

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held August 25, 2026.

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

NwOESC Consultant Mike Altman provided the Board with an overview of Ohio's Math Plan, best practices in mathematics instruction, NwOESC math supports, and area student achievement in mathematics.

REPORTS:

• **OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Mrs. Nona Rupp shared information regarding an upcoming OSBA training, "The Role of the Board in Student Achievement," scheduled for September 12, 2026. The training will focus on the Board's role in supporting student achievement, understanding student performance data, and working with district leadership to establish goals and priorities that support improved outcomes for all students. Board members are encouraged to participate as an opportunity to strengthen their understanding of the role of the governance in student achievement and to continue building their capacity to support district improvement efforts.

• **CFO/TREASURER:** Mrs. Abby Lorenzen reported ODEW released the FY 2027 Parent Mentor grant allocation, which remains consistent with prior years. The High Performing ESC application has been completed for FY2026, demonstrating the required cost savings for member districts and maintaining the designation needed for the federal procurement waiver. Mrs. Lorenzen will also register board members and administrators for the OSBA Capital Conference and reserve hotel rooms when the housing portal opens September 15.

• **DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland shared information about the start of the year. Kicking off a new school year takes tremendous teamwork, communication, and flexibility. NwOESC staff have done an outstanding job preparing for the year, supporting new team members, and adapting to unexpected challenges. Mrs. Gilliland is confident area students will have a positive start across all programs. The IEC is already off to a great start! Educators were prepared and ready to support students as they transitioned back to school. With new staff joining a strong team of experienced educators, there is a lot of positive energy and excitement for the year ahead.

• **DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Andy Hunter reported that the Curriculum Department has been busy supporting districts as they begin the new school year, with consultants providing assistance in a variety of areas including mathematics, OTES, instructional practices, master scheduling, and other back-to-school needs. The department also welcomed three new consultants this year and has focused on helping them transition into their roles, build relationships, and begin supporting their assigned districts. In addition, the data team has been hard at work preparing and distributing Roots data, giving districts detailed information they can use to better understand student performance, identify areas of need, and make informed instructional decisions. As districts settle into the school year, the department will continue to provide professional learning, data support, and individualized assistance based on district needs, while also preparing to help schools understand and respond to the 2025–26 Ohio School Report Cards when they are released in September.

• **DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Mr. Chad Rex shared a report that installation of the replacement solar panels is temporarily delayed while a bracket issue is resolved. He noted that additional panel damage was discovered, resulting in a new police report and ongoing insurance claim. Security cameras have been installed and upgraded signage is being posted to help deter further issues. Mr. Rex highlighted that the team successfully prepared for, supported, and wrapped up three major internal events and one large external rental event. He recognized Mr. Larry Davis, Mrs. Crystal Blevins, Mr. Corey Todd, Mrs. Pat Turpening, and Mrs. Patricia Shotwell for their hard work supporting these events. Additionally, Mr. Rex shared that the annual driver in-service training hosted 348 attendees, providing local districts with quality training while helping drivers meet mandatory professional training requirements. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Davis and Mrs. Turpening for coordinating and delivering the event and to Archbold Area Schools for continuing to serve as host. Mr. Rex stated that he and Mr. Davis conducted a comprehensive site walk-through with NWOCA and the primary contractors to refine plans for the upgraded door access and video surveillance systems. Further, Mr. Rex explained that the fire monitoring system is being transitioned from legacy analog lines to a network-based solution. He noted that NWOCA connected the lines to its generator-backed network and Mr. Davis completed the necessary cabling, allowing

Johnson Controls to finalize the system integration. Mr. Rex reported that he and Mr. Todd supported returning and new staff with technology set up for the school year. He emphasized that improvements made over several years to IT infrastructure and onboarding processes contributed to an exceptionally smooth technology rollout. Finally, Mr. Rex shared that playground mulch and routine parking lot maintenance were coordinated at the Independence Education Center. He recognized Mr. Chris Staup for his work preparing the IEC building for the new school year.

•**Approved the Following Consent Items:**

- Minutes from the regular Board Meeting and the Finance Committee Meeting held July 28, 2026.

- **Financial Transactions** – appropriation modifications, transfers and advances, and monthly financial reports.

•**AGREEMENTS**

Approved the following service agreements and MOUs:

- Learn21 to provide to NwOESC, Database Maintenance Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Anthony Wayne Local Schools, Hearing Impaired Classroom & Related Services-Speech Therapy for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Anthony Wayne Local Schools, Independence Education Center Services & Related Services-Occupational Therapy for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Bowling Green City Schools, Audiology Supported Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Edgerton Local Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Edgerton Local Schools/St. Mary Catholic School, Interventional Specialist and Title I Paraprofessional Services for the period of 8/1/26-6/15/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Edgerton Local Schools/St. Mary Catholic School, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Services for the period of 8/1/26-6/15/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Edon Northwest Local Schools, OBI Instruction for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Genoa Area Local Schools, Auditory Services for the period of 8/1/26-6/15/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Hicksville Exempted Village Schools, OBI Instruction Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Montpelier Exempted Village Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools, ELL Specialist Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools, Fiscal Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Northeastern Local Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Patrick Henry Local Schools, ESL Instructional Assistant Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Patrick Henry Local Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Paulding Exempted Village Schools, Audiology Supported Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Paulding Exempted Village Schools, Speech Therapist Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools, Independence Education Center Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Pike-Delta-York Local Schools, Fiscal Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.

- NwOESC to provide to Pike-Delta-York Local Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Swanton Local Schools, ELL Specialist Services for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Swanton Local Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Swanton Local School, School Psychologist Services-St. Richard Catholic School for the period of 8/15/26-6/15/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Wauseon Exempted Village Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
- NwOESC to provide to Williams County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Saturday Camp/School Year Enrichment for the period of 7/1/26-6/30/27.
- Appointed Mr. Jim George as the delegate and Mr. Brian Baker as the alternate delegate to the Ohio School Board Association 2026 Capital Conference business meeting.

•**Approved Personnel Consent Items:**

•**LEAVES**

FMLA and Medical Leaves

Resignations

- Branham, Ashley, Paraprofessional, Effective 8/17/26
- Herold, Nichol, School Psychologist Support/Parent Mentor, Effective 8/21/2026
- Mefferd, Sarah, Paraprofessional, Effective 7/31/2026
- Powell, Carla, Paraprofessional, Effective 8/23/2026
- Sauder, Amy, Paraprofessional, Effective 8/17/2026
- Sobacki, Abbey, Floating Teacher, Effective 8/11/2026
- Spencer, Christine, Paraprofessional, Effective 7/31/2026

•**EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

CONTRACTS

Classified Administrative

Name	Contract	Length
Lorenzen, Abby	ADM - 5 YR	8/1/2026-7/31/2031

Certified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Foote, Mason	CERT- 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Geren, Hannah	CERT- 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Lutz, Rebecca	CERT- 1 YR	8/1/2026-7/31/2026

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Bernath, Nicole	CLASS - 1 YR	8/14/2026-7/31/2027
Booth, Hannah	CLASS - 1 YR	8/20/2026-7/31/2027
Brenneman, Isaac	CLASS - 1 YR	8/20/2026-7/31/2027
Brinkman, Melissa	CLASS - 1 YR	8/17/2026-6/30/2027
Graham, Sophie	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Hoffman, Jessica	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Jones, Sheila	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Kimpel, Teresa	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Landel, Jodi	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Peggs, Terra	CLASS - 1 YR	8/6/2026-7/31/2027
Perry, Cameron	CLASS - 1 YR	8/20/2026-7/31/2027
Schwab, Cora	CLASS - 1 YR	8/20/2026-7/31/2027
Shook, Lacey	CLASS - 1 YR	8/20/2026-7/31/2027

Stickley, Angelica	CLASS - 1 YR	8/20/2026-7/31/2027
Stuckey, Susan	CLASS - 1 YR	8/14/2026-7/31/2027
Yerington, Amanda	CLASS - 1 YR	8/14/2026-7/31/2027

Classified Limited School Year Enrichment

Name	Contract	Length
Alspaugh, Kerri	CLASS - 1 YR	7/1/2026-6/31/2027

Certified Notice

Name

Varble, Brooke
Whitman-Drewes, Lindsay

Classified Notice - Hourly

Rate

Name

Sobecki, Abbey

•Approve the following substitute teachers and paraprofessionals:

2026-27 Substitute Paraprofessional

Jenny Ackerman, Jennifer Balser, Margaret Bornholdt, Chelsea Engelberth, Beth Huddle, Krista Kirsch, Mariah Leatherman, Ashlynn Martin, Jaimie Mason, Ryan Mays, Jennifer Miller, Maria Ranoni, Alexandria Schliesser, Sheri Schliesser, Angelica Stickley, Rachel Thoma

2026- 27 Substitute Teachers

Jill Albring, Peyton Arme, Lowynn Atkinson, Jennifer Balser, William Bany, Katelyn Barton, Ami Batt, Elizabeth Batt, Kendra Beck, Arielle Bernal, Chris Bowers, Gabriella Bowers, Colleen Bowling, Megan Boyd, Luke Braman, Cameron Brogan, Amelia Canales, Leanne DenHerder, Alexa Duryea, Chelsea Engelberth, Gary Epley, Samantha Etoll, Rene Hadding, Aubrey Hammer, Haley Hammer, Christina Hedean, Bailey Izor, John James, Donald Johnson, Chris Kirkum, Krista Kirsch, Allison Kozina, Amy Lantz, Tara Leahy, Mariah Leatherman, Gabrielle Leupp, Kiersten Manon, Ashlynn Martin, Ryan Mays, Justin McCall, Brianna Mercer, Chloe Merillat, Faith Miller, Jennifer Miller, Joyce Miller, Samuel Miller, Kaitlyn Mills, James Moore, Katelin Moquin, Nevaeh Powers, MaKenzie Prigge, Keaton Rath, Olivia Ricica, Hannah Rivera, Rachelle Rowison, Faith Rubinstein, Sheri Schliesser, Jayci Schooley, Michelle Schramm, Spencer Schwaiger, Dawn Sharpe, Mallory Sines, Casandra Sprow, Angelica Stickley, Ella Tassler, Danielle Tejkl, Eleana Vanarsdalen, Nevada Vogelsong, Mathilda Westenbarger

•Approved the following 21st Century Staff:

21st Century Site Coordinators

Defiance Elementary- Julie Houck

21st Century Teachers

Defiance Elementary- Travis Hammer, Jennifer Long, Megan Stambaugh, Matthew Stouffer
Defiance Middle School- Jenna Gibson, Amanda Kunz, Amanda Rettig

21st Century Specialized Education Assistants

Defiance Elementary- Nickole Valle

•Approved the following Bus & Van Drivers:

Bus Driver:

NWOESC - Christopher Staup

Van Drivers:

NWOESC - Kara Ayers, Sara Buchenberg, Sara Fogt, Kaytlyn Hill, Catlyn Pavel, Desiree Staugler, Jason Stein, Elysha West, Lindsay Whitman Drewes, Adrian Whitney, Tracy Zeedyk

Substitute Bus Drivers:

NwOESC - Larry Davis, Kenneth Muntz

Substitute Van Drivers:

NwOESC - Lisa Ball, Jestine Curry

•Approved the following Summer Honors Academy staff:

Summer Honors Academy Teacher

Theresa Rickenberg

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Combined Calendar** - An “at-a-glance” look at the general school-year calendars for NwOESC member districts was shared.
- **OSBA Northwest Region Fall Conference** - The fall conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2026, from 5:30–8:30 PM at North Baltimore MS/HS, North Baltimore, OH. The registration deadline is September 30.
- **Vocational School Appointments for Four County Career Center and Penta Career Center - (January 1, 2026–December 31, 2029)** – Preliminary discussion was held about reappointments.
- **FYI - Career Tech Waiver for Middle School** - Beginning this school year, middle school career-technical education waivers will no longer be permitted by ODEW. NwOESC has been notified that ESCs are exempt from having a formal middle school career-tech program. NwOESC will continue working with our districts to ensure that the students we serve have access to appropriate and meaningful career-technical education opportunities in Grades 7 & 8.
- **FYI - Career Advising Policy 2413** – NwOESC is due for the biannual update of this policy and will watch for it to be included in the first round of policy updates from NEOLA. John Kaylor has departed from NEOLA, and NwOESC will be working with a new representative, Brent Welker.

•**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Superintendent Kerri Weir reported on several items. She shared that NwOESC hosted its annual Administrators’ Conference on August 4, bringing together superintendents, treasurers, principals, and other educational leaders from member districts, Four County Career Center, and NWOCA to begin the 2026-27 school year. She welcomed new and newly assigned administrators throughout the region, including Alex Nafziger and Aaron Hylander at Hicksville, Matthew Frey at Northeastern, Connie Nicely at Archbold, Jane Myers and Gary Dulle at Fayette, Danelle Nauta and Terrie Freeman at Pike Delta York, Barbie Shepard at Swanton, Trent Thomas, Scott Harrold, and Keith Leatherman at Wauseon, Haley Dammon at Four County Career Center, Chris Ward and Michelle Matheny at Liberty Center, Nathan Keel, Matthew Kaullen, and Adam Swisher at Bryan, Mike Bumb and Steve Arnold at Montpelier, and Nate French at Stryker. She also welcomed new ESC administrative staff Kristie Brickner, Kelly Pool, and Krissy Cheslock, who are serving as General Education Consultants/Gifted Supervisors.

Weir also reported on the August 6 Fall Staff Meeting, where nearly 400 NwOESC employees gathered under the theme “The Superpower of Appreciation!” She expressed appreciation to the many staff members who helped organize and conduct the event. As part of the meeting, NwOESC recognized employees for significant service milestones. Those recognized included the following:

- **Five Years:** Jennifer Barnhart, Corina Barranco, Crystal Blevins, Amy Colegrove-Mitchell, Kathryn Donaldson, Amber Geahlen, Tiffany McBride, Candace Mosko, Lisa Mueller, Sherry Penrod, Amanda Ream, Elizabeth Schmucker, Hayley Strauss, and Erika Wolf
- **Ten Years:** Mikala Carpenter, Lisa Gondwe, Lisa Osterland, Desiree Staugler, Jenna Wessell, and Rachel Young.
- **Fifteen Years:** Amy Topoleski
- **Twenty Years:** Julie Cook, Valentina Huerta, Amanda Kelly, Kori McQuillin, and Trisha Otto.
- **Twenty-Five Years:** Julie Black, Amy Davis, Victoria Godsey, Dawn Herman, Peggy Howard, Jody Mohring, Christina Nickels, and Julie Patterson
- **Thirty Years:** Rhonda Wise
- **Thirty-Five Years:** Kalli Hintz

Weir reported that the first Superintendents’ Meeting of the school year will be held September 16 at Four County Career Center in conjunction with a Business Advisory Council meeting. The meeting will provide an opportunity for

superintendents to tour Four County's new facilities and learn more about the work taking place there. She explained that the Business Advisory Council, co-chaired by Weir and Andy Hunter with Abby Lorenzen serving as Treasurer, meets quarterly to strengthen business-education partnerships across the 23 member districts through networking, information sharing, and off-site visits. The Superintendents' group meets monthly to receive updates from ESC leadership, legal counsel, and guest speakers, network with colleagues, and discuss regional opportunities and challenges. Treasurers participate three to four times each year to review financial information and receive legal and other applicable updates.

Weir also highlighted the continued publication of the NwOESC At-A-Glance Essentials newsletter. The Administrative Team, Brandi Nafziger, and Linda Schlosser collaborate on the monthly publication, which is emailed with the first pay of each month and provides staff with timely information, reminders, resources, and updates. Past issues are available on the NwOESC website for staff reference.

Weir reported on her August 19 presentation to the Fulton County Development Investors Group at the Legacy Center in Wauseon. She noted that Mike Remer is the new Fulton County Economic Development Director and that, because of his previous employment with NwOESC, there is an opportunity to develop innovative partnerships. Weir shared information about NwOESC and the work of the Business Advisory Council, including efforts to strengthen connections between schools and the local business community. One potential initiative being explored is a Student Innovation Challenge that would connect students with local businesses and provide opportunities for students to apply creativity and problem-solving skills to real-world challenges.

Weir also reported that she is in the final year of her term as the Region 1 Representative on the Buckeye Association of School Administrators Executive Council. She noted that the 18-member Executive Council represents regions and key associations and groups across Ohio. BASA continues to provide valuable professional support, advocacy, networking, and timely information for area superintendents regarding issues affecting school districts across the state.

Finally, Weir reported that NwOESC is working to raise awareness among employees regarding student loan relief opportunities. She highlighted the Public Service Loan Forgiveness and Teacher Loan Forgiveness programs and encouraged eligible employees to review the available information and determine whether they may qualify. Information about these programs has been shared with staff through NwOESC resources.

•**Entered into Executive Session** for the purpose of: A. Consideration of the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee, or official.
No action was taken upon exiting the Executive Session.

•**Adjournment:** As all the business of the evening was complete, the meeting adjourned at 6:58PM. The next regular meeting of the Board will take place on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH 43502.