

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held November 21, 2023.

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

-Moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives and the many students, schools, and communities impacted by the recent Tuscarawas Valley bus crash and Lyle Hug, former Williams County ESC Governing Board member.

## **REPORTS:**

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker reported on several legislative items of interest. The House passed HB 214, which would require each public school to adopt a policy regarding certain expectations related to the performance of staff member professional duties with an amendment clarifying that schools cannot require employees of job applicants to offer an opinion about specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals or principles. The House also passed HB 250, which revises the military enlistment diploma seal and renames the seal to the "military seal". The Senate unanimously passed SB 29, which would enact laws pertaining to technology providers for education records and data. The bill would require school districts to make public certain information regarding the technology providers they use. The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee held a fourth hearing on SB 17, which would require the State Board to update the standards and model curriculum for financial literacy and entrepreneurship in grades nine-12 to include free market capitalism content. The Senate Education committee held a third hearing on and accepted a substitute version of SB 162, which would require public schools to provide certain academic intervention services to each student who demonstrates a limited level in math and English language arts.

•**OSBA STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON:** Dr. Christine Smallman provided information on student achievement efforts: Educational technology is an important aspect of preparing students for future careers, but it is crucial to build screen-free time into the curriculum. Implementing routines like spending time outdoors, 60 seconds of silence with no phones and participating in project-based service learning can help students strike a healthy balance. Many Americans have earned college credit but have not completed a degree, often due to financial and practical barriers. Steven Taylor, postsecondary education fellow at Stand Together Trust, suggests a need for more accessible, affordable, and practical options beyond traditional degrees to help students build their careers. Students in Providence, RI recently participated in Fire Safety Career and Technical Education School to receive 240 hours of training that can be applied to the Providence Fire Academy. They are also able to receive EMT certification upon completion.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mr. Homer Hendricks updated the board on business office staff changes including the resignation of Ericka Prigge. He mentioned the annual insurance open enrollment has been completed, but we are still waiting on enrollment totals. Mr. Hendricks shared grant updates for the K-12 Network Subsidy and Early Childhood Special Education grants. He also discussed the implementation of BoardDocs LT for board agenda management.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland shared we currently have a team consisting of five floating teachers and one floating paraprofessional, all of whom play a critical role in filling vacancies in NwoESC classrooms across the four-county area. In the next few weeks, we'll be adding one floating teacher and one floating para. The team of floating educators are deployed strategically, and they do not select their own assignments. We greatly appreciate the flexibility and adaptability of this group! Thank you to Chad and Corey for ensuring we have technology to support in person and virtual meetings. This allows supervisors and others to maximize time in districts while also meeting as a group. Thank you to everyone who joined us to view the OCALI online Kathe Shelby Leadership award presentation. It's an honor to receive the award and I feel extremely fortunate to work with amazing people who have such a positive impact on students!

**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Hunter discussed hosting Brian Mendler, a classroom management and behavior specialist for a training. Over 90 educators heard his message on how to deal with “that one kid.” Classroom management will continue to be a theme woven into training this school year as we are also doing a book study and inviting a few other notable educators out to speak on the topic. The curriculum department has also been putting on Value Added trainings. Mr. Hunter noted the great work that Ashley Ensign, a consultant, and regional data lead has been doing during the trainings.

**•DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Mr. Chad Rex reported on this quarter's email phishing campaign to provide educational content to employees through links within the emails. Additionally, Mr. Rex had a meeting with Jessica Fredrick to deliberate on technology needs and plans for preschool classrooms. He attended various professional development opportunities, including webinars and an in-person conference, focusing particularly on cybersecurity issues and corresponding action steps at the statewide technology conference. Mr. Rex received the NWOESC’s Cyber Readiness Report from NWOCA and Dataserv. Following a general information session, ongoing efforts will involve reviewing, analyzing, and planning for the necessary steps to achieve a balance between security and productivity. Mr. Rex and Mr. Corey Todd assessed the technology in the Defiance preschool classrooms and updated the MD classrooms in Edon with new interactive panels. Furthermore, he reviewed the annual building safety meeting for the main office held on November 10th in conjunction with NBEC to outline plans and action steps in maintaining a safe and secure environment. In operations, Mr. Larry Davis is overseeing the upcoming chiller installation project with regular communication with the contractor along with coordinating boiler maintenance. Mr. Rex shared that Mr. Chuck Lero completed the installation of "panic buttons" at the IEC, serving as immediate alerts for first responders and funded by a grant from the Attorney General’s office.

- Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:

- Minutes from the regular board meeting held October 24, 2023.

**•AGREEMENTS**

-Nature’s Nursery to provide to NwoESC, 21st Century (Defiance Elem), Extended Learning Opportunities Services for the period of 1/01/24-6/30/24.

-NwoESC to provide to Anthony Wayne Local Schools, Instructional Services at the Liberty Education Center for the 2023-24 academic year.

**•LEAVES**

FMLA and Disability

**•RESIGNATIONS**

- Clutter, Valerie - Paraprofessional, Effective 11/27/2023
- Ewing, Vivien - Paraprofessional, Effective 11/17/2023
- Guyton, Elani – Paraprofessional, Effective 11/20/2023 (position abandonment)
- Lavoie, Jane - Instructional Assistant, Effective 11/2/2023 (position abandonment)
- Martinez, Stephanie - Paraprofessional, Effective 11/3/2023 (position abandonment)
- Prigge, Ericka – Payables Accountant, Effective 12/1/2023

**•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**CONTRACTS**

**Certified Limited**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
Ayers, McKayla	CERT-1 YR	11/13/2023-7/31/2024	Teacher/IS
Baker, Sarah	CERT-1 YR	12/18/2023-7/31/2024	Salary
Burton, Angie	CERT-1 YR	11/13/2023-7/31/2024	Teacher/IS

**Classified Limited**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
Beaverson, Megan	CLASS-1 YR	11/7/2023-7/31/2024	Hourly
Grubb, Amanda	CLASS-1 YR	12/4/2023-7/31/2024	Hourly
Weber, Julie	CLASS-2 YR	10/24/2023-7/31/2025	

**SALARY NOTICES**

**Classified Notice**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
Carpenter, Mikala	Hourly

**Rescind the offer of employment for the 2023-2024 employment contract**

Ramirez Morales, Yalenin – Instructional Assistant-ELL, Declined the offer

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Teachers**

Defiance Elementary- Jenny Vincent  
Defiance Middle School- Daniel Crowe, Kimberly Engel

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Program Assistant**

Defiance Elementary- Julia Yeager

**Substitute Occupational Therapy Assistant**

Jennifer Johnson

**Substitute Occupational Therapy Assistant**

Amanda Grubb

**ESC Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional**

Vivien Ewing, Rylee Garcia, Madison Stairhime

**Substitute Paraprofessionals**

Heather Bell, Courtney Boyd, Kelly Cohoon, Lindsay Cooley, Sandra Gearhart, Taylor Holbrook, Jody Kolbe, Adrienne Mojica, Lori Moore, Catherine Royal

**Substitute Teachers**

Andrea Aeschliman, Marki Bly, Mariah Bostelman, Rhonda Brown, Patricia Cassell, Amy Cook, Maci Froelich, Rebecca Heller-Flugga, Bailey Izor, Ashton Kessler, Jody Kolbe, Gavyn Kupfersmith, Debra Langenderfer, Bryan Lucas, Nathanael Miles, Adrienne Mojica, Christina Norman, Jocelyn Peterson, Julie Prowant, Catherine Royal, Kaylee Schlegel, Shelden Struble, Mallory Timbrook, Taurean Villolovos, Carrie Wooley

•Set the annual Tuition Reimbursement Budget for 2024-25 per board policy #3450.

•Approved the following policy recommendations:

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

•Appointed Lori Weber (Defiance County Appointee), Deborah Gerken (Williams County Appointee) and Christine Smallman (Fulton County Appointee) to the Four County Career Center Board of Education for three-year terms of office to commence on January 1, 2024, and expire on December 31, 2026.

•Appointed Ross Stambaugh (Fulton County/Swanton Appointee) to the Penta Career Center Board of Education for a three-year term of office to commence on January 1, 2024, and expire on December 31, 2026.

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- Information on OSBA/NwOESC Board Member Basics Training - February 7, 2024 was distributed.
- The High Performing ESC Designation Award Summary was presented.
- Initiating the transition to BoardDocs LT was discussed.
- The November 2023 General Election Results were reviewed including Board appointments in January for Districts 5 and 6.
- Superintendent and Treasurer Evaluations will be reviewed in December.
- The Ford Transit van selected through the Ohio Schools Council bid has been canceled (lack of inventory) and other options are being discussed.

•**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Kerri Weir provided a report to the board. There are two administrative searches NwOESC will facilitate over the next few months. Annual tuition reimbursements based on coursework taken during the 2022-23 school year were reviewed. Nine (9) staff members took advantage of coursework reimbursement through the certified staff policy. NwOESC has been designated for the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row as a High Performing ESC. All ESCs in Ohio achieved this designation for FY24 (based on FY23 data), further reinforcing the effective model of shared services for quality and efficiencies. In total, our five selected primary services demonstrated a 22.81% total cost savings (\$1,362,309.85) to member districts. NwOESC continues to promote the use of “Shout Outs” with Northwest Ohio ESC staff to recognize and share about the great things happening in our classrooms, programs, offices, and districts. The link to read about or submit Shout Outs is found at <https://www.nwoesc.org/shoutouts.aspx>

•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 7:03 PM. The next meeting will take place on December 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.