

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held July 28, 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 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Mrs. Nona Rupp reported on several items related to student achievement. *Artificial Intelligence and Workforce Readiness* - A report highlighted research indicating that while artificial intelligence (AI) is improving efficiency and productivity, it may also contribute to gaps in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and other essential soft skills among individuals entering the workforce. The report encourages educators to intentionally foster these durable skills as AI becomes increasingly integrated into education and the workplace. *Financial Literacy in K-12 Education* - A report emphasized the growing importance of financial literacy as a core component of K-12 education. With most states now requiring financial literacy as a graduation requirement, the American Bankers Association recommends strengthening instruction through hands-on learning experiences and partnerships with local financial institutions to better prepare students for future financial decision-making. *The Early Years Matter: Using Kindergarten Data to Support Student Success* - A report summarized recent NWEA research demonstrating that students' academic performance at the beginning of kindergarten is a strong predictor of third-grade reading and mathematics proficiency. The findings reinforce the importance of early identification and intervention for struggling learners, emphasizing that high-quality early childhood education, effective screening practices, targeted academic supports, and family engagement during the primary grades can significantly improve long-term student outcomes. The report encourages school districts to use early assessment data strategically to provide timely interventions before achievement gaps become more difficult to close.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mrs. Abby Lorenzen reported that the MEP ID & Recruitment and Parent Mentor grant allocations for FY27 had not yet been released. She noted that once the allocations are received, they will be presented to the Board for approval. She also reported that the IDEA-B, ECSE, and Title III consortium grant allocations had been transferred to NWOESC and were included on the agenda for approval. Mrs. Lorenzen shared that the Fiscal Service Coordinator position assisted seven member districts during the past year by providing support with reconciliations, vacancy coverage, budgets, inventory, and other fiscal services. She thanked the Board for its support of the program, noting that districts have been very appreciative of the service. She reported that the annual Building Maintenance Fund transfer and an additional transfer to the Building Reserve Fund were on the agenda to support ongoing facility maintenance and future capital improvements. Mrs. Lorenzen reminded the Board that the OSBA Capital Conference will be held November 15–17 and asked members to indicate their attendance plans at the August meeting to allow for timely registration and hotel reservations. Finally, she reported that Clark, Schaefer, Hackett will conduct the annual audit the week of October 5, with completion anticipated by late November.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland shared that thanks to a generous donation from Shepherd's Circle, the IEC will receive a new playground fence, scheduled for completion before the school year begins. The project will enclose the existing playground and add green space. Special thanks to Cecily Rohrs, Lilli Radabaugh, Jessie Curry, Chris Staup, Chad Rex, and Straight Line Fencing for making the project possible. Thank you to the supervisor team for their hard work recruiting new staff throughout the summer. Appreciation also goes to Melissa Sears, Sarah Kirkingburgh, Michelle Leatherman, and Brandi Nafziger for their efforts with job postings, recruitment, and hiring. The Wauseon High School Best Buddies Chapter was recognized as an Outstanding Chapter for the 2025–26 school year. NWOESC Intervention Specialists Kalli Hintz and Lynlee Reinking attended the 2026 International Best Buddies Leadership Conference, where they received the recognition from Anthony Shriver, founder of Best Buddies.

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Andy Hunter reported that the Curriculum Department has spent much of the past month preparing professional learning opportunities for the upcoming school year. Training will continue to focus on MTSS implementation, mathematics curriculum changes, value-added data, English Learner supports, and other district priorities. He also shared that nationally recognized speaker Trevor Muir will be presenting in Northwest Ohio this year, providing educators with practical strategies to increase student engagement. Mr. Hunter also shared that the Opportunity School and Suspension Center has been relocated to the IEC building, creating a more efficient model for serving students while allowing the programs to continue without the need for additional support staff. He recognized Jistine Curry and Chris Staup

for their leadership in making the transition a success. He also noted that training for new administrators in OTES, OPES, and OSCES is now available through the STARS platform, and that the annual Administrative Conference on August 4 will officially kick off the school year with keynote speaker Katie Peters, whose presentation will focus on positivity, empathy, and building strong school cultures.

•DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS: Mr. Chad Rex reported that replacement solar panels have been received following the approved insurance claims and are awaiting installation by Woolace Electric. Mr. Rex shared that two office spaces were renovated, converting one into an office and the other into a meeting room. He noted that three employee meeting rooms were also renamed the Ohio Room, Buckeye Room, and Cardinal Room, and recognized Mr. Larry Davis for his contributions to the project's successful completion. Additionally, Mr. Rex highlighted that two annual meetings included in the Cybersecurity Co-Pilot program have been completed, including a technical discovery meeting and a key stakeholder meeting with Superintendent Weir and Mrs. Abby Lorenzen. He stated that the first Quarterly Business Review is scheduled for September, when the updated cybersecurity report and recommendations will be reviewed. Mr. Rex shared that he, Mr. Larry Davis, and Ms. Pat Turpening have finalized preparations for the annual driver in-service training on August 3. He noted that the event provides districts with quality training while helping drivers meet state training requirements. Further, Mr. Rex shared that the transition of the ESC's three online training courses to the new learning system is nearly complete. He indicated that districts are already utilizing the fee-based courses to meet compliance requirements for van driver and preschool training. Finally, Mr. Rex reported that summer technology preparations are well underway. He stated that he and Mr. Corey Todd have been preparing devices for new employees, updating inventory and phone assignments, and continuing the migration to the organization's new device management systems. He added that IEC teachers will receive updated Chromebooks this year and that both the Apple and Windows device migrations are nearing completion, supporting improved device management and the continued implementation of Google Single Sign-On across the organization's computing platforms.

•Approved the Following Consent Items:

- Minutes from the regular Board Meeting held June 23, 2026.

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

•AGREEMENTS

Approved the following service agreements and MOUs:

-Ayersville Local Schools to provide to NwOESC, Paraprofessional Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.

-Defiance County Juvenile Probation to provide to NwOESC, Attendance Officer Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.

-Henry County Common Pleas Court-Juvenile Division to provide to NwOESC, Attendance Officer Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.

-Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding to provide to NwOESC, FY27 Annual Membership (Coalition and Voucher Litigation) for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.

-Veregy to provide to NwOESC, Managed Maintenance Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Antwerp Local Schools, Audiology Services for the period of 5/19/26-6/30/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Antwerp Local Schools, Audiology Supported Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Archbold Area Local Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Bowling Green City Schools, Visual Impairment (VI) Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Elmwood Local Schools, Gifted Education Supervisory Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Evergreen Local Schools, Root Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Four County Career Center, Education Consultant Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Four County Career Center, Social Worker Services for the period of 8/1/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Hicksville Exempted Village Schools, Paraprofessional Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Hicksville Exempted Village Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Holy Cross Catholic School, Occupational Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Holy Cross Catholic School, Physical Therapy Services for the period of 8/28/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Millcreek-West Unity Local Schools, Fiscal Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Millcreek-West Unity Local Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.

-NwOESC to provide to North Central Local Schools, OBI Instruction for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.

-NwOESC to provide to North Central Local Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Northwood Local Schools, Visual Impairment (VI) Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Otsego Local Schools, Visual Impairment (VI) Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.

-NwOESC to provide to Sylvania City Schools, Visual Impairment (VI) Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.

•**Ratified the following service agreement:**

-Bonefish Systems to provide to NwOESC, Complete Accounts Payable Monitoring Solutions for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/31.

•**Approved NwOESC Handbooks for the 2026-27 School Year as recommended:**

- Certified Staff Handbook
- Classified Staff Handbook
- Preschool Parent Handbook
- IEC Parent/Student Handbook
- Northwest Ohio Opportunity School Parent Handbook/Student Handbook
- 21st Century Staff Handbook
- 21st Century Parent/Student Handbook (Sample)
- LPDC Handbook
- Bus & Van Driver Handbook

•**Approved the transfer from the General Fund (001-0000) to the Building Maintenance Fund (001-9090) and from the General Fund (001-0000) to the Building Reserve Fund (001-9091) for fiscal year 2027.**

NBEC/NWOCA will be invoiced the identical amount for the funds. Expenses for the Building Maintenance Fund will be reviewed prior to the end of the fiscal year to insure a positive fund balance.

•**Approved the Governmental Pre-Approved 403(b) Plan Adoption Agreement #12-001.**

•**Approved Personnel Consent Items:**

•**LEAVES**

FMLA and Disability

Retirement

- Parrish, Stacey, Education Consultant, Effective 7/31/2026

Resignations

- Ayers, Grace, Floating Teacher, Effective 6/30/2026
- Beck, Amy, Intervention Specialist, Effective 7/9/2026
- Jeffers, Hanna, Intervention Specialist, Effective 7/31/2026

- Kitchenmaster, Jenifer, School Psychologist, Effective 9/1/2026
- Morris, Alexis, Instructional Assistant/Substitute Teacher - Autism, Effective 7/31/2026
- Proper, Tiffany, Paraprofessional, Effective 7/15/2026
- Roehrig, Jackie, Intervention Specialist, Effective 7/31/2026
- Rogers, Nevaeh, Paraprofessional, Effective 7/31/2026
- Sutton, Johanna, Behavior Consultant Specialist, Effective 7/20/2026
- Torres, Betsy, Paraprofessional, Effective 6/30/2026

•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS CONTRACTS

Contracts

Certified Administrative

Name	Contract	Length
Pool, Kelly	ADM - 1 YR	8/1/2026-7/31/2027

Certified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Cavanaugh, Kim	CERT - 1 YR	8/18/2026-11/26/2026
Diehl, Heather	CERT - 1 YR	8/1/2026-7/31/2027
Hardy, Renee	CERT - 1 YR	8/1/2026-7/31/2027
Recker, Emma	CERT - 1 YR	8/1/2026-7/31/2027

Certified Supplemental

Groll, Kelly	CPI - 1 YR	8/1/2026-7/31/2027
Ritter, Kris	CPI - 1 YR	8/1/2026-7/31/2027
Selgo, Olivia	CPI - 1 YR	8/1/2026-7/31/2027
Weber, Julie	CPI - 1 YR	8/1/2026-7/31/2027

Shaink, Midori	LPDC - 1 YR	9/1/2026-6/30/2027
Sidle, Shanna	LPDC - 1 YR	9/1/2026-6/30/2027
Wagner, Staci	LPDC - 1 YR	9/1/2026-6/30/2027
Winters, Michelle	LPDC - 1 YR	9/1/2026-6/30/2027

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Ball, Dawn	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Benner, Samantha	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Coulon, Jaden	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Cundick, Erica	CLASS - 1 YR	7/28/2026-7/31/2027
Decker, Mackenzi	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Dreher, Kelli	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Grahn, Dylan	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Harris, Sarah	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Killam, Sheila	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Muntz, Kenneth	CLASS - 1 YR	8/1/2026-7/31/2027
Richards, Lora	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Waikel, Emily	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Wheeler, Heather	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Wilhelm, Rebecca	CLASS - 1 YR	7/28/2026-7/31/2027
Yambor, Nancy	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027

Classified Limited School Year Enrichment (Saturday Camp)

Name	Contract	Length
Keller, Teresa	CLASS - 1 YR	7/1/2026-6/30/2027
Kollarik, Emiley	CLASS - 1 YR	7/1/2026-6/30/2027
Mann, Donna	CLASS - 1 YR	7/1/2026-6/30/2027
Slicker, Tristen	CLASS - 1 YR	7/1/2026-6/30/2027

Classified Limited School Year Enrichment (Saturday Camp)

Name	Contract	Length
Myers, Dorothy	CLASS - 1 YR	7/1/2026-6/30/2027

Classified Notice - Hourly Rate

Name

Herman, Sarah
Williams, Shelby
Fouty, Jackie

Certified Notice

Name

Winters, Michelle

•Approve the following substitute teachers and paraprofessionals:

DSS Long-Term Substitute Paraprofessional

Jessica Hartman, Krista Snyder

2026-27 Substitute Paraprofessional

Hannah Booth, Isaac Brenneman, Kamryn Chaffee, Kelijo Chaffee, Isabelle Cohara, Barbara Galbraith, Anne Healy, Ginger Hibbs, Danielle Klinge, Ashley Kryder, Misty Mekus, Joyce Miller, Tami Rohlf, Constance Smith, Alyssa Smith-Yackee, Miranda Turner, Rochelle Van Loocke, Erin Yoder

2026- 27 Substitute Teachers

Brittani Alvarado, Gavin Askins, Klayton Boland, Hannah Booth, Alex Buchhop, Thomas Burke, Charles Cary, Piyawan Chapman, Margaret Clark, James Clay, Ronald Cody, Isabelle Cohara, Kaitlyn Creek, Kathryn Day, Megan DeGroff, Bradley Dunkle, Sonia Flower, Kay Ford, Mary Garman, Heidi Garretson, Miranda Giddens, Bryon Hansel, Beth Headley, Anne Healy, Ginger Hibbs, Kevin Homier, Brady Hoylman, Susan Hug, Terry Humbarger, Amy Jones, Jeffrey Keim, Danielle Klinge, Makayla Mays, Karen Meister, Sarah Meyer, Kylee Miller Aimee Naveau, Christina Norman, Rachel Orr, Ethan Panico, Susan Peverly, Ava Powell, Tami Rohlf, Raquel Romero, Martha Rose, Steven Schlosser, Cheyenne Segura, Richard Selgo, Jessica Sharps, Julie Shook, Constance Smith, Karrie Smith, James Snively, Victoria Spencer, Sarah Stuckey-Diaw, Deanna Temple-Frederick, Heather Thomas-Eiden, Timothy Thompson, Ethan Van Loocke, Rochelle Van Loocke, Anita Van Zile, Jamie Vogelsong, Shirley Wagner, Chloe Wiechers, Tabitha Wolf, Darren Yeager, Danielle Yoder, Erin Yoder, Carly Zeiter

•Approved the following Summer Honors Academy staff

Summer Honors Academy Teacher- Lindsay Gordon

•Approved a medical leave of absence for specified staff member

•Approved Mentor Service for Resident Educators:

•Additional Wage Payments:

Year 1 Mentor Service: Terry Lind mentoring Tiffany McBride

Year 2 Mentor Service: Kris Ritter mentoring Johanna Sutton

•Approved the following Substitute Teacher

2026-27 Substitute Teacher

Jacqueline Singer

•Approved Rescinded Offer

Rescind the 2026-2027 Employment Contract: Santos, Victoria, Paraprofessional, declined the offer

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- The 2025-26 Annual Report on Food and Beverage Sold on School Premises was shared with the Board. NWOESC appreciates the Northeastern Local School District for preparing breakfast and lunch for our IEC program.
- The OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show will be held November 15-17, 2026 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

- The State of Ohio Sales Tax Holiday 2026 will take place Friday, August 7 – Sunday, August 9, 2026. Eligible items include Clothing priced at \$75 or less per item and School Supplies/Instructional Materials priced at \$20 or less per item.

•**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Superintendent Kerri Weir reported on several updates and initiatives involving the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center. Weir shared that the Coalition of Ohio Rural and Appalachian Schools (CORAS) is currently undergoing a rebranding effort to better reflect its focus on serving rural and small-town school districts throughout Ohio. She noted that this renewed direction aligns closely with the mission of educational service centers and the unique opportunities and challenges facing the districts served by NwOESC. As part of the upcoming NwOESC Administrators' Conference on August 4, Chancellor Randy Gardner and Dr. Jay Selgo will provide opening remarks and share perspectives on rural education. Additional information and current rural education statistics have been included on the reverse side of the report. Mrs. Weir also provided updates on several service outreach efforts and potential partnerships for future consideration. She highlighted the major NwOESC events that will officially launch the 2026-2027 school year. On Monday, August 3, approximately 420 participants are expected to attend the annual Bus and Van Driver Training at Archbold High School. On Tuesday, August 4, the NwOESC Administrators' Conference will welcome approximately 185 educational leaders from across the region. The week's events will conclude on Thursday, August 6, when more than 400 NwOESC staff members gather for the Annual Fall Staff Meeting to begin the new school year with a focus on collaboration, service, and student success. Mrs. Weir concluded her report by expressing sincere appreciation to the NwOESC administrative team, supervisors and consultants, departmental office administrators and support staff, technology staff, and building and maintenance staff. She recognized their dedication, teamwork, and countless behind-the-scenes efforts throughout the summer in preparing for the new school year. She noted that the success of NwOESC is a direct reflection of the commitment of many individuals working together toward a shared mission and thanked the entire team for helping ensure the organization is prepared to begin another successful school year with confidence and enthusiasm.

•**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; and B. Investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or student unless such employee, licensee or student requests a public meeting; except that consideration of the discipline of a Board member for conduct related to the performance of his/her duties or his/her removal from office shall not be held in executive session

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, August 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH 43502.