

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held July 25, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Brian Baker. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORTS:

•**OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Dr. Christine Smallman reported on several items related to student achievement. She shared an article indicating evidence-based practices are needed to resolve the reading crisis. According to a community manager for Reading Horizons, just one-third of American students are reading proficiently by fourth grade. The science of reading approach, based on research from cognitive science, linguistics, and neuroscience, offers more effective practices for teaching reading. In another article, the importance and power of body language was highlighted. Crossing your arms, fidgeting, not making eye contact, or slumping your shoulders while interacting with others may be communicating disinterest, nervousness, or lack of confidence. The author suggests, "To improve your nonverbal communication, try to focus on being still and present in your body." The final article shared that physical textbooks are still a core resource in education. They play a key role in building structure and curriculum in classrooms, even as digital content becomes more prevalent. However, digital textbooks have benefits as well, allowing for flexibility and customization in lesson planning.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mr. Homer Hendricks presented renewed grants for fiscal year 2024 along with the status of grants continuing from the previous fiscal year. He discussed this fall's OSBA Capital Conference including registration requests. Mr. Hendricks also shared about a meeting with the independent public accounting firm that will be conducting the ESC's annual audits for the next five years.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland provided a departmental update. Thank you to Lisa Bailey for managing classroom supply orders and preparing these for teachers. We are making final adjustments to our staffing plan in preparation for the new school year. We are planning walk-in interviews for paraprofessionals on August 2. Thank you to Michelle Kruse for working to find a creative solution to our need for an Educational Audiologist. Michelle has reached out to private providers and staffing agencies, as we have not been able to hire directly. Some of the "new school year" activities for early August will include working with new teachers to prepare their classrooms, helping new team members to prepare schedules and access resources they'll need to be successful, delivering new furniture, redistributing furniture and therapy equipment as classroom needs have changed, attending IEP meetings for students who are new to our programs, and preparing for professional development.

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Andy Hunter shared that the curriculum department is gearing up for our kickoff to the school year, PD Palooza on August 1! He noted that they have just shy of 250 educators that have signed up to hear Kim Bearden, co-founder of the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta speak. Relevant breakout sessions, food trucks, and book sales are just some of the exciting things taking place in what should be an awesome event to get educators excited about the upcoming school year! Mr. Hunter then discussed the new mural that is being completed at Swanton Middle School. The vision is an immersive mural that will help students better understand the job opportunities right here in Northwest Ohio. The artist that completed the mural in downtown Archbold was hired to complete the mural in Swanton Middle School that will be a layout of businesses in Fulton County. Each business that is participating is then making a short video or message about what their business does, and the job opportunities that they have available for students. The mural will have ways to scan the different businesses located on the mural and students can then learn more about each! It is a really unique and cool idea that we can continue to fight the labor shortage facing our area.

•**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Mr. Chad Rex reported that the technology department has been processing new and repurposed equipment to meet staffing needs for the coming year. The IEC building is receiving 25 new staff and student chromebooks. Mr. Rex shared that the hardware portion of the network closet project was completed at the main office. Mr. Rex and Corey Todd will be organizing the

cabling over the coming months. A similar project will occur at the IEC within this school year. Mr. Rex also reported that the wireless network was updated to a new system and hardware. The grant projects are in progress at the IEC. A new surveillance system, door access controls and panic buttons are being installed this month. At the IEC, Chuck Lero is diligently working on building preparation work while also completing several projects related to the grounds. Playground areas received new mulch. New signposts and signs are being installed. The modular had a new entry deck installed as well as landscape and parking stones which increased the number of parking spots. The parking lot is being striped including the addition of parking spaces along the entryway. Larry Davis completed the landscaping project at the main office building as well as the installation of new handicap signposts and signs. He has been assisting in the moves of classroom equipment from district to district as well. Larry and Crystal Blevins have done an outstanding job preparing the building and grounds for our upcoming events and school year. Larry continues to coordinate our schedule of events and assisting in much of the behind the scenes work that makes the events shine. Mr. Rex also highlighted that he, Larry Davis, and Pat Turpening have completed the final details of the annual Van/Bus Driver In-Service which takes place on August 7th. There are close to 500 drivers registered! Pat has completed reviews of all our online compliance training courses as a part of the training platform migration to the new Ohio Learning Community. Pat revised much of the van driver content, edited all courses, and tested the courses as a "student" to ensure a quality experience for future learners. The team was able to go live with the courses on the online training webpage within the Professional Development section of our website.

- Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

- Minutes from the regular board meeting held June 20, 2023

- AGREEMENTS**

- Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities to provide to NWOESC, Annual Membership for the period of 7/1/23-6/30/24.

- Ohio Coalition for the Equity and Adequacy of School Funding to provide to NWOESC, Annual Membership for the period of 7/1/23-6/30/24.

- Veregy to provide to NWOESC, Professional Maintenance Services for the period of 7/5/23-7/5/25.

- NWOESC to provide to Central Local Schools, Extended School Year Paraprofessional Services for the period of 6/5/23-8/18/23.

- NWOESC to provide to Four County Career Center, Education Consultant Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

- NWOESC to provide to Fulton County Job & Family Services, Workforce Development Case Manager Career Coach Services for the period of 7/1/23-6/30/24.

- NWOESC to provide to Otsego Local Schools, Extended School Year Services-Vision for the period of 6/1/23-8/18/23.

- NWOESC to provide to Stryker Local Schools, Instructional Services at the Liberty Education Center for the 2023-24 academic year.

- NWOESC to provide to Williams County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Summer Enrichment Program Services for the period of 7/5/23-7/27/23.

- LEAVES**

- FMLA and Disability

- RESIGNATIONS**

- Arnett, Annie, Intervention Specialist, effective 7/10/2023

Britton, Bradley, Tutor, effective 7/31/2023
 Geldien, Mylee, Paraprofessional, effective 7/31/2023
 Grant, Andrea, Paraprofessional, effective 7/31/2023
 Hahn, Robyn, Intervention Specialist, effective 7/31/2023
 Kuhlman, Madelyn, Intervention Specialist, effective 7/31/2023
 Nadeau, Amber, Paraprofessional, effective 7/31/2023
 Ohlrich, Brittany, Paraprofessional, effective 7/31/2023
 Rose, Ellie, Paraprofessional, effective 7/31/2023
 Wade, Jennifer, Intervention Specialist, effective 8/14/2023

•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTRACTS

Certified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Beck, Amy	CERT-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Botjer, Kaylee	CERT-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Englehart, Jamie	CERT-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Knepley, Molly	CERT-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Nelson, Natalie	CERT-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Warner, Page	CERT-1 YR	6/1/2023-7/31/2023

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Babcock, Makayla	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Ball, Lisa	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Beaverson, Courtni	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Clutter, Valerie	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Heisinger, Kathleen	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Konrad, Katelyn	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Martinez, Stephanie	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Miller, Lindsay	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Nichols, Gina	CLASS-2 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2025
Treace, Savannah	CLASS-1 YR	8/1/2023-7/31/2024

Classified Limited Summer Year Enrichment

Name	Contract	Length
Keller, Dayton	CLASS-1 YR	6/5/2023-7/31/2023

Certified Supplemental

Weber, Julie	CPI-1 YR	6/22/2023-6/30/2024
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Rescind the offer of employment for the 2023-2024 employment contract

Winkler, Malorie, Intervention Specialist, Declined the offer

Substitute Paraprofessionals

Kamie Beck, Pamela Bernath, Dawn Buskirk, Debra Carter, Piyawan Chapman, Deborah LaForrest, Alissa Mireles, Dale Openlander, Jennifer Ziegler

Substitute Teachers

Donna Baldassari, Christiana Bauer, Kendra Beck, Brittani Benavides, Pamela Bernath, Gary Bidlack, Clinton Bostelman, Karen Burns, Karen Chamberlin, Piyawan Chapman, Kelsey Crow, Megan DeGroff, Peggy Delp, Susan Dominique, Drena Doseck, Alexandra Dorothy, Samantha Elendt, Addison Elser, Pattie Fee, Phillip Fogle, Kay Ford, Glen Fressie, Shawn Glenn, Jeffery Gonzales, Eleazar Gracia, Deborah Guelde, Bryon Hansel, James Harris, Jennifer Heisler, Debora Herring, Quinn Horn, Ashley Hurst, Leslie Jessing, Amanda Juillard, Jeffrey Keim, Christopher Kirkhum, Samuel Luthi, Jill Mack, Gregory Myers, Ralph Myers, Renee Myers, Renee Osten, Roger Pence, Steven Pieracini, Lexie Poulson, Elaine Prentis, Cynthia Schlatter, Sheri Schliesser, Steven Schlosser, Darian Schnitkey, Richard Selgo, Andrea Short, Jacqueline Singer, Kelly Smith-Masterson, Susan E. Smith, Catherine Stockburger, Cody Stuckey, Timothy Thompson, Julie Van Wormer, Cassidy Wachtman, Karen Walker, Emmalyn Westrick, Layton Willson, Susan Wines, Donna Wipfli, Denise Wright, Kimberly Wyse, Carly Zeiter, Jennifer Ziegler, Maurice Zuver

Student Teachers/Interns/Volunteers

Fackler, Shelby, Student Teacher as a BGSU Student, Fall Semester, 2023 Placed with Julie Shawber Schweller, Lindsay, Field Experience as a University of Toledo student, Fall Semester 2023, Placed with Amie Ham

Summer Honors Academy Teacher

Theresa Rickenberg

•Approved NwOESC Handbooks for the 2023-24 School Year as recommended:

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

•Approved Resolution to Authorize Employer Pickup of STRS Contributions for the Superintendent

•Approved the temporary placement of Sandra Klausing as Early Childhood Intervention Specialist assigned to the Defiance Local School District for the 2023-2024 school year. Employee will return to the current position (Paraprofessional) for the 2024-2025 school year.

•Appointed Christine Smallman as the delegate and Jim George as the alternate delegate to the Ohio School Board Association 2023 Capital Conference business meeting.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- The 2022-23 Annual Report on Food and Beverage Sold on School Premises was shared.
- Vocational School Appointments with terms ending 12/31/2023 were discussed.
- A reminder to file Nominating Petitions with the Fulton County Board of Elections for the 2023 November General Election was shared.
- An overpass project notification was shared concerning the proposed a project to raise County Road 185 over US 24 by constructing an overpass to improve safety and traffic movement on the US 24 corridor in the area of Jewell. The Board has been notified personnel from ODOT, Compass Infrastructure or Patrick Engineering may enter ESC property in the vicinity (IEC) per ORC authorization within the coming weeks to obtain specific field data.

•**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Kerri Weir reported the Pike-Delta-York Superintendent Search has concluded and Jon Burke was selected as the new leader of the district. NwOESC Administrative Staff and Directors have completed evaluations and information has been submitted into the Ohio Evaluation System, the state data collection system for OPES and OTES. For 2023, Ohio's sales tax holiday is from Friday, August 4, 2023 at 12:00 a.m. to Sunday, August 6, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. There is no limit on the number of items, and the break is available for items purchased online as well as in store. During the holiday, the following items are exempt from sales and use tax: An item of clothing priced at \$75 per item or less; An item of school supplies priced at \$20 per item or less; and an item of school instructional material priced at \$20 per item or less. Items used in a trade or business are not exempt under the sales tax holiday. Additional information can be found here: <https://tax.ohio.gov/help-center/faqs/sales-and-use-tax-sales-tax-holiday/sales%20and-use-tax-sales-tax-holiday>. NwOESC was selected by Ohio Means Jobs|Fulton County for a "Feature Friday" commercial to promote employment opportunities in education at our agency and area schools. The commercial will air on Fox 36, 13 ABC, Fulton County internal TVs, Facebook, Instagram, twitter, LinkedIn, Skye Cinema, YouTube, and audio will air on 96.1 WMTR and 94.3 The Buck. As an additional thank you for our partnership, OMJ Fulton County created a substitute teacher and paraprofessional billboard that will display in Archbold and Wauseon. NwOESC was recently awarded at Sources of Strength Collaboration Grant, thanks to the efforts of ESC School Climate Facilitator, Julie Weber. Sources of Strength is an evidence-based prevention program for students in kindergarten – 12th grade that uses curricula and strategic messaging campaigns to build protective factors and transform school culture. The funding will be used to support our School Climate Facilitators and their work with districts in the area and region. Superintendent Weir recognized and commended staff for their hard work this summer as we prepare for the start of the new year. The ESC is filled with staff who display positivity, creativity, and dedication in their efforts as we work together to ensure great services to the districts, students, and families in northwest Ohio.

•As all the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM. The next meeting will take place on August 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with the Audit/Finance Committee meeting prior (5:30 pm) at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.