

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their organizational and regular meeting held October 26, 2021.

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

## **REPORTS:**

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Brian Baker reported that the Ohio School Boards Association Board of Trustees has chosen to end its affiliation with the National School Boards Association (NSBA). According to OSBA Chief Executive Officer Rick Lewis the decision was prompted by NSBA's recent letter to President Joe Biden requesting federal intervention at local school board meetings. After discussing serious concerns about the letter, the Board of Trustees directed Lewis to send a letter to NSBA notifying it that OSBA would not continue its membership in the national federation. Regarding legislation, the Senate unanimously passed HCR 35, which now invalidates the proposed amendments to rule 3301-35-04 of the Ohio Administrative Code. The Senate unanimously passed SB 229, which would temporarily extend the deadline to April 30, 2022, for a school district to submit a blended learning model to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) for the 2021-22 school year; require each school to complete and submit within 90 days a remediation plan to address the learning loss students experience during the COVID-19 pandemic; permit a school district to adopt a resolution that provides remote learning to a student whose parent requests remote learning; require a school that operates an online learning school to allow a quarantined student in a traditional district school to participate in that online learning school during the period of quarantine; waive the requirement for the 2021-22 school year that a student be automatically withdrawn from an e-school if that student fails to take a state end-of-course exam; prohibit the use of the chronic absenteeism measure on the state report card for the 2021-22 school year; add a school district superintendent to the state report card review committee; require ODE to calculate an adjusted four-year graduation rate for those students who were continuously enrolled in the same district or building in grades nine-12; exempt an online learning school from the current law requirement that school administrators develop an emergency management plan for each building under their control; and require a school district prior to entering into a contract to purchase real property that currently is partially or fully leased to a community school, STEM school, or chartered or nonchartered nonpublic school to obtain written consent from the school approving the purchase. Earlier in the week, the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee accepted a substitute version of the bill. The changes are incorporated in the above bill text. The bill now moves to the House. The House Criminal Justice Committee accepted a substitute version of HB 99, which would exempt the requirement that peace officer basic training be obtained by certain employees whom a board of education authorizes to be armed in a school safety zone and require that the employee meets or exceeds the training requirements for concealed handgun licensees to be eligible. The substitute bill also requires school boards to provide public notification if they have authorized one or more persons to go armed within a school. Additionally, the bill includes requirements for a person authorized to go armed within a school safety zone and adds various training requirements.

•**OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Dr. Christine Smallman shared several items of interest. A high school science teacher in Mississippi earned her scuba diving certification and is developing a culturally relevant marine biology curriculum, helping students to see themselves in the sciences. School districts across the country are working to fill teacher and staff vacancies with strategies such as recruiting former military personnel and adjunct professors, offering four-day weeks or signing bonuses and encouraging high school students to pursue teaching careers. In Massachusetts, the National Guard has been enlisted to help drive school buses, while a Nevada district is recruiting retired employees to work in special education. In Virginia, several outdoor math stations with garden-tending in between have helped improve engagement and comprehension and reduced stress among fifth-grade students. The U.S. Department of Education announced the 325 schools earning the National Blue Ribbon distinction for 2021. Among the schools recognized were 16 schools in Ohio. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing gaps among student subgroups.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Homer Hendricks shared the auditors have begun their annual review. They anticipate needing six to eight weeks for fieldwork with the final report being released early next calendar year. He also shared about health reimbursement arrangements as another part of our insurance offerings.

due to changes at the state and federal levels. Mr. Hendricks shared about the grant updates on the agenda with a focus on the Emergency Connectivity Fund providing devices to students and staff. He concluded with reminders for board members and administrator attending the OSBA Capital Conference in November.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Jill Gilliland reported on the Work Transition Program at Four County Career Center. At the end of the 2020-21 school year, eight students were enrolled. There are currently twelve students enrolled. Students participate in job training at community sites. Mrs. Gilliland shared examples of classes and activities that students with disabilities participate in as part of the general education curriculum. Examples include art, choir, consumer science class jobs on the school campus, prom, and homecoming. Thank you to general education teachers, intervention specialists, paras, and administrators who make this happen! The Special Education Office Team of Lisa Bailey, J Nichols-Ewing, Melissa Sears, and Jackie Fouty were highlighted for their teamwork and customer service. A recent site visit regarding the Early Childhood Education Grant was conducted by ODE. The reviewer selected locations in West Unity and North Central to review documentation, observe classrooms, check attendance and schedule, and verify implementation of curriculum and assessment requirements. The grant was found to be in full compliance with an excellent review. Thank you to Jessica Soltis, Troy Merillat and J Nichols-Ewing for their role in preparation and coordination, and to the preschool staff at West Unity and North Central for their excellent work.

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Andrew Hunter shared that the Curriculum Department hosted Building and Design of a Successful Program on October 12. Directors and leaders of extra-curricular and co-curricular programs in the area were invited to present their insights on developing and maintaining successful programs. The presenters were Tom Held of Defiance Baseball; Joe Frank of Archbold Basketball; John Poulson of Pettisville FFA; and Matt Neff, Brandon Knott, and Nathan Keel of the Bryan Art Department. Approximately fifty educators attended, many of whom shared that the event was an inspiring and interesting way to learn about area programs, as well as see the overlaps between them. A second session on Program Building will be held with different presenters on February 2, 2022. As districts begin the OTES 2.0 evaluation process, Mr. Hunter shared that the most common questions he receives are in regards to High Quality Student Data (HQSD). To address this need, the Curriculum Department has held workshops defining and breaking down what HQSD may look like within each content area. Since many districts only have a couple educators in their content area, the workshops offer teachers of similar content areas the opportunity to work together and exchange ideas. Mr. Hunter thanked Ashley Ensign, Sally Kovar, Jane Myers, and Stacey Parrish for taking the time to help lead the workshops. Mr. Hunter concluded by sharing his experience at the "Swanton Shake." The event is a soft skills competition where Swanton students are placed in front of community leaders to practice professional skills such as handshakes, interviewing, and the ability to stay calm under pressure. Mr. Hunter shared that the event is a great way to get the students and community stakeholders together. Preliminary discussions are taking place as to the possibility of holding a four county-wide amazing shake competition at the NWOESC.

•**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Chad Rex shared that the technology assessment on our Google Workspace environment was completed. The technology department will be reviewing it over the next month before they meet with the vendor to walk through all of the recommendations and details. Mr. Rex also reported that the Northwest Ohio Tech Leaders meeting took place on October 15th and the next meeting is scheduled for November 19th. Mr. Rex highlighted the good news that the ESC was approved for the Emergency Connectivity Fund monies. This is assisting with student and staff device upgrades, totaling 95 devices. Mr. Rex stated that the transition to Current Office for our workroom copiers/printers is underway and will be completed on November 4th. The energy project's close out date is pushed back to January due to manufacturing facilities that have temporarily stopped production of various electrical components. Lastly, Mr. Rex informed the board that the technology and operations department continues to work on the development of the new technology, maintenance and scheduling request software. All workflows are being created and tested.

•Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

•Minutes from the regular board meeting held September 28, 2021.

**•FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS**

-Above Pete's Garage to provide to NWOESC, 21st Century (Hicksville Elementary), Extended Learning Opportunities Services for the period of 10/27/21-6/30/22.

-Above Pete's Garage to provide to NWOESC, 21st Century (Defiance MS), Extended Learning Opportunities Services for the period of 10/27/21-6/30/22.

-Patrick Henry School District Public Libraries to provide to NWOESC, 21st Century (Patrick Henry Elem), Family Literacy Development Services for the period of 10/1/21-6/30/22.

-WORKS International to provide to NWOESC, Public School Works-a web-based safety, regulatory compliance, and risk management program for the period of 10/21/21-6/30/24.

-NWOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Augustine Catholic School, Occupational and Physical Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/21-6/15/22.

-NWOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Augustine Catholic School, School Psychologist Services for the period of 8/15/21-6/15/22.

-NWOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Augustine Catholic School, Speech Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/21-6/15/22.

-NWOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. John Lutheran School, Occupational Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/21-6/15/22.

-NWOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. John Lutheran School, School Psychologist Services for the period of 8/15/21-6/15/22.

-NWOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. John Lutheran School, Speech Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/21-6/15/22.

-NWOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Paul Lutheran School, Occupational and Physical Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/21-6/15/22.

-NWOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Paul Lutheran School, School Psychologist Services for the period of 8/15/21-6/15/22.

-NWOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Paul Lutheran School, Speech Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/21-6/15/22.

-NWOESC to provide to Swanton Local Schools, Afterschool Program Services for the period of 10/1/21-6/30/22.

-Memorandum of Understanding between Northwest Ohio ESC and the College of Education and Human Development of Bowling Green State University for teacher preparation program candidate placements in NWOESC classrooms for the purpose of participating in field-based experiences, including teacher internships/student teaching, effective August 1, 2021 through August 1, 2024.

**•THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE**

-Approve the payment of the following invoice requiring Board approval since a requisition was not submitted and encumbered prior to the incurrence of costs per board policy 6320 (then and now certification).

Farmers & Merchants State Bank (Energy Project loan, costs shared with NBEC)

**•LEAVES**

FMLA and Disability

**•RESIGNATIONS**

McKimmy, Cristy, Paraprofessional, effective 10/19/2021  
Moll, Kathleen, Paraprofessional, effective 10/22/2021  
Nardone, Emily, Paraprofessional, effective 11/4/2021  
Ordway, Jodi, Paraprofessional, effective 10/14/2021

**•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Classified Limited**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
Barnhart, Jennifer	CLASS-1 Yr	10/11/2021-7/31/2022
Beals, Wendy	CLASS-1 Yr	10/6/2021-7/31/2022
Cheney, Alexandra	CLASS-1 Yr	10/26/2021-7/31/2022

**Classified Limited School Year Enrichment**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
Keller, Emiley	CLASS- 1 Yr	10/1/21-5/31/22
Keller, Teresa	CLASS- 1 Yr	10/1/21-5/31/22
Mann, Donna	CLASS- 1 Yr	10/1/21-5/31/22

**Certified Limited School Year Enrichment**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
Eidenier, Victoria	CLASS- 1 Yr	10/1/21-5/31/22

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Teachers**

Patrick Henry - Laura Ellis-Kruse, Amanda Seedorf

**After-School Program Teachers**

Swanton Elementary - Renee Bardwell, Cherish Bradford, Danielle Herr

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Program Assistant**

Delta - Ashley Viveros  
Hicksville - Melissa Miles  
Patrick Henry - Kayla VonDeylen

**After-School Program Assistant**

Swanton Elementary - Lyndsey Croskey  
Swanton Middle School - Brooke Ostrander

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Specialized Education Assistants**

Delta - Jeanne Jeffers

**Substitute Paraprofessionals**

Richard Bitner, Kristine Dick, Carla Elliott, Mallorie Hannon, Jordan Lesinski, Denise Miller, Krystal Mitchell, Sarah Rogers, Beth Sammons, Julie Sensenig, Rachel Smith, Thomasina Zuver

**Substitute Teachers**

Aaron Betz, Richard Bitner, Jacob Ferrebee, Sylvia Hill, Carla Hinkle, Sandra Manon, Tracy Papenhagen, Julie Pauken, Joseph Pennington, Emilee Rankin, Jacqueline Singer, Carrie Zeiter

**Student Teachers/Interns/Volunteers**

David, Jonathan, Clinicals as a Rhodes State College student, Fall 2021, Spring 2022 Placed with Jenna Wessell  
Doran, Taylor, Methods Placement as a BGSU student, Fall Semester, 2021 Placed with Glenda Funnell  
Doran, Taylor, Student Teacher as a BGSU student, Spring Semester, 2022 Placed with Glenda Funnell  
Johansen, Sara, Methods Placement as a BGSU student, Fall Semester, 2021 Placed with Glenda Funnell  
Johansen, Sara, Student Teacher as a BGSU student, Spring Semester, 2022 Placed with Glenda Funnell  
Varner, Madalynn, Clinicals as a Rhodes State College student, Fall 2021, Spring 2022 Placed with Jenna Wessell

### **Van Drivers**

Nwoesc – Sara Fogt, Julie Zenz

- Approved the purchase of audit services of fiscal year 2020-21 from the Ohio Auditor of State.

### **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- A summary of 2022 Benefit Increases for Health, Dental, Vision and Life was shared:
  - Northern Buckeye Health Plan (NBHP) recently made plan changes/adjustments and set the health, dental, vision, and life rate increases for 2022. Across the consortium, the Traditional Access + healthcare plan will increase 8%, the High Deductible healthcare plan will increase 9.25%, and dental, vision and life insurance will see no increase. Staff will be receiving more detailed information as the open enrollment period approaches.
- Nwoesc Board of Education Vacancies Update – Districts 6 and 8
  - An overview of interest, inquiries and the upcoming appointment process was discussed.
- FY22 Core Services and Departmental Priorities
  - The Administrative Team developed and shared core services and departmental focus areas for the 2021-22 school year.
- The evaluation cycle process for Superintendent and Treasurer was initiated for the year.

•**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Superintendent Kerri Weir extended a commendation and congratulations to ESC Board Member, Brian Baker, who was recently honored with the “Distinguished Service Award” from Four County Career Center in conjunction with their Wall of Fame inductees. Brian has served for 26 years on the Four County Career Center Board as well as on the ESC Board. Nwoesc participated in a recent radio spot in collaboration with Napoleon Area Schools to share information on the substitute teacher and paraprofessional shortage and try to build up the pool of available substitutes on the consortium substitute list. The spot aired in late September with 103.1 WNDH. Fulton County Ohio Means Jobs visited the Nwoesc main office to shoot a short promotional video on open positions including teachers, paraprofessional, speech language pathologists and substitutes. The video will be used on YouTube and local TV channels throughout the month of November to promote area job opportunities. An administrative search service request was recently made, which initiates the planning and rollout development process. Training for area board members, superintendents and treasurers will be offered at the Nwoesc through a collaboration with OSBA. A review of the annual tuition reimbursement program was shared. In FY21, six staff members requested and were eligible for partial reimbursement based on Policy 3450. On 10/25/2021, the Ohio Department of Health updated its official advice to schools for how to handle direct exposure of students and staff to COVID-19 in school settings, saying that with certain masking and testing policies in place they should be able to avoid home quarantine and continue to play sports and participate in other school-related activities. The new ODH guidance, which is voluntary for schools, includes “mask to stay” and “test to play” options.

- A motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee was made. Upon exiting Executive Session, no action was taken.

•As all of the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm. The next meeting will take place on November 16, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.