

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held March 28, 2023.

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

A moment of silence was observed to honor the victims, school, and community impacted by the recent school shooting in Nashville, Tennessee.

REPORTS:

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker reported on several legislative items of interest. Governor DeWine has established a new cabinet level state agency - the Ohio Department of Children and Youth - which will oversee programs dealing with early childhood education, foster care, children's behavioral health, and the health of mothers and children. The House Ways and Means Committee recently held a hearing on HB 1, which would modify the law regarding property taxation and income tax rates. They heard proponent, opponent and interested party testimony during this hearing. The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee held a fourth hearing on HB 12, which would rename the Department of Education as the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) and would create the position of Director of Education and Workforce. The bill also would reform the functions and responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. SB1 is the companion bill in the Senate. The Senate Finance Committee held a fourth hearing on SB 6, which would prohibit the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) and School Employment Retirement System (SERS), among others, from making investment decisions for the primary purpose of influencing environmental, social, and corporate governance policies. The Senate Government Oversight Committee amended SB 44, which would require a state occupational licensing agency to accept electronic license applications. The amendment would allow state agencies to choose the system used to receive electronic applications for an occupational license, rather than requiring use of one selected by the Department of Administrative Services. The House Provider Services Committee held a second hearing on HB 47, which would require the placement of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in each public and chartered nonpublic school and each public recreational facility. The bill would also require the Ohio Department of Health to develop a model emergency action plan for the use of AEDs.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Homer Hendricks reviewed the move to an IPA firm – Clark, Schaefer, Hackett, & Co. – for the annual audit beginning next year. He also shared the current audit has been completed and should be released in mid-April. Mr. Hendricks commended the business office staff for the excellent work in getting a clean audit.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Jill Gilliland shared that we have posted our available teaching and related services positions for the 23-24 school year. Supervisors will attend job fairs at BGSU, the University of Toledo and the University of Findlay this month to recruit new team members. Early childhood screenings continue throughout this spring. Families can bring their children ages birth to 5 years old to these free screenings.

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Andrew Hunter thanked Michelle Hollstein and Larry Davis for all their hard work to make the annual Franklin B. Walter Scholarship celebration a success. He noted that the curriculum department hosted 52 students for the annual Math Counts competition and thanked Sally Kovar and Mike Altman for all their work on the competition. Lastly, he discussed that the curriculum department was in the early planning stages of professional development for next school year

•**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Chad Rex highlighted the successful release of the first phase of the password manager deployment and phishing email training initiatives. The password manager provides a secure and convenient way for employees to manage their login credentials, while the training program helps raise awareness and prevent cybersecurity breaches. Mr. Rex also reported that the technology office had supported the deployment of the LAMP iPad app to several intervention specialists and speech therapists, designed to improve the learning experience and communication skills of students

with special needs. In terms of operations, Mr. Rex shared that they had submitted purchase orders for the Ohio Facility Construction Commission's K-12 School Safety Grant Program, which will focus on installing surveillance cameras and door access controls at the Independence Education Center. This effort supports the ESC's commitment to the safety and security of both students and staff. Further, Mr. Rex reported that he also finalized an agreement with a new vending contractor, Firelands Vending, to provide convenient and high-quality refreshments for employees and guests. Finally, the operations team is currently developing plans and gathering quotes for various summer projects at both IEC and the main building.

•Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

•Minutes from the Records Commission and regular board meeting held February 28, 2023

•AGREEMENTS

-Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber, and Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co. to provide to NWOESC, Independent Public Accountant (IPA) Services for the fiscal periods of 7/1/22-6/30/27.

-PowerSchool to provide to NWOESC with Unified Talent (TalentEd) Records Services for the period of 10/1/23-9/30/24.

-NWOESC to provide to Anthony Wayne Local Schools, Instructional Services at the Liberty Education Center for the 2022-23 academic year.

-NWOESC to provide to McComb Local Schools, Hearing Impaired Classroom & Related Services-Speech & Vision for the period of 1/3/23-6/15/23.

-NWOESC to provide to Springfield Local Schools, Instructional Services at the Liberty Education Center for the 2022-23 academic year.

-NWOESC to provide to Stryker Local Schools, Instructional Services at the Liberty Education Center for the 2022-23 academic year.

-To approve Annual Service Agreements with the following districts for the 2023-24 school year per R.C. 3313.845:

- Archbold Area Local Schools
- Central Local Schools
- Defiance City Schools
- Edon Northwest Local Schools
- Holgate Local Schools
- Liberty Center Local Schools
- Millcreek-West Unity Local Schools
- North Central Local Schools
- Patrick Henry Local Schools
- Stryker Local Schools

•PURCHASES

-Meta Solutions to provide to NWOESC (Ohio Migrant Education Center) electronic data sharing and management, database web access and web site support, network support, and server support services from 7/1/2023-6/30/2024 with Title I-C (505-9240) funds.

•LEAVES

FMLA and Disability

•RETIREMENTS

Johnson, Mary, Paraprofessional, Effective 5/31/2023

•RESIGNATIONS

Moreno, Katelyn, Paraprofessional, Effective 3/15/2023
Paige, Sarah, Intervention Specialist, Effective 7/31/2023
Shaffer, Emma, Paraprofessional, Effective 3/9/2023
Sheets, Emily, Paraprofessional Effective 3/21/2023
Whitman, Lauren, Paraprofessional, Effective 8/31/2023

**•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
CONTRACTS**

Certified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Buckland, Danielle	CERT-1 Yr	8/1/2023-7/31/2024
Hug, Skeat	CERT-1 Yr	1/5/2023-7/31/2023
Yoho, Tricia	CERT-1 Yr	8/1/2023-7/31/2024

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Edejer, Rosita	CLASS-1 Yr	4/1/2023-12/31/2023

Substitute Paraprofessionals

Cheryl Johnson

Substitute Teachers

Addison Arnold, Riley Blair, Kiera Bohn, Shelbie Close, Ashton Kessler, Sam Krasula, Matthew Manson, Heidi Monnin, Makayla Murphy, Kylie Myers, Eric Nicely, Ashley Rall, Gavin Ritter, Patti Rosebrock, Molly Shea, Keshia Shoup, Hope Snider, Jacob Stiltner, Micah Weirich

•Approved the Annual Report/Joint Statement of the NWOESC Business Advisory Council submitted on March 1, 2023 as required by ODE.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- NWOESC Business Advisory Council Quarterly Update – December 13, 2022 Minutes were reviewed and shared with the Board.
- Presentation, discussion, and acceptance of public comment regarding the proposed Independence Education Center/Northwest Ohio Opportunity School Calendar for the 2023-24 School Year
- A reminder was provided to complete Financial Disclosure Statements due to Ohio Ethics Commission by May 15, 2023
- A commendation was made to Mr. Brian Baker for receiving the Neil Pohlmann Award of Excellence in Education through OSBA’s Northwest Region. This is an award of highest distinction.

•SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Kerri Weir reported on several items. The Holgate Superintendent search has concluded with Jessica Schuette accepting the position. She will begin August 1, replacing current Superintendent Kelly Meyers. The Archbold Treasurer Search has concluded with Joyce Kinsman accepting the position, replacing current Treasurer, Christine Ziegler, later this summer. NWOESC will be working with Swanton Local Schools on their search for a Treasurer/CFO for the coming year. Key staff at NWOESC and NBEC met for an annual main building facilities review and discussion as outlined in the 2016 lease agreement. Because both entities have interest in the building including shared funds (Maintenance and Reserve), an annual review of items affecting our entire building such as vendor contracts, repairs/maintenance, utilities, projects, funds, and insurance, helps to ensure all are informed. Jeremy Neff and Erin Wessendorf-Wortman of Ennis Britton, ESC legal counsel, recently started a podcast for special education topics of interest. Jeremy passed along his gratitude for Jill Gilliland helping with their

very first podcast - a parent advocates episode. The series, "On the Call Podcast," can be found at <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2116912>. Planning continues for NwOESC fall events as we look forward to kicking off the 2023-24 school year: PD Palooza – Tuesday, August 1, 2023; Administrators' Conference 2023 –Friday, August 4, 2023; Driver Training 2023 – Monday, August 7, 2023; and the Annual Fall Staff Meeting 2023 – Tuesday, August 8, 2023. Superintendent Weir shared that she is proud and blessed to serve on the Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition these past 11 years. The Coalition is supported by the Four County ADAMHS Board, and made up of various agency, community, and family representatives, is active in many awareness and support efforts. The mission of the Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition is to increase awareness, decrease stigma, and increase people's ability to seek help aimed at suicide prevention. The group's efforts include awareness campaigns targeting schools, communities, healthcare professionals and other sectors. A group of trained professionals serves on the LOSS team, which provides supports and resources to those who have experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide. For information on the Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/fourcountysuicideprevention/>. And finally, a special thank you to Linda Schlosser for coordinating monthly birthday treat/mini potlucks recognizing our NwOESC building-based staff. She is much appreciated!

- 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. Upon exiting Executive Session, no further action was taken.

- As all the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm. The next meeting will take place on April 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.