

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held March 26, 2024.

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

## **REPORTS:**

•**OSBA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Mr. Brian Baker shared legislative items of interest. In the general assembly, the legislature is still on spring recess following the March 19 primary election. The legislature is set to resume the week of April 10. Bills recently introduced include HB 436, which would require the State Board of Education to permit educational aides and intervention specialists to provide remote services. HB 440, which would make changes regarding the provisions of remote services for special needs scholarship recipients and the credentialed professionals who may provide services under the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program. HB 445, which would guide school district policies for released time courses in religious instruction. HB 447, which would modify and expand property tax homestead exemptions to gradually reduce school districts' 20-mill floor and to modify the formula for determining farmland's current agricultural use value. And finally HB 432, which would specify changes regarding the teaching of career-technical education.

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mr. Al Sluka shared his background in the school treasurer field, with a long history of experience in the NE Ohio region. He reported that NwoESC Business Office operations are going smoothly in his time here as Interim Treasurer, and expressed gratitude to the NwoESC Business Office staff for their excellent work

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland shared a student success story. The NwoESC Work transition classroom team and Board of DD worked together to support a student in attaining a job in his home community. The student completed a program at Four County Career Center last year and joined our Work Transition program this school year. He will work part time and attend school part time, with the goal of increasing work hours to full time. Transportation to and from work will be provided by the Board of DD. At this time of year, we are reviewing projections for enrollment in our various programs to plan for any changes in staffing needs. Thank you to Troy Merillat and Alissa Brown for attending the BGSU job fair on May 19th, where they met some very promising teacher candidates!

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Andy Hunter highlighted several key points in the board report. The Franklin B. Walter Scholarship Award event, held on March 4, celebrated outstanding high school seniors and teachers across districts, acknowledging their exceptional talents. A huge thank you went out to Michelle Hollstein, Larry Davis, the outstanding students of Four County Career Centers floral design program, and a host of others who made the evening possible. He also noted that Jimmy Casas' Brunch and Learn series resumed, featuring insightful discussions on leadership frameworks with area principals and superintendents. The state testing windows for ELA and Math/Science/Social Studies are open until late April and May respectively, with a new requirement for districts to share test results with parents by June 30. Additionally, preparations are underway for the Summer Honors Academy, with registration starting on April 11, showcasing the dedication to fostering academic excellence in the community.

•**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Mr. Chad Rex highlighted several technology initiatives. Mr. Rex completed the editing of Franklin B. Walter event videos for the event presentation along with the development of the webpages where the videos can be viewed - <https://www.nwoesc.org/fbw2024>. He also facilitated a wireless survey of our two buildings to develop a "heat map" to help identify any potential need for additional access points. Additionally, he has been actively coordinating work with NWOCA on the identification and resolution of wireless issues related to our shared public Wi-Fi network. A fix related to the authentication page was released last week. Mr. Rex shared that he received quotes from NWOCA for the new phone system 5-year contract. These have

been reviewed and recommendation is forthcoming soon. Mr. Rex reported that the main office PA system project was concluded this month. Some speakers were relocated along with several additional speakers being installed to increase communication and safety. Mr. Rex was thrilled to announce that we are working with Four County Career Center on a couple roofing projects on the IEC campus. Their junior carpentry class led by instructor Matt Dye will be repairing roofs on the modular and shed structures. Mr. Rex was also excited to share the presenters for the upcoming Monday, August 5, 2024 Bus/Van Driver Inservice. Registration was sent to district transportation supervisors. This event provides the opportunity for van and bus drivers to complete their 2hr and 4hr annual training requirements, respectively. We will be bringing in S.T.A.R.T. (School Transportation Active–Threat Response Training) for the August driver in-service. Visit <https://www.schoolbusstart.com> for more information about S.T.A.R.T.

**•Approved the following items under the consent agenda format:**

•Minutes from the regular board meeting and records committee meeting held February 27, 2024, and the special board meeting held March 5, 2024.

**•AGREEMENTS**

-Northeastern Local Schools to provide to NwOESC, Bus Mechanic Services for the period of 2/1/24-6/30/24.

-NwOESC to provide to Ayersville Local Schools, Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer Search Services for the period of 3/12/24-position is finalized or until agreed upon by both parties to terminate services.

-NwOESC to provide to Bowling Green City Schools, Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer Search Services for the period of 3/01/24-position is finalized or until agreed upon by both parties to terminate services.

-NwOESC to provide to Four County Career Center, Social Worker Services for the period of 2/26/24-7/31/24.

-To approve Annual Service Agreements with the following districts for the 2024-25 school year per R.C. 3313.845:

- Archbold Area Local Schools
- Ayersville Local Schools
- Central Local Schools
- Defiance City Schools
- Edon Northwest Local Schools
- Fayette Local Schools
- Holgate Local Schools
- Liberty Center Local Schools
- Millcreek-West Unity Local Schools
- Montpelier Exempted Village Schools
- North Central Local Schools
- Patrick Henry Local Schools
- Pike-Delta-York Local Schools
- Stryker Local Schools

**•LEAVES**

FMLA and Disability

**•RESIGNATIONS**

Abigail Hiler, Paraprofessional- effective 3/4/2024

Ashley Martin, Paraprofessional- effective 2/26/2024

Bethany Pieper, Paraprofessional- effective 3/12/2024 (position abandonment)  
 Ellen Wolfrum, Paraprofessional- effective 7/31/2024  
 Gregory Bates, Instructional Assistant- effective 3/13/2024  
 Kaylee Botjer, Intervention Specialist- effective 8/1/2024  
 Laura Kamp, School Climate Facilitator- effective 5/31/2024  
 Olivia Krieger, School Psychologist- effective 6/13/2024  
 Madison Custer, Paraprofessional- effective 2/29/2024  
 Taylor Holbrook, Paraprofessional- effective 4/3/2024

**•RETIREMENTS**

Beth Bodette, Paraprofessional-effective 8/1/2024  
 Denise Howard, Paraprofessional- effective 6/1/2024

**•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**CONTRACTS**

**Certified Limited**

Name	Contract	Length
Martin, Ashley	CERT-1 YR	2/26/2024-7/31/2024
Hiler, Abigail	CERT-1 YR	3/4/2024-7/31/2024

**Classified Limited**

Name	Contract	Length
Wittenmyer, Deborah	CLASS-1 YR	3/26/2024-7/31/2024

**Teaching Assignments for staff whose licensure does not align for the positions listed- Second Semester 2023-24**

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location
Hiler	Abigail	Intervention Specialist	Edon Elementary MD
Martin	Ashley	Preschool Intervention Specialist	Liberty Center Preschool

**ESC Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional**

Keanna Grant, Kaytlyn Hill

**ESC Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional**

Janice Goin

**Substitute Paraprofessionals**

Madison Custer, Janice Goin, Keanna Grant, Kaytlyn Hill, Bethany Morgan, DeeAnn Simmons

**Substitute Teachers**

Alexander Albring, Peyton Armeay, Abigail Baldwin, Hailey Bok, Tyler Bostelman, Melanie Campos, James Clay, Erika Damman, Breanna Gallup, Kylie Gates, Taylor Gonzales, Alexandra Kirkendall, Starr Kroetz, Kylee Miller, Bethany Morgan, Jennifer Perry, Demi Pudliner, Grace Tansel, Kevin Tufts

**21st Century Teacher**

Defiance Middle School- Katherine Smolik

- Approved motion to employ Abby Lorenzen as the Northwest Ohio ESC Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer for the period of April 8, 2024 through July 31, 2026,

- Appointed Abby Lorenzen as the designee for each NwoESC Governing Board Member effective 04/08/2024 to comply with the requirements of the Ohio Public Records Law.

- Approved the Annual Report/Joint Statement of the NwoESC Business Advisory Council submitted on March 1, 2024 as required by ODE.

- Approved a resolution for the commercial credit card program with Huntington Bank to verify NwoESC governing board authority, policy implementation, and CFO/Treasurer authority (Abby Lorenzen).

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- The NwoESC Business Advisory Council December 12, 2023 Minutes were shared with the Board.
- The Independence Education Center/Northwest Ohio Opportunity School Calendar for the 2024-25 school year was presented for discussion and public comment.
- The Board was reminded to complete their annual Ohio Ethics filings.
- The Board was provided a copy of the NwoESC Program & Service Information 2024-25

- SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Kerri Weir reported on several items. The Montpelier Superintendent search has concluded with Travis Lichty accepting the position beginning August 1. The Ayersville and Bowling Green City Schools CFO/Treasurer Searches are in process. Superintendent Weir shared about her participation in the Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition, which is supported by the Four County ADAMHS Board and made up of various agency, community, and family representatives. The mission of the coalition is to increase awareness, decrease stigma, and increase people's ability to seek help aimed at suicide prevention. Updates were provided on the healthcare consortium clinics operating in all four counties - Everside Health Clinics. NwoESC will be part of a new collaboration with the Advanced Manufacturing Consortium of Northwest Ohio (AMC) to develop Career Trees. Career Trees represents a collaborative effort between manufacturing companies and educators to develop localized resources that empower students to explore career pathways within the manufacturing sector. By visualizing these pathways in a comprehensive and accessible manner, the project aims to bridge the gap between industry demands and educational curriculum, equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed for success in the modern workforce. Northwest Ohio ESC continues to implement "Shout Outs", a process for staff and others to bring attention to the great things happening in NwoESC classrooms, programs, offices, and districts. Submissions and photos are uploaded to a link, shared monthly via email, and highlighted on various social media platforms.

- Entered into Executive Session for the purpose of consideration of the employment of the Superintendent. Upon exiting Executive Session the following actions occurred:

- Approved Ross Stambaugh as the Treasurer Pro Tempore for the remainder of the March 26, 2024 meeting.

- Approved a three (3) year contract with Kerri A. Weir as Superintendent commencing August 1, 2024-July 31, 2027.

As all of the business of the evening was complete the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m. The next meeting will take place on April 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH.