

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held August 22, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Brian Baker. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

## REPORTS:

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker reported on several items resulting from the passage of HB33, the state biennium budget for FY24 and 25. DEW must provide reimbursements to school districts to make school breakfast/lunches free to all students eligible for a reduced-price breakfast/lunch at any public or chartered nonpublic school that participates in the National School Breakfast/Lunch program. Each school district that enrolls female students in any grades 6-12 is required to provide free feminine hygiene products to those students. A significant focus of the state budget bill in terms of student learning addresses student reading and the implementation of the science of reading. Additional literacy coaches, in districts most in need of support, will be provided to help teachers implement best practices. Governor DeWine recently announced the New Teacher Apprenticeship Program, which program looks to address the teacher shortage Ohio faces as well as create opportunities for those already work in our schools to transition to teaching. Candidates participating in the New Teacher Apprenticeship Program are also eligible for the new Grow Your Own Teacher scholarships. The General Assembly recently directed \$26.1 million in GEER funds to support the implementation of high dosage tutoring programs in Ohio districts and schools. The tutoring programs will be offered by six vendors funded through the Department. Tutoring programs will be offered at no direct cost to participating districts or schools. Funding for a new grant program for College Credit Plus will provide grants to school districts offering new College Credit Plus courses taught in secondary schools by high school teachers who have the appropriate credentials.

•**OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Dr. Christine Smallman reported on several items related to student achievement. It is suggested that teachers involve students in the process of storytelling by acting out scenes and performing sound effects as ways to engage students in the activity of storytelling. Restorative justice practices can help build stronger schools, as indicated by implementation in Maryland, by helping educators and students resolve conflicts and create healthier school climates. Emphasizing dialogue, understanding, and personal responsibility, restorative justice approaches help students, parents and educators address misbehavior, repair relationships, and prevent future conflicts. Students are finding studying support online using YouTube and TikTok to aid in and build community around study habits. They use hashtags like #studywithme to find others who need to buckle down and to hold each other accountable for study sessions. A recent article suggests it is beneficial for districts to shift focus beyond test scores, giving the public more meaningful information about what schools do. A program in Minnesota helps students who have aged out of foster care as they can now qualify for the state's new Fostering Independence Grants to pay for college tuition, housing, books, fees, and other expenses. The state has committed \$3.8 million to the program which has assisted almost 500 students. A recent survey by RAND Corp. found superintendents in the U.S. report higher levels of job-related stress compared to other working adults, with nearly 80% of superintendents stating that work is often or always stressful. Despite the high and frequent stress, 59% of the respondents said their job is worth it, and half said they're coping with the stress "well" or "very well." Just 2% said they're "not coping well at all."

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mr. Homer Hendricks discussed the two new 21st Century Grants for this school at Defiance Elementary School and Defiance Middle School. He also presented other grant allocations that ODE has recently released. Mr. Hendricks shared about the FY 2024 High Performing ESC application due at the end of August. He also reviewed OSBA Capital Conference registration including the hotel reservation process.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland shared that Early Childhood Screenings took place from February through May at the end of the 22-23 school year. Additional screenings were also held on August 10th and 11th. Over 800 preschoolers are currently enrolled in ESC programs. This includes 414 students who have IEPs. We will continue to hold screenings in districts that have openings for typical peers, including Napoleon and Defiance. Denise Sawan-Carusio from OCALI (Ohio Center for Autism and

Low Incidence) will be providing professional development with a focus on FBA's and BIP's for all preschool staff. Dates are September 25, October 16, and December 11. Heather Gaskins, SST Preschool Consultant, will provide this 3-hour PD for us on October 30th.

**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Andy Hunter discussed that the Curriculum Department kicked the 2023-2024 school year off with a bang! Welcoming over 200 educators for PD Palooza. The feedback we have received has been incredibly positive as people really enjoyed the keynote from Kim Bearden of the Ron Clark Academy. Mr. Hunter thanked everyone who jumped in and made the event an excellent start to the school year! Mike Remer, and Swanton Middle School had a big unveiling for their immersive mural. The unveiling was attended by Lt. Governor, John Husted, as well as representative, Jim Hoops. The mural, painted by the same artist that painted downtown Archbold, depicts Fulton County and all its many businesses. That mural has a QR code that students can scan and see videos/websites from area businesses. Mr. Hunter remarked that Mr. Remer has done such a great job helping to connect school districts to local businesses.

**•DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Mr. Chad Rex reported that several technology projects at the IEC were completed in recent weeks. New switches were installed in the network closets along with the security grant projects; new surveillance system, door access controls and panic buttons. Staff have received their new fobs for access to the building. Mr. Rex shared that Corey Todd was instrumental in deploying laptops and iPads as well as setting up staff accounts during this busy hiring period and start of the new year. Mr. Rex also reported that he has been working with supervisors, district personnel and vendors to coordinate new interactive panels in Delta and Ayersville classrooms. Further, he had the pleasure of working with Mr. Mike Remer on the Immersive Mural Project that was revealed on August 15th. He provided the solution for putting the digital image of the mural onto the ESC website with interactivity. At IEC, Chuck Lero coordinated the plaster and painting contractor to fix a few issues. Chuck worked hard to program and organize the door access system in time to distribute the fobs at the Fall Staff meeting. Larry Davis coordinated the delivery or pickup of vans to the assigned programs. Mr. Rex highlighted that he, Pat Turpening, and Larry Davis are excited about sharing that the 2023 Bus/Van Driver In-Service was a successful event. There were 357 drivers representing 19 of the ESC member districts. He shared that the team is coordinating a follow up meeting with the collaborative planning team to debrief and cast a vision for next year's event. The Ohio Learning Community, <https://www.ohiolearningcommunity.org/>, team concluded the final details in our migration to their online learning platform. The team was able to go live with the compliance courses including the two van driver courses. An announcement was sent to our district transportation supervisors.

•Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

•Minutes from the regular board meeting held July 25, 2023

**•DONATIONS**

-VFW Post 7424-Wauseon to IEC Activity Fund - \$1,000.00

**•AGREEMENTS**

-Defiance County Juvenile Probation to provide to NwoESC, Attendance Officer Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West to provide to NwoESC, Gifted Intervention Specialist Services for the period of 8/1/23-7/31/24.

-Henry County Common Pleas Court-Juvenile Division to provide to NwoESC, Attendance Officer Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Northwest State Community College, Clinical Education Experiences for the period of 8/1/23-7/31/25.

-NWOESC to provide to St. John Lutheran School, Occupational Therapist Services for the period of 08/15/23-6/15/24.

-NWOESC to provide to Swanton Local Schools, Occupational Therapist Services-St. Richard Catholic School for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NWOESC to provide to Swanton Local Schools, School Psychologist Services-St. Richard Catholic School for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NWOESC to provide to Swanton Local Schools, Speech Therapist Services-St. Richard Catholic School for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NWOESC to provide to Sylvania City Schools, Hearing Impaired Classroom & Related Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NWOESC to provide to Sylvania City Schools, Hearing Impaired Classroom & Related Services-Speech Therapy for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

**•LEAVES**

FMLA and Disability

**•RESIGNATIONS**

- Baden, Allison, Paraprofessional, effective 8/10/2023
- Beck, Brittany, Paraprofessional, effective 7/31/2023
- Braden, Eric, Tutor, effective 8/2/2023
- Gombash, Scarlette, Paraprofessional, effective 8/3/2023
- Martinez, Derric, Paraprofessional, effective 8/3/2023
- Peck, Joni, Paraprofessional, effective 8/8/2023
- Rhodes, Haley, Paraprofessional, effective 8/8/2023
- Schliesser, Sheri, Paraprofessional, effective 8/21/2023
- Siebenaler, Mary, Paraprofessional, effective 5/24/2023
- Vasko, Kayle, Paraprofessional, effective 9/1/2023
- Veres, Diane, Guidance Counselor, effective 7/1/2023

**•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**CONTRACTS**

**Certified Limited**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
Bryson, Kaitlin	CERT-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Reinking, Lynlee	CERT-4 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2027
Smiddy, Kristen	CERT-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024

**Certified Limited**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
Riley, Daniel	CERT-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024

**Classified Limited**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
Bice, Kayla	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Fonseca, Leah	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024

Funchion, Mikaela	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Gibson, Miranda	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Guyton, Elani	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Hanak, Marlo	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Peebles, Julie	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Pieper, Bethany	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Riester-Lumbrezer, Kellie	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Sager, Teresa	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Sheets, Blakelyn	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Snyder, Krista	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Vance, Miranda	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Wagner, Elizabeth	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Waite, Laura	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Westrick, Shawna	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Wright, Sarah	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024

**Classified Limited Daily Rate**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>
Avery, William	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024

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

Hicksville- Emily Sell

**ESC Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional**

Patricia Wyse

**Substitute Paraprofessionals**

Jenny Ackerman, Margaret Bornholdt, MaryAnn Bunke, Jane Lavoie, Randy Luke, Sheri Millenbaugh, Allison Schaffner, Heather Voyer, Emily Weatherhead

**Substitute Teachers**

Hannah Amrich, William Avery, Ami Batt, Kelsea Blaskis, Riley Bloir, William Blystone, Curt Bowerman, Eric Braden, Emma Chafins, Shelbie Close, Jenna Collins, Tamantha Dockery, Katelyn Eldridge, Scott Foor, Andrea Freimuth, Mary Garman, Kimberly Garrow, Robert Gubernath, Anne Healy, Anthony Hench, Susan Hug, Gabriel Jaramillo, Jami Jesse, Victoria Koelsch, Lisa Ludlow, Randy Luke, Ryan Mays, Jill McMurray, Jodelynn Meyers, Sheri Millenbaugh, Lennox Mitchell, Kathryn Mohler, Katelin Moquin, Erica Musshel, Kylie Myers, Rachel Orr, Craig Polter, Rebekah Rees, Austin Renollet, Larry Saxton, Allison Schaffner, William Schneider, Thomas Schutte, Barb Shaffer, Bailey Short, Rebecca Sivik, Janet Smith, Steven Suchocki, Tyecyn Towns, Christopher Walker, Karen Warncke, Tabitha Wolf, Blake Zeedyk, Carrie Zeedyk

**Substitute Office Coordinator**

Patricia Shotwell

**Substitute Bus Driver- IEC**

Jacob Bostelman

**Bus Drivers**

Nwoesc - Jacob Bostelman, Jennifer Brubaker, Larry Davis, Sherryann Frank

**Van Drivers**

NwoESC – Sara Buchenberg, Sara Fogt, Ashlee Grunden, Gina Nichols, Catlyn Pavel, Max Reinhart, Desiree Staugler, Michael Volkert, Adrian Whitney

- Approved a resolution for Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center to opt out of career-technical education for students in grades seven and eight for the 2023-24 school year and submit the waiver as required by ODE.

- Approved membership in Ohio Schools Council for the 2023-24 school year.

- Approved Mr. Brian Baker to attend COSSBA's Federal Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. from September 25-27, 2023.

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

- The Combined Calendar 2023-24, showing all district school year calendars at a glance, was shared with board members.
- The OSBA Northwest Region Fall Conference will be held on Oct. 26, 2023; 5:30 – 8:30 PM at Fostoria High School.
- Vocational School Appointments were discussed for Four County Career Center and Penta Career Center. Appointments will be made after the November General Election and terms will extend from January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2026.

•**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Kerri Weir reported the 2023-24 Administrators' Conference was held recently bringing area Superintendents, Treasurers, Principals, and other administrators together to gear up for the year with ODE, legal, and professional updates. The keynote was provided by Eric Sheninger, who spoke about leadership, technology, and learning; and the power educators have to implement practices that empower students. We had great attendance representing all 23 member districts, Four County Career Center, and NWOCA. The NwoESC, under the direction of Chad Rex, facilitated the annual bus and van driver in-service trainings held on August 7 at Archbold High School with over 350 attending this in person event. Nineteen (19) member districts, FCCC, and NwoESC participated. Thanks to Chad, Larry Davis, and Pat Turpening for their coordination of this event, as well as to Archbold Schools for allowing us to use their facilities. The first NwoESC Superintendents' meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2023 in conjunction with a quarterly Business Advisory Council (BAC) Meeting. The NwoESC BAC meets quarterly to share information and spotlight businesses and education collaborative efforts across our region. The Superintendent group meets monthly to discuss issues common across the region; receive ESC, legal counsel, and ODE updates; and network with one another. NwoESC continues to bring awareness of student loan forgiveness programs to our teachers and all employees. Two main programs exist for this - a Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and a Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program. Information is on our website regarding these opportunities. Staff are encouraged to investigate options that may be applicable to them. OESCA has commissioned new ESC client maps now available on the OESCA website: <https://www.oesca.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/ESCs>. The NwoESC Fall Staff Meeting was held on August 8, with a theme of "Every Day: Joy, Enthusiasm, Positive Energy, and Great Expectations!" Approximately 390 staff were present for the structured morning event featuring keynote speaker Amy Remer. In addition, ESC updates and resources were shared; and staff were recognized for milestone years with NwoESC (10, 15, 20, 25, 30). A big thank you to the many staff who helped make this day successful!

- **Milestone Years with NwoESC:**

- **5-Years:** Mackenzie Bishop, Rachel Cole, Debra Cook, Sara Fogt, Buffy Kelb, Alison Luderman, Hillary Moore, Brandi Nafziger, Debra Opdycke, Victoria Radel, Kristine Ritter, Cara Sterken, Nichole Tripp, and Patricia Turpening
- **10-Years:** Sarah Chafins, Warren Fauver, Jill Gilliland, Liza Gleckler, Lynnette Olnhausen, Melissa Sears, Shanna Sidle, and Dawn Sullivan
- **15-Years:** Mandi Johnson, and Melisa Rieger
- **20-Years:** Brooke Amspoker, Beth Bodette, Laurel Clark, Jill Fouts, Sandra Gearhart, Michelle Kruse, Jana Lentz, and Tiffany Wachtman

- **25-Years:** Jackie Fouty, Kam Greisinger, Michelle Krolak, Amy Kruse, Christina Parrish, Stacey Parrish, Joni Peck and Julie Zenz
- **30-Years:** Christi Ranzau

•As all the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 6:56PM. The next meeting will take place on September 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.