown, Alissa
Curry, Jestine
Fredrick, Jessica
Merillat, Troy
Rex, Chad
Salinas, Jose
Selgo, Olivia
Weir, Kerri

Classified Administrative - Salary Rate Notice

Name
Nafziger, Brandi
Peters, Jill

Classified Administrative - Hourly Rate Notice

Name

Gutierrez, Maria
Hollstein, Michelle

•Approve the following substitute teachers and paraprofessionals:

Substitute Paraprofessionals

Sarah Harris, Jessica Hartman, Angelica Stickley

Substitute Teachers

Madison Brown, Creed Muehlfeld

•Approve the following 21st Century Staff

Summer 21st Century Site Coordinators

Defiance Elementary- Julie Houck
Defiance Middle School- Melissa Barnhart, Mary Frank

Summer 21st Century Teachers

Defiance Elementary- Karri Ashbaugh, Virginia Becker, Emily Cikity, Rachel Nainiger, Deborah Rogers
Defiance Middle School- Cynthia Cereghin, Kimberly Engel, Jenna Gibson, Jodi Griffith, Nathan Headley,
Lauren Helton, Olivia Hines, Jamie Knueven, Amanda Kunz, Jana Lucas, Laura Martinez, Matthew Manson,
Ed Miller, Amanda Rettig, Erica Young

Summer 21st Century Program Assistants

Defiance Elementary- Lana Kiessling
Defiance Middle School- Stephanie Holbrook, Devon Johnson, Michelle Scott

21st Century Site Coordinators

Defiance Elementary- Reggie Beck, Deanne Held
Defiance Middle School- Mary Frank

21st Century Teachers

Defiance Elementary- Virginia Becker, Emily Cikity, Kelly Hasselbring, Jennison Vincent
Defiance Middle School- Cynthia Cereghin, Olivia Hines, Jana Lucas, Erica Young

21st Century Program Assistants

Defiance Elementary- Amanda Kennedy, Lana Kiessling
Defiance Middle School- Stephanie Holbrook

•Approve the following Student Teachers/Interns/Volunteers

Bostater, Morgan, Field Experience I as a Grand Canyon University student, Spring 2026, Placed with Staci Wagner

•Approved a three (3) year contract with Andrew Hunter as Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development commencing August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2029.

•Approved a three (3) year contract with Jill Gilliland as Director Special Education commencing August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2029.

•Approved the following employment recommendation:

Certified Administrative Notice

Name

Gerken, Emily

Schedule

Salary

•Approved the following employment recommendation:

Certified Administrative Notice

Name
Kruse, Michelle

Schedule
Salary

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Superintendent Kerri Weir provided the Board with a summary of the recent staffing and programmatic review completed in response to projected state school funding reductions impacting member districts. The review identified opportunities to increase operational efficiencies, reduce costs where possible, and continue providing high-quality services with minimal disruption to member districts.
- The Independence Education Center/Northwest Ohio Opportunity School will have a make-up day scheduled for May 22, 2026, due to a recent fog day.
- The date for the 2026 OSBA Capital Conference is set for November 15-17, 2026.
- The OSBA Northwest Region Spring Open House is set for Wednesday, April 29, 2026; at Northwest Ohio ESC, with networking beginning at 5:00 PM and the program concluding by 7:00 PM.
- The NwoESC main office will implement Summer Operational Hours; June 1 - July 31, 2026; Monday – Thursday doors open to the public from 8:00AM - 4:00 PM.
- Financial Disclosure Statements are due to the Ohio Ethics Commission May 15, 2026.

•**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Superintendent Kerri Weir reported on several items. The Pike-Delta-York Treasurer/CFO search has concluded, while the Archbold Treasurer position is in process. This work has provided Kerri and Abby Lorenzen an opportunity to collaborate with board teams as they identify their next fiscal leaders and to begin building early connections. The Administrative Team is currently finalizing employment recommendations for the 2026–27 school year for both certified and classified staff. Contract renewals and salary notifications will be aligned with staffing projections and service needs for FY27. As part of a comprehensive operational review, additional opportunities have been identified to operate more efficiently while maintaining strong services. Administrative Professionals Day was celebrated on April 22 with a luncheon at the Mill District Deli/Boardroom Restaurant in West Unity. The event recognized the important contributions of administrative professionals and their ongoing support of staff and member districts. On March 30, representatives from NwoESC and NBEC convened for the annual building maintenance meeting, as outlined in the 2016 co-ownership lease agreement. The meeting focused on shared operational priorities including vendor contracts, maintenance and capital projects, utilities, insurance, and reserve fund planning. Continued collaboration with NBEC/NWOCA remains essential to the effective operation and long-term stewardship of the facility, with appreciation noted for the work of Chad and Larry in supporting building operations. The Marathon Health Clinic renovation and expansion project at the Archbold site is complete. The updated space will allow the clinic to serve more members and expand access to both medical and behavioral health services. The clinic continues to be a valuable benefit for those who elect coverage through the Northern Buckeye Health Plan. A comprehensive review of organizational handbooks is underway to ensure all materials are updated and aligned for the 2026-27 school year. This includes handbooks for staff, students, and programs. Most handbooks will be ready for Board review in June, with approval anticipated in July. The NwoESC Consortium Substitute Handbook will follow an expedited timeline for review and approval in May. Superintendent Weir participated in the Ohio Educational Service Center Association (OESCA) Superintendent Retreat on April 14 in Columbus. The retreat brought together leaders from all 51 ESCs across the state to review strategic priorities, discuss common challenges, and share solutions and promising practices. The experience reinforced the value of statewide collaboration and the important role OESCA plays in supporting and advocating for ESCs.

•Entered into executive session for the purpose of consideration of the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee, or official. No action was taken upon exiting.

•**Adjournment:** As all the business of the evening was complete the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm. The next regular meeting of the Board will take place on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH 43502.