

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held December 19, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by President Brian Baker. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORTS:

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker reported on several legislative items of interest. The General Assembly sent HB 68, to Gov. DeWine for his action. The bill would prohibit certain procedures to alter a minor child's sex; and would designate this act as the Ohio Saving Adolescents from Experimentation Act. The bill also includes HB 6, which would enact the Save Women's Sports Act to require schools, state institutions of higher education, and private colleges to designate separate single-sex teams and sports for each sex. The General Assembly sent SB 91 to DeWine for his action. The bill makes changes to laws regarding fraud, waste, and abuse of public funds. The Senate unanimously passed SB 162, which would require public schools to provide certain academic intervention services to each student who demonstrates a limited level in math and/or English language arts.

•**OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Dr. Christine Smallman provided information on student achievement efforts: A manager at the nonprofit NWEA shared actionable ways for school leaders to better engage students' families. Recommendations included relationship-building, prioritizing collaboration, and employing multiple communication formats. Edutopia asked their audience of teachers to share the most unexpectedly helpful teaching hacks they have discovered over the course of their careers. Teachers shared practical tips aimed to make educators' lives easier while fostering a positive and effective learning environment. Teaching hacks from educators around the world covered topics like student engagement, assessment, reducing disruptions, clean classrooms, tech tools, and teaching advice. For more, visit <https://www.edutopia.org/article/22-effective-teaching-hacks>. Mae Jemison High School in Huntsville, Alabama has integrated Greenpower USA, enabling students to design and build race cars using digital modeling and 3D printing. The hands-on experience with power tools and composite lay-ups offers a bridge between digital design and tangible outcomes.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mr. Hendricks reviewed the results from the annual insurance open enrollment period. Overall, enrollments will increase on January 1st by seven for medical insurance and twelve each for dental and vision insurance as compared to November. He discussed the new activity fund for the Fulton County MD program to coordinate the use of donations to the program and the GEER II SNS fund which is a federal relief program for nonpublic schools that the state is working with ESCs to administer. Mr. Hendricks also presented mid-year program cost estimates are being compiled for distribution to the member districts on January 9th.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Gilliland shared an update on services for students with hearing impairments. Our team this year includes both in-person and virtual educational audiologists. This model of service delivery requires increased communication and coordination from the team. Students are receiving direct services, including audiological equipment thanks to this team effort. On Friday, December 8th, a Christmas party was held at the NWOESC for students involved in the HI program. We had record attendance this year. At last count, over sixty students had RSVP'd. Students look forward to this annual event, as it is a chance to meet peers from other school districts. Thank you to Ms. Kruse and Ms. Giesige for planning this festive event! Thank you to Kris Ritter, Alissa Brown, NWOESC Special Education Supervisors, and Stephanie Tyson, NWOESC SLP, for holding a PD meeting for our floating teachers and para. We greatly appreciate our floating teachers and paras and the support they provide our students and staff members.

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Hunter discussed the growing number of English Language Learners in the area over the last several years. One solution that the curriculum department is excited to explore is Kettletime Earbuds. These earbuds can translate forty languages and many dialects in real time for students. The hope is that these students can stay in their traditional classroom environments but understand the content in their native language. In

addition, Mr. Hunter discussed Math Pathways. He pointed out that over 80% of majors offered do not need Algebra II or Calculus for the student's future careers. Because of this, there has been a big push for "Algebra II Equivalency Classes." These classes are just as rigorous and challenging, but the content taught aligns better with many students' future aspirations. The pilot classes are Modeling and Reasoning, Data Science, and Discrete Mathematics.

•DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS: Mr. Chad Rex reported that he facilitated the monthly technology leaders meeting as well as the first of two transportation supervisors' meetings. Mr. Rex stated that he has been reviewing the ESC's Cyber Insurance Readiness Report, researching options, and developing next steps. Mr. Rex also highlighted that he submitted a grant proposal for this year's Ohio Attorney General's School/Law Enforcement Technology Linking Safety Grant. The IEC is eligible for this grant again. The IEC received this grant last year and implemented "panic" buttons that connect to first responders. This year we focused on an artificial intelligence system, Intellisee, that uses our current video surveillance system to monitor and alert based on potential threats. Mr. Rex also shared that Mr. Chuck Lero coordinated the installation of LED light fixtures in the front entrance stairway at IEC, creating a brighter, more appealing environment while also improving safety and security. Lastly, Mr. Rex shared that the new chiller was delivered on December 12th. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Larry Davis for his coordination on this project. Photos of the nearly 4-ton chiller being maneuvered into place by a large crane were shared.

•Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

•Minutes from the regular board meeting and audit/finance committee meeting held November 21, 2023.

•DONATIONS

-Kenneth & Linda Esterline to the Franklin B. Walter Scholarships

-Anonymous to the Fulton MD Activity Fund

•AGREEMENTS

-Institute for Multi-Sensory Education to provide NwOESC, IMSE Morphology Plus Training in literacy for June 3-7, 2024.

-NwOESC to provide to Purdue University Fort Wayne, Field-Based and Teacher Internship/Student Teaching Experiences for the period of 8/1/23-7/31/26.

•LEAVES

FMLA and Disability

•RESIGNATIONS

Alvarez, Megan- Paraprofessional- effective 12/11/2023

Hogrefe, Ashley- Paraprofessional- effective 12/15/2023

Stairhime, Madison- Floating Paraprofessional- effective 12/7/2023

•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTRACTS

Certified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Smith, Susan	CERT-1 YR	1/4/2024-7/31/2024
Bishop, Mackenzie	CERT-1 YR	1/3/2024-2/9/2024

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Bates, Gregory	CLASS-1 YR	12/7/2023-7/31/2024
Holbrook, Taylor	CLASS-1 YR	12/12/2023-7/31/2024

Johnson, Ashton	CLASS-1 YR	12/19/2023-7/31/2024
Kenner, India	CLASS-1 YR	12/14/2023-7/31/2024
Royal, Catherine	CLASS-1 YR	12/19/2023-7/31/2024

SALARY NOTICES

Classified Notice

Name

Wolfrum, Ellen

21st Century Program Assistant

Hicksville- Tamarah Chamul

Substitute Paraprofessionals

Amya Coulon, Eli Kolodi, Paige Kunsman, Jenifer Whewell

Substitute Teachers

Leslie Albring, Karsyn Ashbaugh, Lowynn Atkinson, Olivia Bergman, Kiera Bohn, Lillian Burkholder, Scott Chambers, Amya Coulon, Rhode Cusick, Rebecca Dadisman, Ann Frake, Lucy Jones, Gwendolyn Kinsman, Allison Kozina, Paige Kunsman, Morgan Leppelmeier, Caitlyn Lyons, Carlina Mansfield, Matthew Manson, Stephanie Martinez, Samuel Medina, Grace Meuleman, Alex Morr, Charis Netcher, Gunnar Oakes, Sarah Scheub, Chayse Singer, Kenneth Williams, Christopher Wood

Student Teachers/Interns/Volunteers

Bok, Jordan, Field Experience as a Purdue University- Fort Wayne Student, Winter/Spring Semester, 2024 Placed with Melissa Altman

Bok, Jordan, Student Teacher as a Purdue University- Fort Wayne Student, Fall Semester, 2024 Placed with Neely McGill

Van Driver

NwOESC – Mikaela Funchion

- Established the following for the 2024 Organizational meeting:

DATE: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

TIME 6:00 PM

LOCATION: NwOESC Conference Room

PRESIDENT PRO TEM: Deborah Gerken

- Approved the purchase of a 9-passenger, 2023 Dodge Ram Promaster van to replace the Ford Transit 9 passenger van that was canceled by Ford (cancellation of chassis production). A new vendor, Bus Service Incorporated, will provide the 2023 Dodge Ram Promaster van through the Ohio Schools Council's 2023 Spring bid process, which has been completed.

- Approved motion to recognize and commend outgoing board members for their service to Northwest Ohio ESC as appointees to our vocational schools: Mr. Ronald Crawford - Four County Career Center appointee (30 years of Board Service) and Mr. Bill Green - Penta appointee (28 years of Board Service)

- Approved proclamation. The Superintendent and Administrative Team recognizes each board member for their dedicated service to the NwOESC Governing Board, as January is Board Member Appreciation Month in the State of Ohio. We want to thank our Educational Service Center's governing board as well as those serving on area city, village, local, and joint vocational boards of education for launching Ohio's next generation through their commitment to our students, schools, and communities. The Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center urges all citizens to join in recognizing the dedication and hard work of governing board members who are launching Ohio's next generation through their commitment to our students, schools, and communities.

•Approved 2024 membership dues to Ohio School Board Association including subscription to School Management News (electronic & hard copy).

•Approved participation in the OSBA Legal Assistance Fund Consultant Service Contract pursuant to R.C. Section 3313.171 for the period of 1/1/24-12/31/24.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- The minutes from the NwoESC Business Advisory Council held on 09/19/2023 were reviewed.
- The Board was updated on the transition to BoardDocs LT for Board agenda development. This is anticipated to be completed in late winter 2024.
- The Board discussed the Safety Committee's recommendation to adopt policies regarding the procurement of Naloxone/Narcan for the Main Office and the IEC. Policy recommendations will be brought to the Board for consideration in January 2024.
- Board appointments will occur at the January meeting for 2-year terms for District 5 (Jim George) and District 6 (Mary Alice Nagel).
- Superintendent and Treasurer/CFO Evaluations have been completed for 2023.

•**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Kerri Weir shared several items with the Board. The Montpelier Superintendent posting rolled out on 12/15/2023. It is anticipated that interviews will be done in February, a new leader identified in March and transitioning into the position in early August for the upcoming school year. The Four County Career Center CFO/Treasurer search is underway. NwoESC is working with district leadership to assist the Board in their selection throughout the next few months. The Administrative Team is finishing district visits for the 2023-24 school year. A general overview and then discussion items pertinent to each district were discussed. The NwoESC Main Office held our annual "Christmas/Holiday Spirit Week" the week of December 11-15. Thanks to Linda Schlosser for heading up the coordination and for the many hands that helped. In addition, treat bags delivered to ALL staff – thanks to those who assisted in the delivery! The IEC Christmas Celebration is being held on Wednesday, December 20. Staff are preparing a Christmas brunch for the students, and all students will receive a gift bag with an IEC sweatshirt and other goodies. Thank you to the IEC staff and administration for the extra work it takes to make the holidays special for our students and to those who donated to make the gift possible. NwoESC offered picture retakes to our main office staff recently, using a photographer who came highly recommended – Ambria Photography. The photos will be used to enhance our website to better connect with ESC staff and external stakeholders. Homer and I had the opportunity to meet with our Ohio Migrant Education Center (OMEC) Director, Jose Salinas for a Yearend Report and Updates. Jose reviewed numbers and trends in identified and served migrant students across the state. There is an increase in identified students at the JH/HS levels. Programming continues to move from an onsite/brick and mortar model to an itinerant model, where services are brought to eligible students and families in their homes and communities. President Todd Hernandez of Northwest State Community College announced at the NwoESC BAC meeting in December the college's commitment to fund the cost of College Credit Plus textbook expenses incurred by school districts in the area. We so appreciate this effort to alleviate barriers to learner access and strengthen partnerships with area districts. NwoESC is hosting Board Member Basics training with OSBA on February 7, 2024 in the evening at NwoESC. The target audience is area board members and central office administrative staff. Registration is open through January 31.

•As all the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM. The next meeting will take place on January 30, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.