

The following actions were taken by the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center Governing Board at their regular meeting held August 26, 2025.

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

REPORTS:

•**CFO/TREASURER:** Mrs. Abby Lorenzen reported that ODEW had released additional 2025–26 grant allocations for Board approval, with Early Childhood Special Education and IDEA-B allocations still pending. She stated that she and Mrs. Weir are in the midst of processing the FY 2025 High Performing ESC application. While no longer tied to state funding, the application remained necessary for districts to obtain a federal procurement waiver. Mrs. Lorenzen explained that Putnam Investments was transitioning to Franklin Templeton, which was not yet a Board-approved provider. She would be requesting approval to ensure employees' contributions continued without interruption. She reported that the Walmart Community Program would end November 1, 2025. The ESC was enrolling in Walmart Business to maintain tax-exempt purchasing and invoice payment. Finally, Mrs. Lorenzen recommended Jill Peters for the Fiscal Consultant position, citing her 20 years of experience as both assistant treasurer and treasurer. She expressed confidence that Ms. Peters would be an excellent addition to the team.

•**DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Mrs. Jill Gilliland shared that all of our teacher positions are filled! We have new teachers at Archbold, Wauseon, Holgate, Patrick Henry, the IEC, Northeastern and Edon. Thank you to Alissa Brown, Troy Merillat, and Kris Ritter for meeting with new teachers in the afternoon at our fall staff meeting to help them prepare for their new roles. We continue to make steady progress in hiring paraprofessionals, with just a few positions left to fill. Thank you to the entire team who worked to get the building prepared and looking fantastic for the first day of school. The IEC team with support from the main office cleaned, painted, and put classrooms together after contracted work was completed. The school looks wonderful! We're excited to launch our new Five Star Registration system, which offers many features to streamline our work. A big thank-you to Jessica Fredrick, J Nichols-Ewing, and Jackie Fouty for their summer-long efforts to make this possible. More details about the system will be shared soon.

•**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr. Andy Hunter reported that the ESC hosted its annual administrator conference on August 5th, featuring keynote speaker Tom Speaks from The Impact Group, who presented on the art of appreciology. Attendees also received legal updates, heard from their associations, and were addressed by Randy Gardner from CORUS. The event served as a strong kickoff to the school year for area administrators. Shortly after, staff gathered for the annual fall meeting, where keynote speaker Katie Peters delivered a heartfelt and impactful message. Next, Mr. Hunter shared that Ohio's new statewide student cell phone ban requires districts to adopt policies by January 1, 2026, though many have already implemented the rule at the start of the school year. The ban covers all school-day periods, including lunch, passing times, and field trips, with exceptions for medical needs. Finally, he pointed out that school report cards are expected to be released in mid-September, reflecting last spring's state testing and district data. In October, the ESC will host training on the new "College and Career Readiness" component, in partnership with the department.

•**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS:** Mr. Chad Rex reported that he and Mr. Corey Todd have been working together in this especially active year to address new hire needs and departmental projects. He highlighted progress on the main office network closet project with the installation of a new switch and the reorganization of the network rack, while the IEC network closet is awaiting a new switch for installation. He stated that the ParentSquare app has now been set up and rolled out for use at the IEC as well as Defiance and Montpelier preschools. Mr. Rex also noted his participation in a cybersecurity webinar hosted by the State of Ohio and added that he has registered for a follow-up session. He emphasized that ongoing work continues in response to the ESC's recent audit and report. Mr. Rex highlighted the completion of the IEC renovation project just in time for the school year, expressing gratitude for the dedicated work of IEC leadership, staff, and the Operations team of Mr. Chris Staup, Mr. Larry Davis, and Mrs. Crystal Blevins. He described the final outcome as outstanding. He reported that the implementation of OMEC's new phone system is in process and scheduled to be completed within the coming week. Mr. Rex expressed appreciation for the efforts of Mr. Davis and Mrs. Pat Turpening in assisting a group of new ESC drivers toward certification. He noted that the ESC now has 13 drivers, including three with bus certification, and expressed gratitude for Mr. Ken Muntz, who has served as both OBI and substitute bus driver, covering the IEC route at the start of the year. Finally, Mr. Rex shared that the annual driver in-service training was a resounding success thanks to the ESC team's planning and coordination, Archbold Schools' hospitality, and training provided by the Ohio Schools Council. He celebrated the increased attendance, with 372 drivers

participating this year from 19 member districts and 3 non-member districts and stated that planning for next year's training is already underway.

•**Approved the Following Consent Items:**

- Minutes from the regular Board Meeting held July 22, 2025

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

•**AGREEMENTS**

Approved the following service agreements and MOUs:

-Coalition of Ohio Rural and Appalachian Schools to provide to NwOESC, Legislative Research and Educational Public Policy Development Services for the period of 7/1/25-6/30/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Bowling Green City Schools, Visual Impairment (VI) Services for the period of 8/15/25-6/15/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Defiance College, Occupational Therapy Internship for the period of 7/1/25-6/30/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Napoleon Area City Schools, ELL Specialist Services for the period of 8/15/25-6/15/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools, Independence Education Center Services for the period of 8/15/25-6/15/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Stryker Local Schools, OBI Instruction for the period of 7/1/25-6/30/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Sylvania City Schools, Hearing Impaired Classroom & Related Services-Occupational Therapy, Speech, Vision for the period of 8/15/25-6/15/26.

-NwOESC to provide to Wauseon Exempted Village Schools, Roots Analysis Services for the period of 7/1/25-11/30/25.

- Approve the following be added as a 403(b) and 457 provider:

-Franklin Templeton

- Approved pick-up for the following rates of employee contributions:

Employee Group	Retirement System	Pick-up %
Assistant Fiscal Officer	SERS	7%
Fiscal Consultants	SERS	7%

- Appointed Brian Baker as the delegate and Jim George as the alternate delegate to the Ohio School Board Association 2025 Capital Conference business meeting.

- Approved a resolution for Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center to opt out of career-technical education for students in grades seven and eight for the 2025-26 school year and submit the waiver as required by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

•**Approved Personnel Consent Items:**

•**LEAVES**

FMLA and Disability

•**RESIGNATIONS**

Caudill, Courtney, Paraprofessional, Effective 8/4/2025

Decker, Mackenzi, Paraprofessional, Effective 7/31/2025

Hollenbeck, Courtney, Paraprofessional, Effective 7/28/2025

Moore, Mackenzie, Paraprofessional, Effective 8/17/2025

Moreno, Katelyn, Paraprofessional, Effective 8/11/2025 (position abandonment)

Prigge, Cailyn, Intervention Specialist, Effective 7/31/2025

Rentschler, Jessie, Intervention Specialist, Effective 8/22/2025

Rieger, Melisa, Paraprofessional, Effective 7/31/2025
Rosenberger, Carrie, Paraprofessional, Effective 8/6/2025

**•EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
CONTRACTS**

Certified Administrative

Name	Contract	Length
Matheny, Michelle	ADM-1 YR	9/1/2025-6/30/2026
Salinas, Jose	ADM-3 YR	7/1/2025-7/31/2028

Classified Administrative

Name	Contract	Length
Peters, Jill	ADM-2 YR	11/1/2025-7/31/2027

Certified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Burke, Bobbi	CERT-1 YR	8/1/2025-7/31/2026
Hollenbeck, Courtney	CERT-1 YR	8/1/2025-7/31/2026
Porter, Machetta	CERT-1 YR	8/15/2025-7/31/2026
Rodriguez, Jennifer	CERT-1 YR	8/18/2025-7/31/2026
Wiemken, Nikki	CERT-1 YR	8/1/2025-7/31/2026

Classified Limited

Name	Contract	Length
Altman, Bianca	CLASS-1 YR	8/20/2025-7/31/2026
Barber, Karen	CLASS-1 YR	8/20/2025-7/31/2026
Baughman, Madison	CLASS-1 YR	8/7/2025-7/31/2026
Brady, Anne	CLASS-1 YR	8/22/2025-7/31/2026
Bullano, Amy	CLASS-1 YR	8/7/2025-7/31/2026
Cottrell, Jessie	CLASS-1 YR	8/20/2025-7/31/2026
Duncan, Destiny	CLASS-1 YR	8/7/2025-7/31/2026
Franklin, Kana	CLASS-1 YR	8/7/2025-7/31/2026
Garcia, Rylee	CLASS-1 YR	8/18/2025-7/31/2026
Mercer, Kirian	CLASS-1 YR	8/18/2025-7/31/2026
Meyers, Makayla	CLASS-1 YR	8/20/2025-7/31/2026
Mireles, Jena	CLASS-1 YR	8/20/2025-7/31/2026
Muntz, Ken	CLASS-1 YR	8/18/2025-7/31/2026
Newman, Jessica	CLASS-1 YR	8/15/2025-7/31/2026

Robb, Jessica	CLASS-1 YR 8/20/2025-7/31/2026
Ryan, Jamie	CLASS-1 YR 8/7/2025-7/31/2026
Spangler, Nicole	CLASS-1 YR 8/15/2025-7/31/2026
West, Elysha	CLASS-1 YR 8/20/2025-7/31/2026
Russell, April	CLASS-2 YR 8/1/2025-7/31/2027

Certified Notice

Name

Cole, Rachel

•Approved the following substitute teachers and paraprofessionals:

Substitute Paraprofessionals

Jenny Ackerman, Margaret Bornholdt, Kraig Bostelman, Mariah Bostelman, Chelsea Engelberth, Patricia Graffice, Anne Healy, Connie Jacoby, Jody Kolbe, Ashley Kryder, Makayla Meyers, Jena Mireles, Deanna Temple-Frederick, Brandy Worthington

Substitute Teachers

Jill Albring, Adysen Andres, Kayla Arnold, Hannah Arnos, Luann Bacon, Jennifer Balser, Katelyn Barton, Kendra Beck, Melinda Bell, Joseph Blake, Kevin Boesger, Jordan Bok, Klayton Boland, Clinton Bostelman, Kraig Bostelman, Mariah Bostelman, Larry Bowers, Thomas Burke, Madilyn Coler, Melinda Cooley, Amara Donnelly, Katelyn Eldridge, Chelsea Engelberth, Joe Frank Glen Fressie, Maci Froelich, Andrea Fry, Mea Garretson, Kimberly Garrow, Zada Haas, Rene Hadding, Faith Harding, Brady Harlett, Jeffery Harris, Christina Hedean, Anne Healy, Taylor Heath, Katelyn Herman, Brienne Hetrick, Jacob Highfield, Adrienne Hoops, Breanna Huffman, Connie Jacoby, Greg Jennings, Jerry Keifer, Thomas Kelly, Jessica Keppeler, Aliya Khandaker, Victoria Koelsch, Jody Kolbe, Allie Kroetz, Kelsey Kuhn, Tara Leahy, Trinity Lichtenwald, Kaylista Linczer, Kiersten Manon, Makayla Mays, Justin McCall, Danielle McClay, Blake McClory, Sarah Meyer, Makayla Meyers, Jena Mireles, Lennox Mitchell, Kathryn Mohler, James Moore, Lindsay Moore, Janet Morr, Emily Mulligan, Renee Myers, Taryn Myers, Ethan Panico, Sheila Parcher, Jennifer Perry, Molly Perry, Susan Peverly, Ethan Psurny, Troy Roth, Samantha Ruffer, Dawn Rupp, Adryan Sanchez, Leola Schiple, Paige Shafley, Dawn Sharpe, Jessica Sharps, Micah Shelton, Ethan Siebenaler, Ashlyn Sleesman, Karrie Smith, Casandra Sprow, Sarah Steffel, Deanna Temple-Frederick, Joelle Waidelich, Elysha West, Abby Wiemken, Olivia Williams, Suzanne Wilson, Patti Wolfrum, Brandy Worthington, Danielle Yoder, Carly Zeiter, Addison Ziegler

Substitute Itinerant PS Intervention Specialist

Christine Fraker

Substitute LEC Principal

Jay LeFevre

•Approve the following 21st Century Staff:

21st Century Site Coordinators

Defiance Elementary- Deanne Held, Julie Houck, Teresa Pfeiffer
Defiance Middle School- Melissa Barnhart, Mary Frank
Hicksville Elementary- Rachel Ainsworth, Katelyn (Niehaus) Whitaker

21st Century Teachers

Defiance Elementary- Karri Ashbaugh, Virginia Becker, Angela Buchanan, Emily Cikity, Elizabeth Frankart, Kelly Hasselbring, Rachel Nainiger, Deborah Rogers, Matthew Stouffer
Defiance Middle School- Cynthia Cereghin, Kimberly Engel, Jenna Gibson, Jodi Griffith, Lauren Helton, Olivia Hines, Amanda Kunz, Jana Lucas, Edward Miller, Amanda Rettig
Hicksville Elementary- Rachel Ainsworth, Ryan Miser, Jessica Saunders, Emily Sell, Heidi Turnbull, Katelyn (Niehaus) Whitaker

21st Century Program Assistants

Defiance Elementary- Jenna Bishop, Lana Kiessling
Defiance Middle School-Stephanie Holbrook
Hicksville Elementary- Shelby Oury, Courtney Rittenhouse

•Approved the following Bus & Van Drivers:

Van Drivers:

NwOESC - Kristen Alvarez, Kara Ayers, Sara Buchenberg, Ashlee Grunden, Kaytlyn Hill, Catlyn Pavel, Desiree Staugler, Adrian Whitney,

Substitute Bus Drivers:

NwOESC - Kristen Alvarez, Larry Davis, Kenneth Muntz

Substitute Van Drivers:

NwOESC - Rachel Cole, Sara Fogt, Gary Smiddy

•Approve the following Student Teachers/Interns/Volunteers:

Emswiler, Anna, Internship as a Defiance College student, Fall 2025, Placed with Sara Chafins

•Approve a stipend and insurance coverage for Heidi Bell – per Northeastern Local Schools Board of Education.

•Rescind the offer of employment for the 2025-2026 Employment Contracts

Smith, Toni, Paraprofessional

Yoder, Olivia, School Psychologist Support/Floating Teacher

•Approved Personnel Recommendations:

•LEAVE

FMLA

•Resignation Approval

George, Diana, Paraprofessional, Effective 8/11/2025

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- The Combined Calendar 2025-26 - an “ At-a-Glance” calendar of member district school schedules - was shared with the board. All districts are now in session for the school year.
- The OSBA Northwest Region Fall Conference will be held on Thursday, 10/2/2025; 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM; at Hull Prairie Intermediate School in Perrysburg.
- A review of the NwOESC Board of Education candidate filings for the November 2025 General Election Candidate was provided.
- Four County Career Center Appointments for January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2028 will be completed this fall. Both Nona Rupp and Brian Baker are interested in continuing to serve on the FCCC Board.

•SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Superintendent Kerri Weir reported on several items of importance to the Northwest Ohio ESC as the 2025–26 school year begins. She noted that the federal funding freeze has officially been lifted, with all FY25 funds for Title I, Part C; Title II, Part A; Title III; and Title IV, Part A now released. Title IV-B funds had already been restored earlier this year. With approximately \$1.245 million in annual federal support flowing to NwOESC, this action ensures uninterrupted services for migrant students, English learners, and those who benefit from afterschool and summer programming. Superintendent Weir emphasized that both local and statewide advocacy were critical in pressing the Office of Management and Budget to act, and she pledged to continue monitoring future developments. Weir highlighted the success of the annual Administrators’ Conference, held August 5. The event brought together superintendents, treasurers, principals, and other leaders from across the region, along with representatives from Four County Career Center and NWOCA. The conference provided a strong kickoff to the school year, offering opportunities for professional networking and collaboration. She also reported that Marathon Health, formerly known as Activate and Everside, is undergoing a rebranding with new exterior signage at its healthcare clinic sites. Marathon Health continues to provide valuable in-person and virtual services for staff members enrolled through the NBHP/Buckeye Advantage consortium. Services include primary and preventative care, medications, immediate and sick care, lab services, health coaching, condition management, and mental health counseling for individuals ages 13 and older. Clinics are available in Archbold, Bryan, Defiance, Napoleon, and Wauseon. Superintendent Weir expressed gratitude for the strong turnout at the

annual Fall Staff Meeting on August 7, which welcomed nearly 380 staff members. The theme, *"Building Connections is HEART Work!"* guided the day, which featured an inspiring keynote by Dr. Katie Peters, timely updates, service recognitions, and celebratory activities including food trucks and lunch together. She was especially pleased to recognize milestone service anniversaries across the ESC: **those marking five years included Makayla Babcock, Lauren Beers, Larry Davis, Abigail Hiler, Andy Hunter, Amy Neff, Rachel Norden, Bethany Russell, Patricia Shotwell, Patricia Sutter, and Stephanie Tyson. Ten-year honorees were Kristy Gerig, Kristan Hughes, Katherine Maloney, Tina Rufenacht, Lexie Semer, Kendall Shively, Jason Stein, Page Warner, and Jenna Wilhelm. Fifteen years of service were celebrated for Ami Allison, Megan Hensley, Gail Mason, Lisa Meeker, and Matthew Shumaker, while Sara Buchenberg, Dawn Hill, Jenifer Kitchenmaster, Jodie Mack, Scott Nixon, and Dawn Rufenacht reached the 20-year mark. At 25 years, Denise Baden, Susan Benson, Maria Hernandez, Kristina Keller, Jose Salinas, and Deborah Schmitz were honored. Glenda Funnell, Catherine Gribler, Catherine Millen, and Brandi Sabatino reached 30 years, and a special recognition was given to Margaret Falkenberg for her remarkable 41 years of service.** Looking ahead, Weir announced that the first Superintendents' Meeting of the year will be held September 16 in conjunction with the Business Advisory Council (BAC). The BAC, co-chaired by Weir, Andy Hunter, and Mike Remer, meets quarterly to strengthen business-education partnerships across the region. Superintendents will also meet monthly to share updates, address regional challenges, and collaborate with treasurers and legal counsel. Superintendent Weir further reminded staff of available student loan forgiveness programs, directing them to NwOESC's website for more information. She also shared that she will be honored with the Jerry Klenke Leadership Award at the BASA Fall Conference, noting her gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Region 1 Representative on the BASA Executive Council. Finally, she encouraged continued use of the Ohio ESC Association's online resources, which provide videos, infographics, and materials to help share the impact of ESCs with local stakeholders.

•**Adjournment:** As all the business of the evening was complete the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will take place on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH 43502.