

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held October 24, 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 in memory of Brenda Wolfinger, NwOESC Paraprofessional, who passed away October 6th. Brenda had helped facilitate virtual speech therapy in several districts including Ayersville, Edon, Four County Career Center, and Northeastern.

REPORTS:

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker reported on several legislative items of interest. The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee held a third hearing on HB 214, which would require each public school to adopt a policy regarding certain expectations related to the performance of staff member professional duties. The committee also held a third hearing on HB 206, which would permit a school district to establish a policy that authorizes a superintendent to expel a student from a public school for actions that endanger the health and safety of other students or school employees. The committee held a second hearing on HB 147, which would make changes to teacher licensure revocation, teacher hiring practices and conduct unbecoming to the teaching profession. The House Higher Education Committee held a third hearing on HB 183, regarding single-sex bathroom access in primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education. The House Criminal Justice Committee passed HB 139, which would increase the penalties for assault if the victim were acting as a sports official or the assault is committed in retaliation for the victim's actions as a sports official. Mr. Baker shared Ohio Rep. James Hoops is proposing HB 257, which would allow certain public bodies to meet virtually by means of teleconference, video conference or any other similar electronic technology.

•**OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Dr. Christine Smallman provided information on student achievement efforts: Parents and educators have raised concerns about homework and questioned how effective it is in enhancing students' learning for some time. There are concerns that too much homework interferes with family time and play. Research suggests these concerns may be valid. Could four-day weeks lead to more progress for students? As school districts across the U.S. experiment with altered schedules to address chronic absenteeism and pandemic-related academic challenges, some are adopting four-day school weeks to provide students and staff additional rest and flexibility. While the long-term impact is yet to be determined, these changes aim to enhance the quality of education and overall well-being. Students' networking and social skills are vital for jobs. Eighty-three percent of students aren't confident enough to seek career advice from adults in their lives, much less new ones, and the lack of networking and strong social skills will hamper them in the working world, according to a Christensen Institute researcher. Candid conversations, practice and having students share their own expertise with adults can make networking more natural for them. Connecting with students who are English-language learners can be a challenge. A teacher in Minnesota shares strategies for overcoming language barriers and explains how traveling has enabled her to visit countries and regions where her students are from, experiences she says inform her approach and helps build bonds with students. While testing is often criticized for causing stress, cognitive scientists have found higher achievement in students who take quizzes, as it helps consolidate information and form long-term memories. Low-stakes, gamified quizzes are suggested to make testing more enjoyable. Finally, districts are encouraged to submit Student Achievement Fair programs and art by nominating them for the OSBA Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair coming up in November.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mr. Homer Hendricks shared the auditors from Clark Schaefer Hackett were on site last week to collect information for the annual audit. It is a new process which is going smoothly so far. He reviewed carryover grant allocations and budget updates as well. Mr. Hendricks reviewed OSBA Capital Conference processes for those board members and administrators who will be attending. He also presented information about the GEER II Support for Non-Public Schools program which the third round of ARP/ESSER funds for non-public schools that NwOESC is providing services for.

•DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION: Mrs. Jill Gilliland shared that team members have attended some fantastic professional development opportunities over the past few months, and we are grateful that we can support our educators in participating in these events. We are better able to meet the unique needs of our students and provide guidance and support to educators as a result. PD has included: Visual Phonics, Ennis Britton Roadshow, International Dyslexia Conference, CPI Trainer Autism Specialization, Reaching and Teaching Young Children Exposed to Trauma. The Preschool Curriculum Pilot with Creative Curriculum has begun. Materials have been distributed, and initial PD has occurred.

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Andy Hunter noted that the curriculum department continued to hold evaluation training for new administrators in the area. Holding an Ohio School Counselor Evaluation Training on October 5th and also planning to hold an Ohio Principal Evaluation System Training on October 25, and 26th for new superintendents and principals both within and outside of our area. Also discussed by the Curriculum Director was the excitement around hosting renowned expert, Brian Mendler as he works with educators in an effort to help teachers better manage these behaviors so that they can more effectively do great things in their classrooms for students. Finally, Mr. Hunter pointed out that Value Added data was released by the state on October 18th which provides districts another lens to look at state testing data.

•DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS: Mr. Chad Rex reported that he attended a demonstration of a translation scanning device offered by Perry ProTech. On October 20th, he facilitated our second Technology Leaders meeting of the year. The technology department purchased and installed several iPad apps for the Speech Language Pathologists. Mr. Rex and Mr. Corey Todd worked together on reorganizing the department's administrative management system as they continue their effort to improve the department's processes and systems. Mr. Rex received training on the panic buttons that were purchased for IEC through a grant. The team will be finishing the setup and installation in the coming weeks. Mr. Todd and Mr. Rex received training on the new video surveillance system that was purchased for our ESC school bus. Mr. Larry Davis and Mr. Rex met with Miller's Textile to solidify an agreement for services at the main office. The ESC is now using Miller's for both of buildings (main office and IEC). Mr. Rex is working with Ms. Mikala Carpenter in the business office to design and begin the development of an inventory form workflow that will exist in the current online request system.

•Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

•Minutes from the regular board meeting held September 26, 2023.

•DONATIONS

-VFW Post 7424-Wauseon to IEC Activity Fund - \$3,500.00

•AGREEMENTS

-Ayersville Local Schools to provide to NwoESC, Paraprofessional Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-Defiance Karate to provide to NwoESC, 21st Century (Defiance Elem), Extended Learning Opportunities Services for the period of 10/23/23-6/30/24.

-Defiance Karate to provide to NwoESC, 21st Century (Defiance MS), Extended Learning Opportunities Services for the period of 10/16/23-6/30/24.

-ESC of Central Ohio to provide to NwoESC, GEER II Support for Non-Public School Services for the period of 10/24/23-6/30/25.

-Unison Behavioral Health Group to provide to NwoESC (IEC), Mental Health Services for the period of 10/12/23-6/30/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Edgerton Local Schools & St. Mary Catholic School, Intervention Specialist and Title I Paraprofessional Services for the period of 8/1/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Elmwood Local Schools, Visual Impairment (VI) Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Hicksville Exempted Village Schools, Paraprofessional Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools, ELL Specialist Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Augustine Catholic School, Occupational and Physical Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Augustine Catholic School, School Psychologist Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Augustine Catholic School, Speech Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. John Lutheran School, Occupational Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. John Lutheran School, School Psychologist Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. John Lutheran School, Speech Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Paul Lutheran School, Occupational and Physical Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Paul Lutheran School, School Psychologist Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Paul Lutheran School, Speech Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools/St. Paul Lutheran School, Speech Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Ohio Department of Education, GEER II Support for Non-Public School Services for the period of 10/24/23-6/30/25.

-NwoESC to provide to Otsego Local Schools, Visual Impairment (VI) Services for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Wauseon Exempted Village Schools, Occupational Therapy & Other Related Services Evaluations-New Horizons Academy for the period of 8/15/23-6/15/24.

•LEAVES

FMLA and Disability

•RESIGNATIONS

Anthony, Leanne, Paraprofessional, effective 10/24/2023

Bice, Kayla, Paraprofessional, effective 9/27/2023 (position abandonment)
 Davis, Jaedyn, Instructional Assistant, effective 10/13/2023
 Gearhart, Sandra, Paraprofessional, effective 11/3/2023
 Ham, Amie, Occupational Therapist, effective 1/12/2024
 Opdycke, Hilary, Adapted Physical Education Teacher, effective 10/13/2023
 Rodriguez, Rebecca, Instructional Assistant, effective 10/27/2023

•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTRACTS

Certified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Radabaugh, Ian	CERT-1 YR	10/19/2023-7/31/2024
Morris, Alexis	CERT-1 YR	11/6/2023-7/31/2024

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Burill, Madelynn	CLASS-1 YR	10/10/2023-7/31/2024
Ewing, Vivien	CLASS-1 YR	11/6/2023-7/31/2024
Lavoie, Jane	CLASS-1 YR	10/13/2023-7/31/2024
Runyon, Kristen	CLASS-1 YR	10/24/2023-7/31/2024
Seiler, Bronwyn	CLASS-1 YR	10/23/2023-7/31/2024
Stairhime, Madison	CLASS-1 YR	10/10/2023-7/31/2024
Westbrook, Scott	CLASS-1 YR	10/27/2023-7/31/2024

Certified Limited School Year Enrichment

Name	Contract	Length
Eidenier, Vicki	CERT-1 YR	10/1/2023-5/31/2024

Classified Limited School Year Enrichment

Name	Contract	Length
Alspaugh, Kerri	CLASS-1 YR	10/1/2023-5/31/2024
Keller, Emilie	CLASS-1 YR	10/1/2023-5/31/2024
Keller, Teresa	CLASS-1 YR	10/1/2023-5/31/2024
Mann, Donna	CLASS-1 YR	10/1/2023-5/31/2024

Certified Supplemental

Shively, Cheryl	LPDC-1 YR	9/1/2023-6/30/2024
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Teaching Assignments for staff whose license do not align to positions listed- First Semester 2023-24

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location
McBride	Tiffany	APE Teacher	Multiple Locations
Thomas	Cheyenne	Intervention Specialist	Wauseon Primary MD

21st Century Site Coordinators

Defiance Elementary- Sandra Fackler, Renee Wank
 Defiance Middle School- Sandra Fackler

21st Century Teachers

Defiance Elementary School- Virginia Becker, Angela Buchanan, Emily Cikity, Cassie George, Julie Houck, Laura Martinez, Matthew Stouffer, Sharon Waldron
 Defiance Middle School- Emily Clark, Jenna Gibson, Nathan Headley, Jana Lucas, Amanda Rettig

21st Century Program Assistant

Defiance Elementary- Jenny Vincent
 Defiance Middle School- Aubrey Relyea, Michelle Scott

21st Century Specialized Education Assistants

Defiance Elementary- Shannon Lopez

Substitute Paraprofessionals

Kathryn Brown, Patricia Graffice, Dylan Leu, Ashley Martin, Stephanie Martinez, Morgan Tracy

Substitute Teachers

Braden Bumb, Stephanie Counterman, Doris Cuff, Dauson Dales, Caesar Gonzales, Hayden Dales, Mea Eberly, Christine Fraker, Pamela Gault, Micah Harmon, Hayden Hartman, Cassidy Hench, Jerica Hollenbaugh, Terry Humbarger, Richard Krutsch, Dylan Leu, Debra Mack, Ashley Martin, Chase Miller, Lindsay Moore, Madison Perry, Avery Ross, Mallory Shock, Sally Singer, Jensen Sonnenberg, Patricia Stambaugh, Morgan Tracy, Suzanne Wilson, Darlene Wolf

Student Teachers/Interns/Volunteers

Brown, Makayla, Field Experience as a Rhodes State College Student, Fall 2023, Placed with Matt Ferguson

Hancock, Shannon, field Experience as a Rhodes State College Student, Fall 2023, Placed with Jenna Wessell

- Approved the OpenCare Reference Based Pricing (RBP) Plan to be offered to eligible employees in addition to previously approved health plans - Access+ and Advantage High Deductible. Premium percentages set for single plan at 86% Board paid and 14% Employee paid; and family plans at 80% Board paid and 20% Employee paid.

- Approved resolution to make provisional changes to Board Policies and Administrative Guidelines and Forms to comply with HB 33. The bill made significant structural changes to the Ohio Department of Education, including renaming the Department of Education as the Department of Education and Workforce (“DEW”), created the position of a director of education and workforce who will be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, established within the DEW the Division of Career-Technical Education and the Division of Primary and Secondary Education, each of which will be led by a deputy director appointed by the director of education with the advice and consent of the Senate, created the “Department of Children and Youth,” created the position of a director of children and youth, and transferred most of the powers and duties of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the DEW, the Director of Education and Workforce, the Department of Children and Youth, and/or the Director of Children and Youth.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Policy Updates and Recommendations – 1st Reading

Policy 0141.2	Conflict of Interest	Revised
Policy 2623.02	Third Grade Reading Guarantee	Revised
Policy 3362	Anti-Harassment	Revised
Policy 4362	Anti-Harassment	Revised
Policy 5517	Anti-Harassment	Revised
Policy 5320	Immunization	Revised
Policy 5330	Use of Medications	Revised
Policy 5337	Care of Students with Active Seizure Disorders	New
Policy 6700	Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)	Revised
Policy 7440	Facility Security	Revised

Policy 8210	School Calendar	Revised
Policy 8330	Student Records	Revised
Policy 8650	Transportation by School Van	Revised
Policy 9160	Public Attendance at School Events	Revised

- A summary of 2024 Benefit Increases for Health, Dental, Vision and Life was shared:
 - Northern Buckeye Health Plan (NBHP) recently set the health, dental, vision, and life rate increases for 2024.
 - Across the consortium, the Traditional Access + Healthcare Plan will increase 4%, the Advantage High Deductible Healthcare Plan with a Health Savings Account will increase 4%, dental plans will increase 1.8%, and vision and life insurance will see no increase.
 - NwoESC staff will have an additional healthcare option - OpenCare Reference Based Pricing Plan.
 - Staff will be receiving more detailed information as the open enrollment period approaches.
- The FY24 NwoESC Core Services and Departmental Priorities was finalized.
- Superintendent and Treasurer Annual Evaluation Forms were distributed.

•**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Superintendent Kerri Weir shared that we are in the process of setting up district visits customized to the requests of our member districts. The purpose of the visits is to review and discuss current services and programs, answer questions about programming and/or billing, and to strengthen partnerships with our member districts. These feedback meetings will take place over the next few months with interested districts and various members of the NwoESC Administrative Team and District Leadership Teams. A pre-survey has been sent to district superintendents so they can indicate any items or topics of special interest. We are also offering to present at district board meetings to share basic information about ESCs and how our work supports that of our member districts. We are continuing our relationship with the Defiance County Sheriff's Office for part-time SRO support at the Independence Education Center. Jim Hall, Deputy Sheriff/D.A.R.E. Officer, is again filling this role. We appreciate all that Sheriff Engel has done to make this work. Staff from NWOCA, NBHP, and NwoESC will be meeting soon for our annual building safety meeting. Over the past several years, we have taken many steps to enhance building safety at both the Main Office and the IEC. I appreciate the work of Chad Rex, Larry Davis, and Stacey Parrish in these efforts: Annual drills/testing of the Panic Button alert to first responders; Emergency Operations Plans (EOP); ALICE training; PA system/surveillance systems; Emergency Response Guides; Door Access/Controls; and other safety efforts. We are working with OSBA to provide training at our ESC for interested Board of Education Members (ESC, local, city, exempted village, and vocational school) as well as district administration. The tentative date is Wednesday, February 7, 2024 from 5:00 – 7:30. Watch for more information which will be forthcoming. We are investigating moving to less paper/more efficient board meeting processes using BoardDocs LT. A demo has been scheduled for the Administrative Team and key office staff who have roles in agenda development.

•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. No action was taken upon exiting this session.

•As all the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM. The next meeting will take place on November 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.