

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held June 23, 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:** OSBA Legislative Liaison Mr. Brian Baker reported regarding State Legislators that both chambers adjourned for summer recess in early June and will not be back in session until November. Several bills are being passed along to the Governor for consideration of his signature. HB 479 originally dealt with radiology law, but was turned into a budget cleanup bill in the Senate Finance Committee with multiple education provisions – including amendments to the property tax reform package passed last fall. Those include Inside millage, the 20-mill floor inflationary cap, and other provisions. HB 455 would make changes to the operation of public schools and ODEW and eliminate obsolete provisions of education law. Notable changes include: Barring a school board from considering a member's reason for absence insufficient if they are an active or reserve member of the armed forces of the United States or the Ohio national guard and are deployed outside the territory of the district or the educational service center; Adding language from SB 127, which defines required actions for poor performing community schools; and Allowing a 14- or 15-year-old to be employed between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. any night preceding a day school is not in session if the minor has approval to do so from a parent or legal guardian. SB 19 would require public schools to provide free, evidence-based intervention services to students displaying limited proficiency in mathematics. SB 276 originally ratified the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists, but was heavily amended by the House Education Committee earlier in the week to require ODEW to conduct research and prepare a report for the General Assembly on the potential use of norm referenced assessments. The amendments would also add the Student Athlete Mobility (SAM) Act, regarding student petitions to participate in team sports at neighboring public schools; requires districts to adopt a policy on student participation from another high school and permits public high schools to partner with a neighboring school to establish a single team if neither school has a sufficient number of students willing to participate in the activity; and require districts to provide instruction in the success sequence, mirroring the language in SB 156. SB 450 makes capital appropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2028 and declares an emergency. The bill appropriates \$600 million for the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission's (OFCC) school facilities programs and creates an aging school accelerator pilot program. To qualify for the pilot, districts must meet all the following criteria: the district has at least one building that is used primarily for classroom instruction in which all or a significant portion of the structure is at least one hundred years old; the district has never been approved to receive state assistance through the OFCC or has not completed all segments of a project approved by the OFCC; the district's operating expenditure per pupil for fiscal year 2025 was in the lowest twenty-five per cent of all school districts in the state; and the district qualifies to serve all of its students in one school building according to OFCC policies.

•**OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Mrs. Nona Rupp reported on several items related to student achievement. She opened with a quote from Warren Buffet - "What we learn from history is that people don't learn from history." Mrs. Rupp reported that for the America 250 celebration, all 4th graders will be eligible to receive a "history pass". The 4th Grade History Pass gives Ohio 4th grade students free general admission at participating history museums and historic sites. Mrs. Rupp also shared that Conneaut Middle School students recently showcased their creativity, teamwork, and entrepreneurial skills during the JA Innovation Dairy Queen Blizzard Challenge. Working in teams, students designed original Blizzard flavors, developed marketing ideas, and presented their concepts. Winning teams from grades 6, 7, and 8 earned the opportunity to have their custom Blizzard creations featured for sale during the school's Community Day event. The project provided students with a hands-on learning experience that connected innovation, business concepts, and real-world problem-solving while celebrating student achievement. It was reported that Washington Local Schools (WLS) partnered with the YMCA Safe Routes to School and state grant funding to launch the All Kids Bike program. Designed to teach kindergartners foundational bike riding, the initiative uses bikes in physical education classes to boost coordination and build confidence. Lastly, Mrs. Rupp reported that mathematics achievement in the United States continues to lag, underscoring the need for sustained and coordinated improvement efforts across K–12 systems. A key challenge identified is a lack of consistency in instructional practices, curriculum implementation, and support systems across schools and districts. Addressing this requires a balanced approach that integrates high-quality instructional materials, aligned professional development, and coherent system-wide expectations. Sustainable improvement depends on both materials and training. Educators must have access to rigorous, standards-aligned curriculum resources, paired with ongoing teacher training that builds deep content knowledge and strengthens instructional practice. Without consistent implementation and support, even strong materials are unlikely to produce lasting gains in student achievement. Leadership and governance also play a critical role. District and building

leaders must ensure alignment, monitor fidelity of implementation, and support continuous improvement through data-informed decision-making. Clear expectations and consistent systems of support are essential for scaling effective practices. Ultimately, improving mathematics achievement requires a long-term strategy—one that prioritizes consistency, invests in educator capacity, and aligns instructional resources, professional learning, and leadership practices into a coherent system focused on sustained student success.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mrs. Abby Lorenzen distributed the FY2027 initial appropriations and updated FY2026 appropriation modifications at the board meeting. Mrs. Lorenzen noted that FY2027 appropriations were lower due to pending grant allocations. She reported that a new follow-up process has been implemented to assure contracts and agreements that are issued get returned. Mrs. Lorenzen reported that final program cost packets were emailed to district superintendents and treasurers, and several district payments had already been received. She noted that the Audit/Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2026, at 5:40 p.m. before the regular board meeting.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland shared that she attended the 2026 CEC Summer Conference on June 15–16 in Dublin. The conference provided valuable learning opportunities, including a keynote presentation by Dr. Temple Grandin. ODEW shared updates regarding revised IEP and ETR forms, which are expected to be available in Spring 2027, with required implementation beginning in the 2027–28 school year. Resources and training opportunities through SAMIS and OCALI were also highlighted. Recruitment efforts continue as we advertise vacancies, conduct interviews, and hire staff. Related services caseloads are also being reviewed based on district service requests.

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Andy Hunter reported that the Curriculum Department continued to provide learning opportunities for both students and educators across Northwest Ohio. The Summer Honors Academy welcomed 353 students from 23 school districts for a week-long “Kaleidoscope of Learning” hosted at Archbold Elementary School. Students participated in a wide range of enrichment courses, including robotics, food science, and outdoor exploration. The success of the event was made possible through the exceptional coordination efforts of Michelle Leatherman and Jenna Storrer. Additionally, the Curriculum Department hosted its Educator Boot Camp, where educators explored local industries in Williams County, gained insight into workforce needs, and earned three college credit hours through Ashland University, further strengthening connections between education and career readiness. Mr. Hunter also noted that the Curriculum Department is reviewing the potential impact of Senate Bill 19 and preparing districts for the changes it may bring to mathematics education. The legislation would expand requirements for early identification and intervention for K–3 students struggling in mathematics while increasing access to advanced math pathways through automatic placement policies. Districts should also anticipate additional responsibilities related to intervention services, EMIS reporting, and updates to approved diagnostic assessments.

•**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Mr. Chad Rex reported that the annual summer cleaning and maintenance project is underway at the Independence Education Center. He noted that Mr. Chris Staup is cleaning and waxing floors while completing additional projects throughout the building and grounds with the coordination and support of Mr. Larry Davis. Mr. Rex shared that insurance claims related to the damaged solar panels have been approved. He stated that the organization is awaiting delivery of replacement panels, which will be installed by Woolace Electric. Additionally, Mr. Rex highlighted continued progress on the device management project. He explained that Mr. Corey Todd has been migrating Apple laptops to the new management system and will next begin transitioning more than 100 iPads. He added that Windows devices are also being migrated to Microsoft's newest management platform. Mr. Rex reported that the department completed its annual purchase order process for the upcoming fiscal year, generating more than 70 requisitions for recurring products and services. Further, Mr. Rex noted that Mr. Davis is completing summer maintenance and detailing work for the vehicle fleet, while Mrs. Pat Turpening is assisting with driver communications and records to ensure all drivers are cleared for the upcoming school year. Mr. Rex stated that the department is collaborating with the Special Education and Curriculum departments to prepare new office space that supports both individual and team work environments. Finally, Mr. Rex shared that other ongoing projects include scheduling cybersecurity meetings for the new school year, coordinating stakeholder network meetings, and migrating online courses to a new system.

•**Approved the Following Consent Items:**

- Minutes from the organizational and regular Board Meeting held May 26, 2026.
- Financial Transactions – appropriation modifications, transfers and advances, and monthly financial reports.

## •AGREEMENTS

### Approved the following service agreements and MOUs:

- BlazerWorks to provide to NwOESC, Managed Provider Services for the period of 6/23/26-6/23/29.
  - Four County ADAMhs Board to provide to NwOESC, School Navigator Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
  - NWOCA to provide to NwOESC, NBEC NOVA Services for the period of 8/1/26-7/31/27.
  - NwOESC to provide to North Baltimore Local Schools, Visual Impairment (VI) Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.
  - NwOESC to provide to Patrick Henry Local Schools, ESL Instructional Assistant for the period of 8/15/25-6/15/26.
  - NwOESC to provide to Pettisville Local Schools, Extended School Year Services for the period of 6/1/26-6/26/27.
  - NwOESC to provide to Stryker Local Schools, Assessment Coaching for the period of 9/24/25-5/30/26.
  - NwOESC to provide to Elmwood Local Schools, Visual Impairment (VI) Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.
- Approved the firm of Gingo & Bair Law, LLC to serve as legal counsel to the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board of Education and hereby authorize the Board President, Superintendent, Treasurer and designated administrator(s) to engage the services of said firm on an as needed basis.
- Approved the FY27 appropriation measure for general funds as listed with carryover of current year encumbrances to arrive at the expendable budget amounts, and all other funds (special cost centers of 9000 and higher (with encumbrances also to be carried forward with their ending cash balances and appropriations into the new fiscal year.

### •Approved Personnel Consent Items:

#### •LEAVES

FMLA and Disability

#### Resignations

- Clark, Shelby, Occupational Therapist, Effective 7/31/2026
- Fouts, Jill, Intervention Specialist - Behavior Support/Work Study Coordinator, Effective 7/31/2026
- Hoops, Adrienne, Paraprofessional, Effective 7/31/2026
- Huber, Christina, Speech Language Pathologist, Effective 7/31/2026
- Lambert, Dorothy, Education Consultant/Gifted Program Consultant, Effective 6/30/2026
- Shively, Cheryl, LPDC, Effective 5/29/2026

## •EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

### CONTRACTS

#### Certified Limited

| Name                    | Contract    | Length             |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Beasley-Tonjes, Lorelei | CERT - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Haneline, Sarah         | CERT - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Schuller, Lauren        | CERT - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Slattman, Bridget       | CERT - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Deuel, Jenny            | CERT - 2 YR | 8/1/2026-7/31/2028 |
| Rutledge, Stacy         | CERT - 2 YR | 8/1/2026-7/31/2028 |
| Thomas, Cheyenne        | CERT - 4 YR | 8/1/2026-7/31/2030 |

#### Classified Limited

| Name | Contract | Length |
|------|----------|--------|
|------|----------|--------|

|                    |              |                    |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Cundick, Erica     | CLASS - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Demoe, Amanda      | CLASS - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Fether, Letisha    | CLASS - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Harrison, Angela   | CLASS - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Lair, Natasha      | CLASS - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Lammon, Becky      | CLASS - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Lerma, Brooke      | CLASS - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Phillips, Kristine | CLASS - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Pifer, Chelsea     | CLASS - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Reader, Jessica    | CLASS - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Santos, Victoria   | CLASS - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |
| Wilhelm, Rebecca   | CLASS - 1 YR | 8/6/2026-7/31/2027 |

### **Certified Notice**

#### **Name**

Pettit, Jennifer  
Estrada-Guerrero, Taylor

### **Classified Notice - Daily Rate**

#### **Name**

Zeedyk, Tracy

### **Classified Notice - Hourly Rate**

#### **Name**

Russell, April  
Hughes, Kristan  
Rush, Brynn

### **•Approve the following substitute teachers and paraprofessionals:**

#### **ESC Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional**

Krista Snyder

### **2026-27 Substitute Paraprofessional**

Kamie Beck, Pamela Bernath, Heather Blanchard, Cheryl Chapa, Kathleen Cooper, Cynthia Fay, Sandra Gearhart, Denise Gerschutz, Brady Hoylman, Cynthia McCann, Becky Meyer, Jena Mireles, Courtney Pratt, Barbara Roby, Heather Rodriguez, Kayle Vasko

### **2026- 27 Substitute Teachers**

Kayla Arnold, Kimberly Askins, Joshua Atkinson, Anjelita Avers, Luann Bacon, Jerrell Barnhill, Barbara Beaman, Kamie Beck, Pamela Bernath, Jenna Blair, Heather Blanchard, Sarah Buchhop, John Bucklew, Cheryl Chapa, Melinda Cooley, Kathleen Cooper, Tamantha Dockery, Drena Doseck, Tammy Eling, Cynthia Fay, Fiona Floyd, Phillip Fogle, Joe Frank, Christopher Garcia, Janet Gilmore, Eleazar Gracia, Jeff Gribler, Elizabeth Harden, Emily Harr, John Harris, Valerie Hausch, Jordyn Hein, Anthony Hernandez, Patricia Hill, Madelyn Hopper, Bailey Jankowiak, Thomas Kelly, Kim Kern, Amanda Kortekamp, Susan Kozumplik, Austin Lichty, Nancy Mack, Cynthia McCann, Carol McLnerney, Becky Meyer, Nichole Mickelson, David Miller, Jena Mireles, Willow Mitchell, Janet Morr, Kent Morris, Brandi Myers, Kenneth Norden, Tonya Notman, Karen Pahl, Lindsay Phelps, Steven Pieracini, Courtney Pratt, Elaine Prentiss, Dazi Psurny, Kally Randall, Maria Ranoni, Barbara Roby, Isabel Rubalcava, Ken Sanford, Catrina Schwyn, Mark Shaffer, Jeff Slesman, Kayla Sliwinski, Abigail Smith, Janet Smith, Kelly Smith-Masterson, Brooke St. John, Madison Stairhime, Sarah Steffel, Paul Stoll, Demi Storrs, Robert Strickler, Jessica Stykemain, Nick Tammarine, James Tyler, Jada Uribes, Mary Jo Vajen, Kayle Vasko, Karen Walker, Renee Weaver, Abby Wiemken, Maurice Zuver

•**Approve long-term substitute rates** through Dedicated Staffing for paraprofessionals and teachers when the individual is covering for 5 or more days in a single opening.

•**Approve the following student teachers/interns/volunteers**

Neff, Sara, Field Experience II as a University of Toledo Student, Fall 2026, Placed with Matt Ferguson & Sara Baker

•**Approve the following 21st Century Staff**

**21st Century Teachers**

Defiance Elementary- Rachel Nainiger, Sharon Waldron

Defiance Middle School- Jodi Griffith, Edward Miller

**21st Century Program Assistant**

Defiance Middle School- Devon Johnson

**21st Century Transportation Coordinator**

Defiance Elementary- Sandra Fackler

Defiance Middle School- Sandra Fackler

•**Approve the following Summer Honors Academy staff**

**Summer Honors Academy Teacher-** Ellie Rodriguez

**Summer Honors Academy Nurse-** Cara Sterken

•**Approve the following stipend for staff**

Dorothy Lambert - stipend per West Unity Local Schools for District Literacy Coach FY26.

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

-Reminder the OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show runs November 15-17, 2026 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Start to think about your interest and/or availability to attend. Registration information will be forthcoming.

-Reminder the State Sales Tax Holiday 2026 will take place Dates: Friday, August 7, 12:00 a.m. – Sunday, August 9, 11:59 p.m. · Eligible Items: Clothing priced at \$75 or less per item; School Supplies/Instructional Materials priced at \$20 or less per item.

-"Draft" copies of the following NwoESC Handbooks for 2026-27 were shared with the board, with adoption anticipated in July.

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

\*The NwoESC Consortium Substitute Handbook was approved in May

•**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Kerri Weir shared the following information. NwoESC administrative staff and directors have completed all evaluations using the Northwest Ohio Teacher Evaluation Framework (aligned to OTES) and the Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES). Evaluation data has been submitted through the Ohio Evaluation System (OES) in accordance with state reporting requirements. A total of 45 evaluations were completed, including 43 OTES-aligned teacher evaluations and 2 OPES principal evaluations. We are proud that all evaluated staff members earned ratings in the Skilled or Accomplished categories. On May 28, staff gathered at the main office for a lunch cookout celebrating summer birthdays and the conclusion of another successful school year. The event provided an opportunity for building staff to connect, relax, and recognize the accomplishments of the year. Special thanks to Brandi, Chad, Andy, and Larry for coordinating and preparing the event. Beautiful weather and strong participation made for a great afternoon. NwoESC recently partnered with several neighboring Educational Service Centers to support the Northwest Ladies in Leadership Conference, held June 18 on the

campus of the University of Findlay. The event featured Dr. Candace Singh, nationally recognized speaker and Franklin Covey leadership consultant, who challenged participants to lead and live with greater intentionality while focusing on what matters most. Attendees left with practical leadership strategies, renewed clarity of purpose, and tools to sustain personal and professional growth. Thank you to Abby Lorenzen for serving as the event's fiscal agent and coordinating financial arrangements among the participating ESCs. The annual wellness grant application is being prepared for submission to the Northwest Benefit Plan Healthcare Consortium (NBHP) for the 2026-27 school year. The NwOESC Wellness Committee, composed of representatives from departments across the organization, continues to plan and promote initiatives that support employee health and well-being. A continued area of focus will be increasing staff participation in Wellable, NBHP's wellness platform. Available to all employees regardless of medical insurance enrollment, Wellable offers a variety of personalized tools, challenges, and resources that support physical, mental, and financial wellness. The committee remains committed to creating opportunities that encourage engagement and help staff pursue individual wellness goals. The Coalition of Ohio Rural and Appalachian Schools (CORAS) continues to expand its statewide advocacy efforts on behalf of rural school districts. Membership in our region remains strong, with 12 local members - 11 school districts and NwOESC - committed to participation for FY27. Representatives will gather in Columbus on July 24, 2026, for the annual summer meeting to establish legislative and advocacy priorities for the coming year. CORAS continues to be an important voice in advancing issues that impact rural schools and the students they serve. Planning is well underway for several 2026-27 fall events, which provide important opportunities for professional learning, collaboration, and connection across our region. Monday, August 3, 2026 - Bus and Van Driver Training, Archbold High School; Tuesday, August 4, 2026 - NwOESC Administrators' Conference: "The Bridge Forward: Leading with Empathy"; and Thursday, August 6, 2026 - NwOESC Annual Fall Staff Meeting: "The Superpower of Appreciation!"

- 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 6:48 PM. The next regular meeting of the Board will take place on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH 43502.