

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held November 16, 2021.

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

REPORTS:

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker reported on several legislative items. The House Higher Education and Career Readiness Committee held a second hearing on SB 135, which would require school districts to include in career advising policies information on career fields with associate degrees and certificates; provide information on the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and require school districts to adopt a policy on free speech that includes a process for a student or teacher to file a complaint due to a violation of the policy. The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee accepted a substitute version and passed SB 229. The committee held a second hearing on HB 333, which would require the state to recommend a job description for school counselors. The bill also would require public schools to consider those recommendations when preparing job descriptions and assigning duties for school counselors. Additionally, the bill would require the designation of a school counselor liaison at ODE. The committee held sponsor testimony on HB 403, which would require school district superintendents to file a report with ODE regarding a teacher who retired under threat of disciplinary investigation in addition to those who resigned under threat of disciplinary investigation. The Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee held a second hearing on SB 248, which would require, rather than permit, school districts to provide a moment of silence each school day. The committee held sponsor testimony on SB 233, which would require the State Board of Education to adopt licensure rules for school nurses and school nurse wellness coordinators and require membership in the state retirement system. The committee held sponsor testimony on SB 240, which would establish a process that would allow the merger of one or more community schools and nonprofit operators into a community school network. The Senate Health Committee accepted a substitute version of HB 122, which would establish and modify requirements regarding the provision of telehealth services of school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, occupational assistants and physical therapy assistants, among others. The substitute bill clarifies that the intent of the bill is to maintain the level of access and standard of care that was established through telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Baker reported on the recent OSBA Capital Conference delegate assembly meeting.

•**OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Dr. Christine Smallman shared several items of interest related to student achievement. Districts across the country are implementing unique programs and strategies to support learners – the use of music in math skills development, early college programs, using sports artefacts to enhance instruction, and story walks with picture books to promote comprehension. It was shared that many schools in our nation are seeing an uptick in disruptive behaviors that can be associated to stressors from the pandemic. In a recent report on 4-day school weeks, it was shared that approximately 1600 districts in the USA have implemented this model since 2019. While the four-day week can be popular among parents and students, research shows that over time it is linked to lower student performance. A shortened work week typically saves districts a small amount of cash. On their day out of school, students are typically working, doing errands, or spending time with family. Dr. Smallman also reported on the recent OSBA Capital Conference delegate assembly meeting.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Homer Hendricks updated the Board on the annual audit currently underway. He shared working with NWOCA on a replacement for the JOBS Listserv system that was taken down late in the summer. Mr. Hendricks also discussed beginning the program cost estimate review for the mid-year updates to be shared with districts in January. He reviewed the recent OSBA Capital Conference including sessions on unemployment and legal updates.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Jill Gilliland shared Preschool Rule Changes, including preschool classroom types and itinerant teacher caseload changes that came into effect this school year. Thanks to Jessica Soltis and our preschool team for ensuring that we are in compliance with the ever changing requirements. NWOESC recently learned that "Mask to Stay" guidelines may not always apply to preschools located in public schools. As COVID cases and/or contacts arise, our teams continue to work closely with

district administration and local health departments to implement procedures and communications to address each situation. The Work Transition Newsletter, developed by Intervention Specialists Catlyn Pavel and Adrian Whitney, was shared to highlight this unique program housed at Four County Career Center. Student learn skill leading to independence and job skills to become successful employees in the community.

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Andy Hunter reported that the Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development Department was fortunate enough to send several consultants to SAS in Cary, North Carolina. The week-long training gave attendees an in depth look at value added, and will allow Consultant Ashley Ensign, Kallie Gensler, Sally Kovar and Director Andy Hunter to become regional data leads. Being regional data leads will help NwOESC better serve area districts. The consultants met recently to plan out a “12 Days of Christmas” Snack Size PD series. NwOESC will be releasing virtual, themed PD starting December 1st through the 16th, culminating in a reveal of the 2022 PD Palooza keynote speaker. A variety of PR has been planned to promote the PD Palooza effort, which promises to be exciting and valuable. The department recently sent a survey to area principals to assist in identifying curriculum utilized at the building level across the area. The survey will be helpful to gain insight on strengths and weaknesses of various options and may be used as a resource in the curriculum selection process. Thanks to Ashley Ensign for heading this up.

•**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Chad Rex shared that the transition to new copiers/printers at the main office building has been completed. The fifty Chromebooks for IEC students have been delivered. Corey Todd has completed the set up and we will be deploying in the near future. Mr. Rex stated that Larry Davis has been working with the sub-contractors on the final stages of the solar array. The fencing contractor has recently completed their work and the landscape contractor will begin as soon as possible. Chuck Lero has moved outlets in the sewage pump house because of corrosion tripping the breaker and he replaced the water jet pump/motor for the water system. Chuck has also been working with contractors on heating system troubleshooting that is related to the implementation of the new system. Chad shared that he is working with Chuck and Jestine Curry to update the IEC cafeteria with tables and seating. They are also working with contractors to generate quotes for enhancing our surveillance system and door access system related to a grant opportunity. Mr. Rex is working with others on the assessment and narrative requirements of the grant.

- Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:
- Minutes from the regular board meeting held October 26, 2021.

•**FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS**

-Above Pete’s Garage to provide to NwOESC, 21st Century (Wauseon MS), Extended Learning Opportunities Services for the period of 12/1/21-6/30/22.

-Clinical Affiliation Agreement between Northwest Ohio ESC and James A. Rhodes State College for teacher preparation program candidate placements in NwOESC classrooms for the purpose of participating in field-based experiences, including teacher internships/student teaching, effective once the agreement is fully executed and will remain in effect for a term of one year.

-Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West to provide to NwOESC (EANS-Holy Trinity Catholic School), Personnel Cost for Remedial Specialist for the period of 9/1/21-6/30/22.

-Learn21 to provide to NwOESC, Database Software Maintenance for the period of 11/16/21-6/30/22.

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

•**LEAVES**

FMLA and Disability

•RETIREMENTS

Pacheco, Betty, OMEC Migrant Recruiter, effective 11/12/2021

•RESIGNATIONS

Eicher, Andrea, Paraprofessional, effective 11/19/2021
Gerdeman, Valerie, Paraprofessional, effective 11/26/2021
Mitchell, Krystal, Paraprofessional, effective 10/29/2021

•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Boyd, Brandi	CLASS-1 Yr	11/22/2021-7/31/2022
Haase, Sondra	CLASS-1 Yr	11/16/2021-7/31/2022
Harris, Melanie	CLASS-1 Yr	11/15/2021-7/31/2022

21st Century Program Assistant

Delta- Jennifer Hogan-Maynhart
Hicksville- Kayla Vetter, Elizabeth Yeaser

Swanton After School Program Assistant

Lynn Sarno

Substitute Paraprofessionals

Kelsey Crow, Rachelle Rowilson, Elizabeth Schmucker, Patricia Wyse

Substitute Teachers

Noah Badenhop, Wendell Beck, Glenn Christiansen, Adam Coon, Kelsey Crow, Christine Fraker, Rene’ Hadding, Mallorie Hannon, Alexa Leppelmeier, Ralph Myers, Victoria Rohlf, Rachelle Rowilson, Kaylista Underwood

Van Drivers

Evergreen - Keven Knight, Donald J. Schuster

•Approved a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Plan to be offered in conjunction with the High Deductible Healthcare Plan (HDHP) for eligible employees. Eligible employees are only those enrolling in the HDHP who are not permitted under law to contribute to a Health Savings Account.

•Set the annual Tuition Reimbursement Budget for 2022-23 per board policy #3450.

•Approved resolution for temporary expansion of the employment of substitute teachers effective through June 30, 2022 per HB1.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Policy Updates and Recommendations – 1st Reading

Policy 0169.1	Public Participation at Board Meetings	Revised
Policy 1530	Evaluation of Principals and Other Administrators	Revised
Policy 1617	Weapons	New
Policy 3217	Weapons	Revised
Policy 3450	Tuition Reimbursement	Revised
Policy 4217	Weapons	Revised
Policy 5111.02	Educational Opportunity for Military Children	Revised

Policy 5200	Attendance	Revised
Policy 5350	Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention	Revised
Policy 5516	Student Hazing	Revised
Policy 5630.01	Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports and Limited Use of Restraint and Seclusion	Revised
Policy 6114	Cost Principles – Spending Federal Funds	Revised
Policy 7300	Disposition of Real Property/Personal Property	Revised
Policy 7450	Property Inventory	Revised
Policy 8330	Student Records	Revised
Policy 8400	School Safety	Revised
Policy 8462	Student Abuse and Neglect	Revised
Policy 8740	Bonding	Revised

- Reviewed NwOESC BOE vacancies in Districts 6 and 8; the application window will remain open through mid-December, with appointments taking place in January per ORC.
- Commendations were extended to Brian Baker and Ron Crawford for each receiving an OESCA Distinguished Service Award by serving at least 20 years as a district, vocational school or ESC board member.

•**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Kerri Weir shared that NwOESC has been designated for the 6th year in a row as a High Performing ESC. All ESCs in Ohio achieved this designation for FY22 (based on FY21 data), further reinforcing the effective model of shared services for quality and efficiencies. In total, our five selected primary services (Visual Impairment Services, Speech Therapy, Gifted Supervision, Occupational Therapy, and School Psychology) demonstrated a 17.55% total cost savings (\$842,936) to member districts. NwOESC provides many other services equally valuable and cost effective. Collectively statewide, ESCs demonstrated \$75,345,360 in cost savings through the HPESC exercise. NwOESC is finding that not all preschools located in public schools are able to utilize the “Mask to Stay” guidelines from ODH,. We continue to work through situations on a case by case basis. Many thanks to our Special Education Department (Jill and Supervisors) and Kathy Soards for their constant communication and collaboration with school administration and health departments.

•A motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of consideration of the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or a public official was taken. No further action was taken.

•As all of the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. The next meeting will take place on December 21, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.