

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their organizational and regular meeting held March 23, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Nona Rupp.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Sharon Badenhop, NwOESC Payroll Specialist, who passed away February 24, 2021 after a brief illness.

REPORTS:

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker reported on several legislative items. Governor Mike DeWine signed HB 67, making several changes for the 2020-21 school year: The bill exempts schools from the requirement to administer the American history end-of-course exam; provides flexibility on the administration of state assessments by lengthening the testing windows; extends the use of final course grades in lieu of end-of-course exams for juniors and seniors; provides local flexibility to grant a high school diploma to any student on track to graduate and for whom the principal, in consultation with teachers and counselors, determines successful completion of the high school curriculum or an individualized education program; permits a student to qualify for a high school diploma by both successfully completing the curriculum requirements and earning the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal; and requires the Ohio Department of Education to seek a federal waiver from accountability requirements. The Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee held sponsor testimony on HB 200, which revises the state report card and school accountability systems. The Senate Financial Institutions and Technology Committee held a third hearing on HB 2, which would establish the residential broadband expansion program. The Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee held sponsor testimony on SB 66, which establishes a career pathways apprentice program. President Joe Biden signed House Resolution 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The legislation contains several education-related items, including \$122 billion for elementary and secondary education, received through formula grants to states, at least 90% of which must support local educational agencies' coronavirus-response activities. Funds will be distributed to states using the Every Student Succeeds Act Title I-A formula. Additional funding in the legislation includes \$2.5 billion for IDEA Part B and \$7 billion for E-rate. Governor Mike DeWine announced that student athletes participating in spring sports will not be required to quarantine if they have an incidental exposure to COVID-19 in a classroom unless symptoms develop. Additionally, Governor DeWine announced that ESCs will receive COVID-19 rapid tests that can be distributed to K-12 schools.

•**OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Dr. Christine Smallman shared several items related to student achievement. Zanesville High School is introducing students to potential career pathways through its Life Plan program. School administration said the program is aimed at giving students experience in a variety of fields, and that it is OK if teenagers' plans for college and career are not set in stone. Teachers at Maumee City's Wayne Trail Elementary School are changing how students learn with new technology that involves students being active. The technology, Lu, is an interactive projector that makes it possible for students to play and learn at the same time. In another report, it was shared that many students were unable to take the SAT because of pandemic-related facility closures. As a result, the vast majority of colleges adopted test-optional or test-blind policies, meaning the SAT or ACT score would not be used in admission decisions. A senior admissions official at the University of Washington at Bothell and Lawrence University said the pandemic and the pervasive adoption of temporary test-optional or test blind policies gave institutions permission to eliminate the requirement. This move has officials predicting that a large number of institutions will not return to the test requirement. In another report, researchers tracked 500 teens over a 10-year period and found that an increase in the amount of time spent on social media sites, such as TikTok and Instagram, was linked to an increase in long-term suicide risk among teenage girls.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Homer Hendricks reported on the status of district service agreements for the 2021-22 school year. He also discussed changes for non-public school service agreements in response to guidance from ODE. Mr. Hendricks shared an update on hiring the new payroll specialist. He concluded with a review of the next biennial state budget proposal including ESC funding.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Jill Gilliland reported a group of BGSU student teachers will be obtaining substitute teacher licenses through a new temporary licensing rule at ODE, and will then be able to serve as a substitute for their mentor NwOESC teacher if needed. A mobile dentist, through Ohio Dental Outreach, was at the IEC recently and provided services to students including a cleaning, x-rays, fluoride, and sealants. All services were free with most insurances accepted. Information on HB 436, new dyslexia requirements, was shared.

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Josh Clark reported that a virtual OTES 2.0 Overview was held on March 9 from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. OTES 2.0 credentialed trainers, Josh Clark, Kallie Gensler, and Katie Jimenez facilitated a virtual overview session as part of the #PDGoesPM model. Over 60 administrators, teachers, and educators participated. Mr. Clark also stated that an Aspiring Administrator's evening will be held virtually in May. This workshop, facilitated by Josh Clark and Andy Hunter, will allow prospective administrators the chance to ask questions about the job and lifestyle to a panel of current Northwest Ohio administrators. Mr. Clark reported that OTES 2.0 in-person training dates are quickly approaching. Sessions in April and June are filling up quickly. In conclusion, Mr. Clark said the first in-person quiz tournament of the 2020-21 school year was held at the NwOESC on March 11. Larry Davis and Chad Rex did a fantastic job working within the guidelines of social distancing and COVID-related rules to help pull off this junior high event. Stacey Parrish organized the tournament, and also deserves recognition for hosting a stress-free, safe tournament.

•**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Chad Rex highlighted the video and website work that is being done with the 2021 Franklin B. Walter event. Mr. Rex also provided an update on the energy project's movement into the outside work and the solar array that will be located on the west side of the main office building.

•Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

•Minutes from the regular board meeting held February 23, 2021.

•**FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS**

•**AGREEMENTS**

-NwOESC to provide to Liberty Center Local Schools District, ADOS Services, for the period of 8/15/20-6/15/21.

-NwOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools District, Occupational and Physical Therapist Services-St. Augustine Catholic School, for the period of 8/15/20-6/15/21.

-NwOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools District, Psychologist Services-St. Augustine Catholic School, for the period of 8/15/20-6/15/21.

-NwOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools District, Speech Therapist Services-St. Augustine Catholic School, for the period of 8/15/20-6/15/21.

-NwOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools District, Occupational Therapist Services-St. John Lutheran School, for the period of 8/15/20-6/15/21.

-NwOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools District, Psychologist Services-St. John Lutheran School, for the period of 8/15/20-6/15/21.

-NwOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools District, Speech Therapist Services-St. John Lutheran School, for the period of 8/15/20-6/15/21.

-NwOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools District, Occupational and Physical Therapist Services-St. Paul Lutheran School, for the period of 8/15/20-6/15/21.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools District, Psychologist Services-St. Paul Lutheran School, for the period of 8/15/20-6/15/21.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools District, Speech Therapist Services-St. Paul Lutheran School, for the period of 8/15/20-6/15/21.

-NwoESC to provide to Van Wert City Schools District, Independence Education Center Services, for the period of 1/1/21-6/30/21.

-To approve Annual Service Agreements with the following districts for the 2021-22 school year per R.C. 3313.845:

- Archbold Area Local Schools
- Bryan City Schools
- Central Local Schools
- Defiance City Schools
- Edgerton Local Schools
- Edon Northwest Local Schools
- Hicksville Exempted Village Schools
- Holgate Local Schools
- Liberty Center Local Schools
- Millcreek-West Unity Local Schools
- Montpelier Exempted Village Schools
- North Central Local Schools
- Patrick Henry Local Schools
- Pettisville Local Schools
- Pike-Delta-York Local Schools
- Swanton Local Schools

•LEAVES

FMLA and Disability

•RETIREMENTS

Burnett, Kathleen, Speech Language Pathologist, effective 6/9/2021
Marjorie Noirot, Speech Language Pathologist, effective 5/31/2021

•RESIGNATIONS

Clark, Josh, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development, effective 7/31/2021

•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Name	Contract	Length
Stark, Heidi	CERT-1 Yr	3/8/2021-7/31/2021

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Riehle, Emillee	CLASS-1 Yr	3/9/2021-7/31/2021

Substitute Paraprofessionals

Heather Barton, Erica Blanton, Linda Piasecki

Substitute Teachers

Amanda Barnes, Aaron Betz, Gary Bidlack, Erica Blanton, Jami Burns, Megan Frazier, Daniel Garrison, Taylor Heath, Brooke Hines, Rose Mansel-Pleydell, Lauren O'Riordon, Thomas Weaver

•Approved the Annual Report/Joint Statement of the NwoESC Business Advisory Council submitted on March 1, 2021 as required by ODE.

•Adopted a resolution to temporarily extend the provisions of the FFCRA for paid emergency sick leave as provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 through June 30, 2021.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Policy Updates and Recommendations – 1st Reading

Policy 1422	Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity	replacement
Policy 1520	Employment of Administrators	corrected
Policy 1623	Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment	replacement
Policy 1662	Anti-Harassment	replacement
Policy 2240	Controversial Issues	revised
Policy 2260	Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity	replacement
Policy 2260.01	Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability	revised
Policy 2266	Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Educational Service Center Programs or Activities	revised
Policy 3122	Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity	replacement
Policy 3123	Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment	replacement
Policy 3362	Anti-Harassment	replacement
Policy 4122	Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity	replacement
Policy 4123	Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment	replacement
Policy 4362	Anti-Harassment	replacement
Policy 5517	Anti-Harassment	replacement
Policy 5830	Student Fund Raising	new
Policy 6114	Cost Principles - Spending Federal Funds	revised
Policy 6325	Procurement - Federal Grants/Funds	revised
Policy 6600	Deposit of Public Funds: Cash Collection Points	revised
Policy 7440.01	Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring	revised
Policy 7450	Property Inventory	revised
Policy 7455	Accounting System for Capital Assets	revised
Policy 8510	Wellness	revised

- NwOESC Business Advisory Council Quarterly Update – December 8, 2020 Minutes
- Presentation, discussion, and acceptance of public comment on Independence Education Center/Northwest Ohio Opportunity School Calendar for the 2021-22 School Year
- Reminder that Financial Disclosure Statements are due to the Ohio Ethics Commission May 17, 2021

•**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Kerri Weir reported the Ayersville Local District Superintendent Search concluded with the selection of Beth Hench to lead the district effective August 1, 2021. Ohio’s ESCs have been asked to assist in the distribution of COVID-19 rapid test kits to schools and school districts in their respective regions. The process will be similar to the deployment of masks where regional drop sites were used for the initial disbursement. The test kits for our area will arrive in Toledo early this week (week of March 22). Once that happens, we will pick up our allotment of approximately 3000 test kits for the NwOESC service area. Chad Rex and Larry Davis will coordinate the pick up or delivery of the test kits to area schools should they want to participate. The tests can be used to determine if school staff, students, or others (such as family members) are infected with COVID-19. Those taking the test utilize an App and TeleDoc support to guide them through the process and determine results, which are available within 15 minutes of administration. Because there are many questions about this program, NwOESC has arranged

for a legal update on this topic to address questions district leaders may have related to the distribution or use of the test kits. Employment processes for 2021-22 will be action items over the next few board meetings. In April, Administrative contract recommendations will be addressed, and in May Certified and Classified contract recommendations will be addressed for the upcoming year. A summary of the impact of COVID-19 on the NwOESC was shared as well as an update on COVID-19 Dose 2 vaccinations.

- 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. Upon exiting, no action was taken.

- As all of the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm. The next meeting will take place on April 27, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.