



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT **Monday, April 14, 2025 (6:30 PM)**

1.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Request all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.0 Roll Call

2.1 Call of the Roll

BOARD MEMBERS

Nancy Slattery
Chris Heather
Jim Detzel
Mark Gilbert
Nicole Taulbee

Number in Attendance: 95 Guests

3.0 MISSION STATEMENT

3.1 Mission Statement

The Board President read the Mission Statement:

The Northwest Local School District will create a responsive learning community where all students are valued, challenged, and guided along a pathway to success.

4.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

4.1 Motion to Adopt Agenda

The Board President recommended to adopt the agenda as presented.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Chris Heather**) Moved, Member (**Jim Detzel**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board President recommends to adopt the agenda as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

5.0 SPECIAL PRESENTATION

5.1 2024-25 Hamilton County Educator Excellence Nominees and “T” in PTA Winners

The 2024-25 teacher nominees for the Hamilton County Educator Excellence Award and “T” in PTA winners for each school were recognized by their building administrators.

2024-25 "T" in PTA Winners:

CE -Hannah Schloemer	CMS - Victoria Case
MHE - Heidi Fenwick	PRMS - Stacy Funk
PRE - Heather Cope	WOMS - Janet Huneke
SE - Jill Dykhuizen	CHS - Greg Weaver
TE - Karen Burke	NWHS - Erin Jardine

2024-25 Building Nominees for the Hamilton County Educator Excellence Award:

CE - Hanah Schloemer	CMS - Tim Hester
MHE - Heidi Fenwick	PRMS - Stacy Funk
PRE - Heather Cope	WOMS - Janet Huneke
SE - Jill Dykhuizen	CHS - Nicole Forcum
TE - Karen Burke	NWHS - Doug Ficker

2024-25 District Nominee for the Hamilton County Educator Excellence Award is Nancy Holt from Houston Early Learning Center.

5.2 Student Presentation: CHS Academic Quiz Team

CHS Academic Quiz team members along with faculty sponsor Greg Weaver and Principal Erin Davis shared their experiences with Board members. The students who participated in the presentation were: Layla Klotz, Natalie Greenwell, Shadrach Martini, Hayden Klotz, Jacob Szoke, Evan Thornicroft and Norman Ray.

Team captain Layla Klotz and other senior team members led a presentation to explain how their matches work, the strategies used and highlights of their competition season. Each match has three rounds: categories, alphabet and lightning round. Four members of the team compete each round. The team with the most points after three rounds wins.

Each team member has their own individual strengths and weaknesses and the round participants are chosen based on their strengths. Every member of the team specializes in their own area of expertise and by playing people at the right time the team maximizes their chance of winning.

Highlights of the season include beating Princeton both during the season and in the GMC tournament, having fun and joking during practices, winning 7 of 9 JV matches and beating Lakota east during the GMC tournament.

The team held a short mock match with board members and district administrators where the CHS Academic Quiz Team won 8-7.

Discussion:

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** How many matches do you typically have in a season?

Mr. Weaver: We have nine matches plus the tournament.

5.3 Cell Phone Policy Update

Director of Student Services Jake Kuhnline along with high school principals Erin Davis and Alex Shrewsberry presented the Board with an update on the high school cell phone policy.

With the passage of HB250 last year the district was required to adopt a new cell phone policy for the high schools. At the beginning of the school year, the district began using Yondr pouches to restrict cell phone usage at school in an effort to support teachers and help students focus while in the classroom.

CHS Principal Erin Davis reviewed the observation data. MOI walk thru scores have increased, cell phones are no longer present in the classroom and students are more engaged during the school day. Physical confrontations are down 62% at CHS and 50% at NWHS compared to last year. Based on staff surveys 89% agree or strongly agree that cell phone usage in the classroom has improved compared to last school year. 83% agree or strongly agree that students are more engaged in the classroom as a result of the cell phone policy and 61% agree or strongly agree that the Yondr bags are effective in providing a resource for students to remove the distraction of their cell phone.

NWHS principal Dr. Alex Shrewsberry shared anecdotal feedback from staff members. Many staff acknowledged reduced phone distractions, improved focus and productivity and improved student engagement. The most common concerns were about logistical issues such as managing the pouch locking/unlocking, forgotten pouches, etc.

Mr. Kuhnline shared the plans for next school year. The district believes that the Yondr pilot program can be maintained at the high schools next year using Title IV funds. The goal is for this program to be financially sustainable. All students will be required to turn in their pouch at the end of the school year. Students who have misplaced their pouch or fail to return it will be required to pay a replacement. Title IV funds will be used to purchase pouches for rising 9th graders.

The cell phone policy presentation can be viewed online as an ESB attachment.

Discussion:

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Have you looked at adding this to the middle schools?

Mr. Kuhnline: We have been having conversations with our middle school principals. We think this is a great tool but we're also making sure that we're being financially responsible. We're looking at the methods they're currently using and what's working vs. switching to the Yondr bags. We're trying to limit this program to federal funds as opposed to using local taxpayer funds.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** How has it been with trying to collect fines for lost or broken pouches?

Mrs. Davis: Right now when a student loses or breaks a pouch they are sent to the office where a fine is assessed on their account. Seniors have to pay any outstanding fines and fees in order to attend prom so we're working through that process. So far there have been no questions or concerns from parents in regards to the fines.

- **Mr. Gilbert:** Did staff members offer any other details or feedback about the use of Yondr pouches?

Mr. Kuhnline: I think there is both positive and negative feedback. Yes, the pouches are working and the staff is working harder than ever to enforce the policy. There's a lot that happens logistically to make the pouches work. There are a lot of changes that happened this year and it's all the changes together that have helped, not just the pouches.

Mr. Shrewsberry: We need to make sure we're doing the work to keep the students engaged all around. It's not just the phones that are distracting, but that's one piece of it.

Mrs. Davis: Another factor is the smart pass system implemented this year to limit the use of hall passes.

6.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

A) Student Achievement Liaison Report

6.1 Student Achievement Liaison Report by Board Representative

Colerain High School

- Congratulations to the cast and crew of Mamma Mia! The Drama Club worked hard to put on an amazing show for our students, staff, and the entire Colerain community to enjoy.

Northwest High School

- Junior Michael Gilliland scored a 34 on his recent ACT. Michael was recognized by the Board last November for earning a perfect score on the PSAT as a sophomore. This year, as a junior, Michael is enrolled in 4 college courses.
- Izaki Wampeti is competing for Athlete of the Week recognition through the Cincinnati Enquirer. Izaki ran a 200-meter dash personal best of 21.99 seconds to win the competition at Ross. He also earned second place in the long jump with a leap of 19 feet, 11.5 inches.

Pleasant Run Middle School

- 8th grade student Mario Lux Chacaj is an exceptional student. He was recently inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Mario has consistently demonstrated academic excellence, earning Honors, High Honors, or Perfect Honors throughout his academic career. He is an active member of both the Northwest High School Marching Band and the 8th Grade Concert Band.

White Oak Middle School

- Congratulations to the 14 student musicians who performed at the OMEA Solo & Ensemble event on April 12 at Batavia High School. Each performance was judged and given a rating of 1 (Superior), 2 (Excellent), 3 (Good), 4 (Fair), or 5 (Poor). This year, every WOMS Band student received a Superior, Excellent or Good rating.

Colerain Elementary

- For two months in a row, the entire second grade has followed the SOAR expectations and received ZERO office discipline referrals. Students focused on positive peer relations, which continues to build a strong culture of learning in

their classrooms. The students were rewarded with a popcorn party during their lunch period provided by the PTA.

Monfort Heights Elementary

- The first grade students wrote about their favorite place during WIN time. Three students were selected to share their work with the entire school during morning advisory. Congratulations to: Alee Sya Hudson, Oliver Kechele, and Ollila Glenn.

Pleasant Run Elementary

- Second grade PRE student Hailey Mattan, won 1st Honorable Mention in the State PTA Reflections Competition for the photograph that she submitted in the Primary Photography category. PRE looks forward to celebrating Hailey at the upcoming Hamilton County PTA Dessert Evening.

Struble Elementary

- The 5th grade students recently took a field trip to the iSPACE STEM Center. Students worked collaboratively in teams to complete a lunar mission that simulated different scenarios that actually happened with the NASA Challenger and Columbia Missions. Students worked in three different rooms: mission control, and two rooms that simulated bases on the moon for lunar research.

Taylor Elementary

- The 1st grade students have been learning about habitats in their CKLA curriculum. They had an opportunity to create models which they shared with their classroom and other classrooms throughout the school. Students came to the first-grade den area to walk around and see their work.

Houston Early Learning Center

- The students in Mrs. Neuhaus's classroom at Houston Early Learning Center used their critical thinking skills to follow clues and find a Leprechaun treasure on St. Patrick's Day.

Northwest Local School District

- The 2024-25 winners and runner's up for its PTA Reflections Program were recognized. The Ohio PTA Reflections Program is part of the national PTA Reflections Program, a creative arts initiative designed to encourage students to explore their talents and express themselves through the arts. This year's theme

was "Accepting Imperfection". Students were invited to submit original works in the categories of dance/choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, visual arts, and accessible arts (for students with disabilities). Central Support Staff members voted for their favorite entries in each category and grade division. Submissions for our district winners and runners up were sent to Columbus to be evaluated at the state level. Congratulations to all of our district winners and runners-up:

- Jayden Ngansop, from Colerain Elementary, was the District runner up for primary visual arts.
- Kaliyah Holloway, from Colerain Elementary, was the District winner for primary visual arts.
- Claire Schoenberger, from Monfort Heights Elementary, was the District runner up for intermediate visual arts.
- Gabriel Thomas, from Struble Elementary, was the District winner for intermediate visual arts.
- Laney Coby, from Colerain Middle School, was the District winner for middle school visual arts.
- Sid Kirgis, from Northwest High School, was the District runner up for high school visual arts.
- Natali McGuire, from Colerain High School, was the District winner for high school visual arts.
- Zoe Schrenk, from Colerain Middle School, was the District runner up for middle school music competition.
- Cali Clippard, from Colerain Middle School, was the District winner for middle school music competition.
- Willow Johnson, from Monfort Heights Elementary, was the District runner up for intermediate literature.
- Amath Cisse, from Monfort Heights Elementary, was the District winner for intermediate literature.

B) Butler Tech Update

6.2 Butler Technology Update by Board Representative

Jim Detzel gave the Butler Technology update as follows:

Invitations for the May all boards meeting will be sent out soon so be on the lookout.

C) Legislative Update

6.3 Legislative Update by Board Representative

Mark Gilbert gave the legislative update as follows:

No update was given.

7.0 PUBLIC PRESENTATION

A) Report from Any Employee Organization

7.1 Report from Any Employee Organization

The Board President asked if there was a representative from any employee organization who wished to speak.

Human Resources Director Susan Bunte spoke briefly about the Aspiring Leaders Program. The Aspiring Leaders program was created to strengthen and deepen teacher leadership and to create a pipeline for future building leaders. Seven educators participated in the program this year. Kayla Holloway, Cassie Harcha and Noelle Kist spoke about their experiences in the program.

Kayla Holloway, Dean of Students at Struble Elementary: *The Aspiring Leaders program gave us a great opportunity to not only meet with people from the central office but also collaborate with people from other schools that we might not work with on a regular basis. The text that we were provided, "From Teacher to Leader", allowed us opportunities to reflect and really look at what it looks like when we start making the next steps into a leadership position. I know the three of us had those conversations about our roles, going from teacher to dean to counselor. That transition wasn't necessarily an easy one and the text allowed us to think about what we can do in those leadership positions to prepare us for difficult conversations, how to support our teaching staff and how to continue to have a growth mindset. It taught us how to best work with the staff that we interact with in daily life. It allowed us a great collaboration opportunity. It allowed us to reflect. It allowed us to meet with other staff members, whether it's at the central office or within the different schools that we might not see on a daily basis and get to know them and their roles and how it all plays a key component in the leadership world.*

Cassie Harcha, Counselor at Taylor Elementary: *The program itself obviously is not something that's required of Susan (Bunte) or anybody in the administrative offices but it feels really good to be invested in and looked to as future leaders of this district. It felt really nice to be able to have sit downs in a small group setting with different leaders of different departments. For me as a counselor, I work primarily with Jake (Kuhnline) and I feel like my communication with Jake is frequent and easy and to be able to sit down with the different departments that I don't often sit with or know much about, I feel like I really grew my knowledge of the district and my knowledge of the education world. I really feel like my next step is in the leadership roles that my life may take and this program definitely prepared me for that.*

Noelle Kist, Dean of Students at Taylor Elementary: *Along with meeting monthly, we were invited by Human Resources to join some of the other administrators within the district to go to a recruiting event. I was lucky enough to go to Xavier last week and along with our district administrators we went and met with people, lured them in and then in the afternoon Miss Harcha and I were able to actually do screening interviews with candidates. We all talked about it tonight, and the best part of it was that it took you back to why we do this, why we got into it. Seeing those young teachers that are so excited and they want to be in the classroom, they want to be changing lives. It was very exciting to see. The Aspiring Leaders group met monthly and we got to talk with one another which is something, like Kayla (Holloway) said, we would have never done. We had the advice of Susan (Bunte) the whole time. We got to talk with everyone else throughout the district that leads and does things that we really did not even understand what their jobs were, and then to be included in the recruiting process was really fun.*

B) Community Communications

7.2 Community Comments

The Board President acknowledged audience members who completed a “Request to Address the Board” card and read the NWLSD Board Policy, Public Participation at Board Meetings (169.1), which can be viewed through the following link:
<http://go.boarddocs.com/oh/nwlsdhamiltonoh/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CJML8T555E8f>

The Northwest Board of Education welcomes the opportunity to listen to Northwest Local School District resident’s comments, suggestions, and concerns on educational issues. It is important to remember that the Board conducts the meetings in public, but the meetings are not public forums. The intent of the meetings is to allow the Board to complete needed business. Per Board Policy (169.1), each submission will be given three (3) minutes to speak on agenda items of any topic during “Community Comments.” However, no more than fifteen (15) minutes will be devoted to public participation unless the Board votes unanimously to continue the discussion. No response to this submission will occur from any Board member or district administration during this time. Once the fifteen (15) minutes’ time frame is over, appropriate follow up by the district administration may occur at a later time if warranted.

No one was present to speak.

8.0 APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS

8.1 Adoption of Superintendent's Consent Items

The Superintendent recommended the Board of Education approve the adoption of the superintendent's consent items as listed.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Chris Heather**) Moved, Member (**Jim Detzel**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education approve the adoption of Superintendent's consent items as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

A) Personnel

8.2 Superintendent Consent Items

Acceptance of Classified Resignations and Retirements

Allinder, Joseph - TE - MD Assistant
Effective: 4/19/2025 (Personal)

Rust, Lynda - SE - Cafe Assistant
Effective: 4/8/2025 (Retirement)

Acceptance of Certified Resignations and Retirements

Behrle, Stacey - WOMS - Science
Effective: 8/1/2025 (Personal)

Carroll, Anne - CE - 1st Grade
Effective: 8/1/2025 (Relocating)

Coyle, Courtney - CMS - Intervention Specialist
Effective: 8/1/2025 (Personal)

Cregger, Kathryn - PRE - Counselor
Effective: 8/1/2025 (Personal)

Dangel, Benjamin - NWHS - Math
Effective: 6/30/2025 (Personal)

Inesta, Lauren - SE - Intervention Specialist
Effective: 8/1/2025 (Personal)

Ross, George - WOMS - Social Studies
Effective: 8/1/2025 (Personal)

Acceptance of Extra Duty Resignations

Huber, Carl - CHS - Strength Coach (½), Step 6
Effective: 6/30/2025

McGraw, Anna - CHS - 9th Grade Volleyball Coach, Step 3
Effective: 6/30/2025

Smith, Payge - CHS - 9th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, Step 3
Effective: 6/30/2025

Thomas, Bartley - CHS - 9th Grade Football Coach, Step 1
Effective: 6/30/2025

Approval of Classified Changes of Status

Anderson, Valarie - from Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices, Step 20 to Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices - Grants/Nonpublic/Professional Development, Step 20
Effective: 7/1/2025

Cahill, Cindy - from Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices, Step 4 to Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices - Student Data Management, Step 5
Effective: 7/1/2025

Calardo, Jodie - from Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices, Step 6 to Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices - Fiscal Operations: Position C, Step 7
Effective: 7/1/2025

Dean, Michele - from Office Personnel 4 at Transportation, Step 5 to Office Personnel 5 at Monfort Heights Elementary, Step 1
Effective: 7/1/2025

Kluener, Michele - from Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices, Step 19 to Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices - Program Management, Step 20
Effective: 7/1/2025

Lovelace-Brown, Kerri - from Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices, Step 12 to Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices - Enrollment, Step 13
Effective: 7/1/2025

Moore, Kathy - from Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices, Step 12 to Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices - Enrollment, Step 13
Effective: 7/1/2025

Putzke, Dorcey - from Technology Liaison, Step 20 to Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices - Technology Liaison, Step 20
Effective: 7/1/2025

Veatch, Marla - from Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices, Step 16 to Office Personnel 5 - Central Offices - Fiscal Operations: Position B, Step 17
Effective: 7/1/2025

Approval of Temporary Classified Change of Status

Mason, Jeanette - from Cafe Assistant, Step 5 at White Oak Middle School to Interim Cafe Manager, Step 1 at Pleasant Run Elementary
Effective: 4/7/2025 to 5/22/2025

Approval of Initial Classified Appointments

Brown, Jordan

Salary: MD Assistant, Step 5
Effective: 4/11/2025

(Replacement)

Roginski, Christopher

Salary: Maintenance, Step 10
Effective: 4/14/2025

(Replacement)

Approval of Classified Leaves of Absence

Bowling, Bonita - CHS - OP 4
Effective: 4/16/2025 - 12/17/2026

(Medical)

Gutierrez, Sayra - CSO - Dept. Specialist
Effective: 3/26/2025

(Intermittent)

Milligan, Rhiannon - PRE - MD Assistant
Effective: 2/1/2025

(Intermittent)

Owens, Chris - PRE - OP5
Effective: 4/30/2025

(Intermittent)

Price, Barbara - Transportation - Bus Assistant
Effective: 3/7/2025

(Intermittent)

Strader, Kendall - WOMS - ED Assistant
Effective: 3/9/2025

(Continuous)

Approval of Initial Administrative Appointments

Kist, Noelle - TE - Assistant Principal
Salary: XAO-01, Step 6, (200 days)
Effective: 8/1/2025

(Replacement)

Wiwi, Shannon - CSO - Special Education Supervisor III
Salary: XCO-01, Step 7, (212 days)
Effective: 8/1/2025

(Replacement)

Approval of Initial Certified Appointment

Mathews, Suzanne
Salary: Teacher, Master's with 3 years of experience, Step 4
Effective: 8/1/2025

(Replacement)

Approval of Administrative Change in Status

Graber, Ruth, from Interim Supervisor of Food Services, Step 1 to Supervisor of Food Services, Step 1
Effective: 4/15/2025

(Replacement)

Approval of Certified Change in Status

Beall, Jennifer - from Long Term Sub Intervention Specialist, Master's with 6 years of experience, Step 7 at Houston Early Learning Center to Intervention Specialist, Master's with 7 years of experience, Step 8 at Colerain Elementary
Effective: 8/11/2025

Approval of Employee to be Rehired for 2025-2026

Reckers, Erin
Originally Hired: 8/8/2021
Placement: PRE - Counselor
Salary: Master's, Step 5

Approval of Certified Leaves of Absence

Boner, Kristen - SE - Teacher
Effective: 3/14/2025

(Intermittent)

Johnson, Damien Lee - NWHS - Athletic Director
Effective: 3/8/2025 (Continuous)

Leinberger, Jayme - PRE - Teacher
Effective: 3/20/2025 (Intermittent)

Schultz, James - PRMS - Teacher
Effective: 5/1/2025 (Continuous)

Approval of Extra Duty Contracts for 2024-25 Effective 7/1/2024

Colerain Middle School

Music Club Sponsor - Victoria Case, Step 1

Resolution (#2522) to Hire for Non-Licensed Coaches Effective 7/1/2024

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the positions of:

7/8th Grade Track Coaches - WOMS
Drama Director - WOMS

WHEREAS, the positions have been offered to the current employees of the Northwest Local School District who have a license issued under Section 3319.22 of the Ohio Revised Code and no such person whom the Board of Education considers to be qualified for the positions have applied for and accepted the positions; and

WHEREAS, the positions have been advertised as available to any individual not employed by the Northwest Local School District who has a license issued under Section 3319.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, and no such person whom the Board of Education considers to be qualified for the positions have applied for and accepted the positions; and

WHEREAS,

Bayer, Alexis - WOMS - Drama Director, Step 4
Crooks, Brandon - WOMS - 7/8th Grade Track Coach, Step 2
Snyder, Jacob - WOMS - 7/8th Grade Track Coach, Step 2

who do not hold licenses issued pursuant to Section 3319.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, have applied for the positions, and the Board of Education has determined that they are qualified for the positions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that they be employed in the positions for the 2024-2025 school year in accordance with the pupil

activity contract attached hereto and incorporated herein.

IT IS FOUND AND DETERMINED that all formal action of this Board concerning or related to the adoption of this Resolution was adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were adopted in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Ohio Revised Code.

Approval of Winter Music Assistant for 2024-25

Miller, Ilsa - CHS

Approval of Athletic Event Worker

Anderson, Janet

Approval of Volunteers for 2024-25

Begley, P. Megan - SE

Meyer, Robert - NWHS

Resolution (#2523) of Job Abandonment

Resolution recognizing that Heidi Sparks has abandoned her position with the Northwest Local School District Board of Education effective March 18, 2025. The District has attempted to be in contact with Ms. Sparks to have her fulfill her contractual duties to the Board. However, Ms. Sparks has refused to fulfill such contractual duties. This job abandonment is not done with the consent of the Board of Education, and this resolution should not be seen as "consent" under RC 3319.15. This resolution is passed only to recognize the job abandonment so that the District administrative offices can do what is necessary to remove Ms. Sparks from the District's employment rosters and other systems.

Approval of the following Job Descriptions

Communications Department Specialist
Office Personnel - Central Offices - Data Visualization
Office Personnel - Central Offices - Enrollment
Office Personnel - Central Offices - Fiscal Operations
Office Personnel - Central Offices - Fiscal/Grants/Non Public/PD
Office Personnel - Central Offices - Program Management
Office Personnel - Central Offices - Student Data Management
Office Personnel - Central Offices - System Management
Office Personnel - Central Offices - Technology Liaison

Job descriptions can be viewed as an attachment in ESB.

B) General Business

8.3 Vendor Contracts

In compliance with ORC 3313.33; attached is a list of vendor contracts for Board approval.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Total</u>
HCESC	Bilingual SLP Evaluation-Preschool	1 year	Depends on time
Raptor Technologies	Emergency management software	1 year	\$23,716 (\$6,401.33 in FY25)
Princeton City School District	TI services provided to Princeton CSD students attending OLG	1 year	\$1,111.17
EMS	Vendor to assist with health insurance optimization	1 year	\$5,000.00
AON	Worker's Compensation Reserving Risk Assessment Actuarial Report	2 years	\$6,825.00
Cincinnati State	MOU for 25-26 CCP Courses	1 year	NA
FieldTurf USA, Inc.	Replacement of field turf	1 year	\$535,849.07
FieldTurf USA, Inc.	Additional gravel and drainage	1 year	\$39,606.00
FieldTurf USA, Inc.	New 18" storm drain and manhole	1 year	\$113,827.00
<i>Paid for Auxiliary or Federal Non-Public grant monies.</i>			
<i>Additional cost to the current fiscal year's July 1st budget.</i>			

8.4 Donations to Northwest Local School District

Below is a list of donations for Board approval.

Name of Donor	Donation Description	Building	Donation Amount
Game On!	20 - \$10 gift cards to be used for student prizes	White Oak Middle School	\$200.00

8.5 2026 Out-of-State Field Trip - NWHS Music

The music teachers at Northwest High School requested approval for an out-of-state field trip to Orlando, Florida for their band, orchestra, and choir students in grades 9-12

departing on Wednesday, March 25th (2:00 p.m.) and returning Monday, March 30th (4:00 p.m.) of the 2025-26 school year. Early approval for this field trip is required in order for fundraising efforts to commence. A total of 2.5 days of school will be missed.

9.0 APPROVAL OF FISCAL CONSENT ITEMS

9.1 Adoption of Fiscal Consent Items

The Treasurer recommended the Board of Education approve the adoption of fiscal consent items as listed.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Jim Detzel**) Moved, Member (**Nicole Taulbee**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Treasurer recommends the Board of Education approve the adoption of fiscal consent items as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

9.2 Minutes - Regular Meeting - March 24, 2025

The minutes may be viewed on the ESB online attachment with today's date.

9.3 Financial Reports of the Treasurer - March 2025

In accordance with Section 3313.29 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio, record needs to be made that the Treasurer submitted a financial statement of receipts, expenditures, balances and investments in the regular funds of the Board of Education for the period of the fiscal year 2025.

Monthly Finance and Investment Report - March

All Funds Balance - \$111,106,949

General Fund Unreserved Balance - \$39,277,359

	FYTD Actual	Estimate	%
Revenues	\$97,040,143	\$112,740,387	86%
Expenditures	\$78,972,613	\$111,582,752	71%

- *Waiting on our final 1st Half Tax Settlement and Interest rates have stayed higher due to the economy.*
- *Utilize our federal IDEA funds before the General fund for special needs purchased services.*

Investment weighted average return – 4.23%

List of monthly bills - routine, as well as, Catastrophic Plan renovations and Colerain Elementary CFAP project, and auxiliary/grant fund payments.

9.4 Accept, Approve Fund and/or Appropriate Safety Grant

FUND/SCC	FUND NAME & AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE OF THE FUND
499 9501	FY25 School Safety Grant	Project Description The Northwest Local School District is applying for these funds to support yearly active-shooter response training through the ALICE Framework for new staff and for the purchase and installation of license plate readers at district schools that do not yet have this technology available.

Discussion:

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** When I look through the monthly bills I notice that we pay a lot of money to Hamilton County ESC. Could you do a presentation for us on what we pay them and where it goes? And do we look at ever bringing those types of things back in house? Because it may be more fiscally responsible to do so.

Mrs. Wells: It would be a collaborative presentation but yes, we can do that.

10.0 APPROVAL OF OTHER ITEMS

10.1 2025-26 Textbook Adoptions - HS Chemistry and HS Physics

The Curriculum Department, in collaboration with the high school science teachers and building administrators, recommended the following textbooks for use in the identified science courses, beginning with the 2025-26 school year:

Courses: Advanced Chemistry #4301, Honors Chemistry #4302
 Textbook: Experience Chemistry
 Publisher: Savvas
 (c) 2021

Courses: Advanced Physics #4404, Honors Physics #4403
 Textbook: Experience Physics
 Publisher: Savvas
 (c) 2022

A parent review opportunity for these instructional materials was provided as required by board policy. This item was presented as information at the March 24th Board meeting.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Mark Gilbert**) Moved, Member (**Nicole Taulbee**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the HS Chemistry and HS Physics textbook adoptions as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

10.2 Neola Board Policies Updates

The following 25 new, revised or rescinded Neola Board Policies were presented for approval, they were presented for information at the March 24th Board meeting.

po0131.1	po0171 RESCIND
po 1422.01 NEW	po2260.02
po2271	po2340
po2430.02	po2431

po2460	po5120
po5131 RESCIND	po5136.01
po5223	po5330
po5350	po5460
po5610	po5751
po6460	po6151
po7440.01	po7421 NEW
po8452	po8142
po8500	

Discussion:

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** I just want to call out that I did email Darrell (Yater) today about policy 1422.01 which talks about a drug-free workplace and I got clarification that if events are held on school property that are outside of school hours that those would not be included. This is referring to activities during the school day.

Mr. Yater: It encompasses after the school day as well but it does not include non-district events. So some of the non-district events that are held on our property would not be included in this policy.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Mark Gilbert**) Moved, Member (**Nicole Taulbee**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Neola Board Policy updates as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

10.3 Resolution to Advertise and Accept Bids for the Transitions Academy project at Northwest Career Center

Renovations to a portion of the Northwest Career Center for the Transitions Academy per the Board approved contingency plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 2524

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING AN INTENT TO ADVERTISE AND TAKE BIDS FOR A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT THE NORTHWEST CAREER CENTER CONSISTING OF ALTERATIONS NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE THE DISTRICT TRANSITION ACADEMY PROGRAM. THIS RESOLUTION IS AUTHORIZING THE TREASURER AND SUPERINTENDENT PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE LAWS TO PROCEED WITH COMMENCEMENT OF SUCH PROCESS AS NEEDED TO SOLICIT CONSTRUCTION BIDS.

WHEREAS, the Northwest Local School District Board of Education wishes to advertise and receive bids for capital improvement projects at the Northwest Career Center and wishes to approve the specifications for the renovations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Education of the Northwest Local School District authorizes the Treasurer to advertise and receive bids on behalf of said Board as per drawings and specifications submitted by SHP for the following: Alterations to classroom spaces to accommodate the District Transitions Academy program.

Discussion:

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Back when we were talking about the Colerain Elementary project there wasn't any room at any of our buildings, but now there is. What changed?

Mr. Yater: This was always part of the initial plan, that the career center would have space for Transitions Academy. It eventually will have space for the central office but that is when a one high school model is fully implemented.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Okay, so where are the classrooms from Butler Tech going? Will some students have to transition to a Butler Tech campus or how will that work?

Mr. Yater: No, we will not lose any Butler Tech classrooms. There will be two classrooms that will be reallocated to other spaces in the building. That was always a part of our long-term plan with the master facility plan.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** And then the money, I saw the bids of \$750,000 or more. Where is that money coming from? Which fund is that coming from?

Mr. Yater: That was part of the contingency plan that we brought last year, that we would use that contingency fund to make that happen.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Chris Heather**) Moved, Member (**Jim Detzel**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education approve the resolution expressing an intent to advertise and take bids for the Transitions Academy project at Northwest High School and authorizing the Superintendent and Treasurer pursuant to applicable laws to proceed with commencement of such process as needed to solicit construction bids'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

10.4 CHS Boosters MOA

A Memorandum of Agreement between the NWLSD and CHS Boosters allowing the Boosters to hold a fundraising gala on March 21, 2026.

The full MOA can be viewed online as an ESB attachment.

Discussion:

- **Mr. Heather:** What's the date for this?

Mr. Yater: March 21, 2026.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** I just have a couple notes here. Darrell (Yater) called me earlier this week to let me know that he was updating this to no longer allow the boosters to sell a bottle of alcohol with the school name on it. There are numerous high schools, both public and parochial, that do this. I have pictures of multiple schools in our area that have done it and are continuing to do it. I thought it was a unique and neat way for the boosters to create a keepsake for the event. I was at the gala for the entire evening and there was never an issue or a concern. That table was well managed and I think it was highly inappropriate and unprofessional for Nancy (Slattery) to send an email expressing concern about the high school name being put on the bottle. The gala was a tasteful, well executed, glamorous event held outside of school hours and not attended by high school students. It's disappointing Nancy that you chose to send such a critical email that night after countless volunteers dedicated hundreds of hours to make the event a success. The last thing they needed at 11:00 PM was a condescending and judgmental email from a school board member. That could

have waited until Monday morning where you could have reached out to Darrell with your concern.

Ms. Slattery: Well I think that was a bit of an inaccurate description of the email. My first statement was that it was a wonderful event, it was very well planned and a lot of hard work went into it.

Mrs. Taulbee: And then you went into talking about alcohol. You could have waited until Monday and spoken to Darrell. It was extremely wrong of you to send it that evening. At 11:00 PM when people are cleaning up they don't need to get an email from you.

Ms. Slattery: Alcohol is a drug. It may be a socially acceptable drug, but it is a drug. It is the most commonly abused drug in the United States. It is addictive, it is mind altering, and to put the name of a high school or any school on a drug, to me, makes absolutely no sense. And that is my opinion and I'm allowed to have that. But I don't know why we would put a school name on a drug.

Mrs. Taulbee: It's done very often, and it's done tastefully.

Ms. Slattery: Then why don't we do elementary school mind-numbing THC gummies? Because right now marijuana products are used more on a daily basis by daily users than alcohol is. I don't think it's appropriate to put a school's name on a drug. I don't care if it's a legal drug, I don't care if it's a socially acceptable drug, it's still a drug. Kids are influenced when things are normalized. If you put their high school's name on a drug and you're selling it to their parents, their relatives, their neighbors, their family friends, you have just normalized that drug more. We're doing this right before prom season, right before graduation. Kids are highly influenced, they're experimental and gosh, what would be more cool than to drink Colerain High School bourbon at a Colerain High School prom or a Colerain High School graduation? It is a drug. It may be fine for adults to have alcohol but then put Colerain Boosters on it, don't put the school's name on it.

Mrs. Taulbee: And that's what will happen going forward. Your email was extremely inappropriate.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Mark Gilbert)** Moved, Member **(Jim Detzel)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the CHS Boosters MOA as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

10.5 Donations to Northwest Local School District

Below is a list of donations for Board approval.

Name of Donor:	Donation Description:	Building:	Donation Amount:
Nancy Slattery	Books	Colerain Middle School	\$266.47
Nancy Slattery	Gift cards for student incentives	White Oak Middle School	\$530.00

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Mark Gilbert**) Moved, Member (**Jim Detzel**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education accept the donations to Northwest Local School District as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 0. The motion **Carried 4 - 0**

Nancy Slattery	Abstain
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

11.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND OR DISCUSSION

11.1 2025-26 Textbook Adoption - Zoology

The Curriculum Department, in partnership with the high school science teachers and building administrators, recommended the following textbook for adoption for the 2025-26 school year for Advanced and Honors Zoology (courses 4304 and 4305):

Hickman, Integrated Principles of Zoology, 18th Ed.
Publisher: McGraw Hill
(c) 2020

An opportunity for parents and families to preview the resource was provided. This item is being presented for information tonight and will be brought for approval at the next regular meeting.

12.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

12.1 Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Darrell Yater presented the Superintendent's Update as follows:

I want to reiterate gratitude to the teachers who were recognized tonight as well as the many teachers who are working day and night to make extremely positive influences in the lives of our kids. We have an amazing staff and it's what makes our district such a unique and special place to be. I want to remind everyone that there is no school on Monday, April 21st.

We'll continue to update everyone on the status of open enrollment. There's an FAQ on our website. As we get questions about the open enrollment process we are directing people to go there. We've tried to take a lot of the questions that have come in and put them on that document so that it has the most up-to-date information and questions that we're getting. As far as the timeline for opening it up to the public, as May 1st approaches we will continue to make social media announcements to ensure people are aware of the opportunity for open enrollment.

I also want to take a quick moment to update everyone on where we are with the state budget process. We did send communication out that the governor's proposal for the biennium budget was released. We had a great response from our community and our teachers asking for changes. The House has finished their revision and they have submitted their omnibus replacement of House Bill 96. That version now goes to the Senate. The House made some pretty drastic changes to what the governor proposed. There's a lot of detail behind that but two of the biggest items are that they took the formula that we had been talking to our community about and they kind of put that formula on hold. They flat funded public schools for the next two years at our current funding level. That doesn't take into account increased costs and inflation. The other thing they put in was a cap on our cash reserve policy. The carryover balance that we talk about in the 5-year forecast would be capped at 30%. That 30% cap on cash reserves would limit the district's ability to save beyond that. That ability to save is what we used to fund Colerain Elementary without going to the voters for a bond. We are concerned that the limit on cash balances would negatively impact the ability for the district to really plan long term and to take some of those cash balances and use them strategically. We've talked a lot about how when levies are passed there's a bow tie effect. When you pass a levy you ask for more than you need because the levy is meant to last a certain amount of years, so you ask for more on the front end. That means you're collecting a larger amount up front, breaking even in the middle of that levy cycle, and then using the excess that you collected in the beginning to pay for the deficits in the end. This change would limit the districts across the state of Ohio to be able to go for and use levies the way they're intended in the state. We are working on some communication to go out to our staff and to our parents and community soon to

help educate people about where we are in that budget process. Again, we are only halfway there, the budget is now in the Senate and will go through hearings and additional changes. It will then go to a conference committee and be sent to the governor by June 30th.

We also have both of our high school graduations coming up in May. Northwest High School on May 16th and Colerain High School on May 21st. It's exciting to see our senior class take that next step into whatever comes next for them. Our schools do a lot to prepare students for that next step. Ohio is really prioritizing themselves to be a workforce state. Ohio's public schools graduate 90% of high school graduates statewide so it's really important that we continue to prioritize funding for our public schools. We're also going to be doing profiles of graduates. We'll be looking back to previous graduates and some of the unique and cool things that they're doing. You'll start seeing those on social media in the coming weeks and then as an ongoing campaign to continue to promote the unique things that our graduates are doing. We're excited for that to roll out and for people to see the really amazing things that our graduates are doing.

Discussion:

- **Mr. Detzel:** What are the dates of those graduations?

Mr. Yater: Northwest is May 16th and Colerain is May 21st. Both at Truist Arena at NKU.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** With open enrollment, you talked about going on the website, is there separate information that you've been sharing with our staff if they're apprehensive and have questions?

Mr. Yater: We already have a process for intra-district open enrollment. So we're using a similar process to determine how much room is available for open enrollment at each building in each grade level. We've been analyzing a lot of data and looking at trends.

Mrs. Taulbee: And that's been shared with the staff?

Mr. Yater: I don't know that they know the entire process we're going through but as staff have reached out I've told them that we are doing this process to try to make sure that we don't over inflate classrooms. That we're looking at a lot of data. It's still not an exact science and I can't guarantee it, but we're doing everything we can to manage class sizes even with open enrollment.

13.0 OTHER BOARD ITEMS

13.1 Board Members' Comments

Mr. Detzel: I want to congratulate the academic quiz team. I really liked how they had a little competition here, that was very nice. Congratulations to them on a good year. And congrats to all the teachers that won the Hamilton County PTA awards for teachers of the year. It's always nice to see the teachers getting recognized.

Mrs. Taulbee: Just want to thank all of our staff and building leaders that came tonight. Congratulations to our academic quiz team and all of our spring sports, we wish them well this year.

Mr. Gilbert: I want to congratulate the teachers and appreciate the building principals coming in and sharing their staff with us. I like that we had the academic quiz team here. Our district offers something for everybody and I'm glad not everything is about sports. Everybody's got an outlet if they choose to do so.

Mr. Heather: Congratulations to all the teachers and the academic kids. It was incredible how good they were. Coming in tonight I think we all saw the covering to the entrance of the building, the white thing that probably hasn't been touched in 50 years and how awful it looks. It turned black with mold on top and it was leaking. Bear in mind, as we heard at our last meeting, that the boosters had promised to pay for half of the repairs, I think it was \$6,500. We (the district) need to come up with that other money and I hope that can be done. It's such a bad reflection on our district, just like the front plaza that we redid the cement on. That's the front door to this building. Those two things, the plaza and the covering. When people come and get wet walking underneath it and see how worn it looks, I think that's \$6,500 well spent. I hope we don't lose sight of that before next school year.

Ms. Slattery: After tonight we can really recognize that we are a truly blessed district. We have some superior, awesome educators, coaches, deans and counselors. We are so lucky to have these people who dedicate their time to our students, who have put their heart and soul into the job that they do. As we see with the student achievements every meeting we have some remarkable students that continue to make great achievements and it's just awesome to be able to share that with the public. I hope people appreciate what wonderful students we do have. I'd like to congratulate the transportation department for five weeks in a row with no cancellations. That is a job well done and that's everybody in the department from the administrators, supervisors, bus drivers, and mechanics. Everybody's put out a good foot forward to do that so congratulations to them. I know they hear a lot when people aren't happy with them so I hope they get to hear some appreciation of a job well done for the past five weeks.

14.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

14.1 Executive Session

The Superintendent recommended the Board of Education approve the motion to move into executive session to discuss the evaluation of the Treasurer

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Chris Heather**) Moved, Member (**Jim Detzel**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the motion to move into executive session as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

The Board approved a motion to move into executive session at 8:34 PM.

14.2 Return from executive session

The Board returned from executive session at 9:26 PM.

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

15.1 Board President Called for Adjournment

The Board President asked for a motion and second for adjournment.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Nicole Taulbee**) Moved, Member (**Mark Gilbert**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board President recommends to adopt the agenda as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried 5 - 0**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

The meeting ended at 9:27 PM.

Agenda item attachments are saved in PDF format and are viewable by the public. Waycross community media video tapes Board meetings. Taped meetings are available on-line at www.waycross.tv

Ng 5/19/25
President

Attest

Amey M. Wells
Treasurer