

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held February 24, 2026.

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 p.m. by President Kelly Hug. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **REPORTS:**

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker reported on several legislative items of interest. He shared that the FY27-28 capital budget process is officially underway, with state agencies preparing their funding requests, including the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, which supports public school district facilities projects. He noted that, beyond state agency needs, the capital budget also provides an avenue for bond-eligible community projects to advance through the legislature. A March 12 deadline has been set for capital budget applications from legislative districts, and both chambers have indicated an intent to complete the capital budget before June. He reported recent Senate activity, including adoption of HCR 22 by a unanimous vote. The resolution encourages students in grades 1 through 12 to read the U.S. Declaration of Independence in classrooms during the 2025-2026 school year in recognition of the document's 250th anniversary. Mr. Baker also shared that the Department of Children and Youth has released a draft Early Care and Education School-Based Preschool Field Guide for public comment. The guide is intended to provide transparency around monitoring regulatory requirements, offer best practices to support compliance, share resources to improve quality, and promote consistent interpretation of rules and monitoring approaches. Public comment on the draft guide is open through February 27, 2026. In Senate Education Committee updates, Mr. Baker reported that SB 330 received testimony and would allow school districts to count mental health days as excused absences. He noted that HB 462 was also heard and would allow students to possess and use a nasal epinephrine delivery device in public and private schools, in addition to the epinephrine autoinjector already permitted under current law. He shared that HB 455 received its first hearing and would make a range of changes related to public school operations and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, including removing outdated provisions in education law. He also noted that SB 318 received a second hearing and would authorize a law enforcement agency to provide school resource officer services to a chartered nonpublic school, and that SB 311 also received a second hearing as an omnibus proposal addressing various operational requirements for public and chartered nonpublic schools. In House Education Committee updates, Mr. Baker reported that HB 500 was passed by the committee and would designate a school district's JROTC program as a career-technical education program. He also shared that HB 597 was amended and would prohibit unmanned aerial vehicles from operating over schools, with an adopted amendment extending similar protections to stand-alone childcare facilities. Mr. Baker concluded by noting that HB 684 has been introduced and would modify the structure and operations of educational service centers in Ohio. He explained that the bill would redefine an ESC's territory based on the school districts that hold primary service agreements with the ESC, and it would revise the formation of ESC governing boards by moving toward an election model tied to voters in the districts with those primary service agreements rather than relying on prior structures linked to county boundaries. He further noted that, if enacted as introduced, HB 684 would be detrimental to ESC operations and governance by creating additional structural complexity and potential instability in board composition, which could undermine continuity, regional coordination, and long-term service planning.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mrs. Abby Lorenzen shared that the FY27 initial estimates were sent out on February 17. The estimates are based on mid-year student counts and staffing, along with updated salaries, benefits, and any district changes already provided. Districts are asked to share any service changes as soon as possible and return approved estimates by April 1 so everything can be processed for the new fiscal year. There are a few grant updates this month, including a new FY26 School Safety Training Grant that helps cover CPI training and materials for NwOESC and district staff. She also announced that the FY25 audit has been approved and NwOESC received another clean audit - thanks to the team for their continued hard work and attention to compliance. Reminders:

- Records Commission Meeting – March 24 (after the regular meeting)
- Audit/Finance Committee Meeting – April 28 (before the regular meeting)

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland shared the following update: NwOESC currently has 53 students approved for the Early Childhood Education (ECE) grant and are working to increase that number. More information will be shared about this grant opportunity with parents at Early Childhood Screenings this spring. Beginning this spring, NwOESC has transitioned from the Early Learning Assessment to the GOLD Assessment, which is part of a curriculum grant through DCY. Teachers are now using iPads to document student data directly within the system. Additionally, Jessica Fredrick has been participating in IDEA Monitoring for Preschool work sessions and is developing the required documentation outlining our processes and collaboration with member

districts. Mrs. Curry continues to communicate with school districts about potential autism classroom services for students. On February 13th, the IEC staff completed ALICE training, and the Emergency Management Test and Plan were reviewed. Thank you to Stacey Parrish and Jessie Curry for collaborating with the Defiance County Sheriff's Department to provide this important training. Mrs. Gilliland shared that despite regional shortages of hearing impairment (HI) intervention specialists and educational audiologists, NwOESC is fortunate to have a strong audiology team. Skyler Joseph, Educational Audiologist, and Lisa (Giesige) Gondwe, HI Intervention Specialist/Audiologist Assistant are supporting districts inside as well as outside of our usual service region for a time period this semester.

**•DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Andrew Hunter shared that Assessment Coaching continues to grow as a strong and impactful service within the curriculum department. Through this work, educators partner with the team to better understand Ohio's state assessments and strengthen the connection between daily instruction and tested standards. The support includes reviewing released test items, analyzing student performance data, and helping teachers create rigorous, standards-aligned classroom assessments. Feedback has been very positive, with clear improvements in instructional alignment already being seen. Mr. Hunter also highlighted the success of the recent Grades 4–5 Math Counts competition, where students showcased their math skills in both individual and team events while celebrating problem-solving and academic achievement. In addition, the department wrapped up its professional development series with Missy McClain from Akron Children's Hospital, who shared practical strategies for building student resilience and using restorative practices in the classroom—timely insights as schools head into the spring testing season and continue supporting students' academic and social-emotional growth.

**•DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Mr. Chad Rex reported that the conference room audio/visual enhancement project has been completed ahead of schedule and under budget. He noted that staff are already enjoying the new additions and upgrades, which will be especially helpful during large events by supporting a variety of room set ups and layouts. Mr. Rex shared that he was grateful for the opportunity to attend the annual Ohio Educational Technology Conference in Columbus. He highlighted that the conference provided valuable insight into emerging technologies, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and evolving best practices across the state. Additionally, Mr. Rex stated that there has been significant activity in the office as plans are implemented for Miller Bros. Construction moving into the building this March. He explained that internet needs, office relocations, cubicle clean up and construction, and storage reorganization efforts are all progressing in a positive and timely manner. He added that improved common and flexible workspaces have also been implemented as part of this interdepartmental effort, and he expressed gratitude and pride in how the team is executing tasks efficiently and with excellence. Finally, Mr. Rex reported that the team completed 134 maintenance requests through the online ticketing system since July 1. He emphasized that both buildings remain in excellent condition due to the team's diligence and commitment.

**•Approved the Following Consent Items:**

- Minutes from the organizational and regular Board Meeting held January 27, 2026
- Financial Transactions – appropriation modifications, transfers and advances, and monthly financial reports.

**•AGREEMENTS**

**Approved the following service agreements and MOUs:**

-Northern Buckeye Education Council to provide to NwOESC, Internet Access Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/31.

-NwOESC to provide to Edgerton Local Schools/St. Mary Catholic School, Intervention Specialist and Title I Paraprofessional Services for the period of 8/1/25-6/15/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West, Audiology Services for the period of 2/2/26-6/15/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Pike-Delta-York Local Schools, Instructional Services at the Liberty Education Center for the 2024-25 academic year.

-NwOESC to provide to Stryker Local Schools, Behavior Consulting Services for the period of 2/17/26-6/15/26.

**•Ratify the following service agreement:**

-BlazerWorks to provide to NwOESC, Tele-Psych Services for the period of 8/5/25-6/12/26.

•Approved the NwOESC Salary Schedules as presented and to reflect a 3.75% increase for the 2026-27 contract year and a 3.75% increase for the 2027-28 contract year, along with other specified recommendations.

•Approved a Special Tuition Agreement for Jenna Storrer (Gifted Supervisor Endorsement) per specified in the agreement.

**•Approved Personnel Consent Items:**

**RETIREMENTS**

- Guzzonato, Kristi, School Psychologist, Effective 6/30/2026
- Link, Sara, Paraprofessional, Effective 6/1/2026

**RESIGNATIONS**

- Orta, Robert, Intervention Specialist/Floating Teacher, Effective 2/2/2026
- Parker, Laura, Program Nurse, Effective 3/25/2026
- Sullivan, Dawn, Paraprofessional, Effective 3/13/2026

**•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**CONTRACTS**

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Altamirano, Gloria	CLASS-1 YR	3/1/2026-11/1/2026
Edejer, Rosita	CLASS-1 YR	3/1/2026-11/1/2026

**Certified Notice**

**Name**

Ball, Madison

**•Approve the following teaching assignments for staff in positions listed for the Second Semester 2025-26:**

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location
Ball	Madison	Intervention Specialist	Independence Education Center
Bidlack	Melissa	Intervention Specialist	Independence Education Center
Burke	Bobbi	Intervention Specialist	Patrick Henry Elementary School
Cardarelli	Mallery	Intervention Specialist - Preschool Teacher/Itinerant	NWOESC Multiple Locations
Elton	Grace	Intervention Specialist	Wauseon Elementary School
Hollenbeck	Courtney	Intervention Specialist	Holgate Elementary School
Hoops	Adrienne	Intervention Specialist - Preschool Teacher/Itinerant/Floating Teacher	NWOESC Multiple Locations
Klausing	Sandra	Intervention Specialist - Preschool Teacher	Defiance City Schools
Liot	Donna	Intervention Specialist	Independence Education Center
Richmond	Karlin	Intervention Specialist	Edon Elementary School
Rodger	Michelle	Intervention Specialist - Hearing Impaired	Archbold High School
Rodriguez	Jennifer	Intervention Specialist	Wauseon Middle School
Seiler	Bronwyn	Intervention Specialist	Independence Education Center
Sevey	Winter	Intervention Specialist	Archbold Elementary School
Sidle	Shanna	Intervention Specialist - Hearing Impaired	NWOESC Multiple Locations
Thomas	Cheyenne	Intervention Specialist	Wauseon Primary School
Wiemken	Nikki	Intervention Specialist - Preschool Teacher	Northeastern Local Schools

**•Approve the following substitute teachers and paraprofessionals:**

**ESC Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional**

LeTisha Fether

**ESC Long Term Substitute Instructional Assistant**

Jessie Reader

**ESC Long Term Substitute Instructional Assistant**

Jodie Sabins

**Substitute Paraprofessionals**

Jennifer Balsler, Mariah Bryant, Natasha Lair, Jaimie Mason, Joseph Stefanelli, Rebecca Wilhelm, Erin Yoder

**Substitute Teachers**

Laura Ellis-Kruse, Gary Epley, Caleb Frank, John Harris, Katherine Hebbard, Aleigha Hillard, Pamela Kazmierczak, Cheznie Keber, Alexis McClain, Kenneth Norden, Ashley Plotts, Ken Sanford, Lauren Schuller, Brooke St. John, Joseph Stefanelli, David West, Rebecca Wilhelm, Erin Yoder

**•Approve the following Student Teachers/Interns/Volunteers**

Rau, Ella, Field Experience as a BGSU student, Spring 2026, Placed with Jody Mohring

•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.

•Approved the appointment of Ms. Stephanie Parsons as Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Board Member District 2 effective February 24, 2026 through December 31, 2027.

•Approved the appointment of Stephanie Parsons (District 2 - Fulton County) to the 4CCC Joint Vocational School District Board of Education to fill an unexpired term of office to commence on February 24, 2026 and expire on December 31, 2026.

•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.

•Approved a five (5) year contract with Abby Lorenzen as Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer commencing August 1, 2026-July 31, 2031. All other terms consistent with her previous contract or as approved by the governing board.

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- The NwOESC 2026-27 Program and Service Guide was shared with the board of education. This comprehensive document lists and describes NwOESC Core, Grant-Supported, and Fee for Services available for the coming year, and is available on the NwOESC website, under "Services."
- There was a brief review of a staff request for Retire/Re-Employment and discussion on the corresponding timeline.
- The OSBA Northwest Region Spring Conference will be held on March 19, 2026 at the Liberty Benton Local School District.
- The OSBA Northwest Region is planning an all-boards Open House at Northwest Ohio ESC on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. More information will be shared widely as details develop.
- A reminder was shared that the 2025 Ohio Ethics Filings are due May 15, 2026.

**•SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Superintendent Kerri Weir reported on several items. She shared that the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center is currently assisting with two CFO/Treasurer administrative searches - Pike Delta York and Archbold Area Local. The service center will be working with the district boards and leadership teams over the next few months to support these key hiring processes, and she expressed appreciation to the districts for partnering with NwOESC during this important work. She also reported on a Wellness Mid-Year Challenge being implemented through the NwOESC Wellness Committee. Supported by wellness grant funding, the challenge is intended to increase registration and engagement in the consortium's new wellness platform, Wellable. She explained that Wellable offers a comprehensive set of wellness supports, including events and challenges, on-demand classes, and individualized health coaching, and is available at no cost to staff members as

well as spouses and dependents. Grant funds will also be used to provide incentives for staff participation. Superintendent Weir thanked the Wellness Committee for developing the challenge and for its ongoing focus on staff wellness. Superintendent Weir noted that planning is underway for several fall events as the service center prepares to launch the 2026–2027 school year. She highlighted the scheduled dates and locations for Driver Training on Monday, August 3, 2026 at Archbold High School; the Administrators' Conference on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at NwOESC; and the Annual Fall Staff Meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2026 at NwOESC. She reported that NwOESC is hosting and sponsoring a regional Substance Use Prevention Breakfast on Thursday, February 26, 2026. Now in its fourth year, the event is a collaborative effort among area health departments, the ADAMHS Board, and other prevention-focused community agencies across Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams counties. She shared that NwOESC is proud to support this four-county collaboration by sponsoring the breakfast. Superintendent Weir also provided an update on the Rural School Summit 2026 hosted by CORAS, the Coalition of Rural & Appalachian Schools. She explained that CORAS held its first summit for rural district and ESC superintendents and treasurers on February 23 and 24, 2026 in Columbus, and that she and Treasurer Abby Lorenzen attended. She noted the summit provided a valuable opportunity to build stronger connections with similar districts and ESCs across Ohio, discuss advocacy strategies, and address common challenges. She added that 11 of NwOESC's 23 member districts are CORAS members. She shared highlights from the OSBA/ESC Board Member Basics training held at NwOESC on February 4, 2026. Superintendent Weir reported that more than 40 individuals attended, with OSBA Consultant Teri Morgan providing an overview. Attendees included both new and experienced board members, as well as superintendents, treasurers, and other administrators. She thanked OSBA for bringing the training to Northwest Ohio. Finally, Superintendent Weir shared that the nomination period for the 2027 Ohio Teacher of the Year is open through March 31. She explained that each of Ohio's 11 State Board Districts will select one teacher to be recognized as a State Board District Teacher of the Year and as a candidate for Ohio Teacher of the Year. She encouraged nominations and noted that additional information and the nomination process are available on the State Board of Education website at <https://sboe.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/otoy-nominations-2027>.

•**Adjournment:** As all the business of the evening was complete the meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm. The next regular meeting of the Board will take place on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH 43502.