

Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio
Essex Place – 6393 Oak Tree Blvd., Independence, OH 44131

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – Thursday, December 18, 2025

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m.

Roll Call -

Present – Christine Krol, George Klepacz, Carol Fortlage, Anthony Miceli, William L. Morrison, Jr.
 Administration Present – Bob Mengerink, Jennifer Dodd, Steve Rogaski, Andrew Pizzulo

Public Participation – There was none.

Resolution #2025-12-01 - Approve Amended Agenda

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio amends the agenda to include an executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by William L. Morrison, Jr.

Ayes: Anthony Miceli, William L. Morrison, Jr., Carol Fortlage, George Klepacz, Christine Krol

Motion approved 5-0

Resolution #2025-12-02- Approve Reduction in Force (RIF) for Certified Employees

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio shall reduce in force within the ranks of certified staff, through the suspension of their 2025-2026 employment contract (s) effective December 31, 2025 for financial conditions pursuant to Section 3319.17 of the Ohio Revised Code as determined by the Superintendent. The Treasurer is directed to give written notice of this action no later than December 30, 2025.

- Candace Muetzel: Consultant: ELL & Early Literacy: State Support Team Region Three
- Kajal Brazwell: Coordinator of Instructional Technology and Design: ESCNEO
- Rhonda Reid: SST Consultant: State Support Team Region Three

Motion: William L. Morrison, Jr.; seconded by Carol Fortlage

Ayes: William L. Morrison, Jr., Carol Fortlage, George Klepacz, Christine Krol, Anthony Miceli

Motion approved 5-0

Our Vision: To be the leading organization serving any and all needs of school districts and agencies working on behalf of children.

Resolution #2025-12-03 – Approve Reduction in Force (RIF) for Classified Employees

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio shall reduce in force within the ranks of classified staff, through the suspension of their 2025-2026 employment contract (s) effective December 31, 2025 for financial conditions pursuant to Section 3319.172 of the Ohio Revised Code as determined by the Superintendent. The Treasurer is directed to give written notice of this action no later than December 30, 2025.

- Amari Mills: Life Skills Para-Professional: CCBDD
- Mercy Omohoro: GCCC Fellow: GCCC (Effective Date: December 5, 2025)
- Anne Holton: Payroll Consultant: Shared Service Alliance
- Denise Pietrzak: Student Wellness Coordinator: ESCNEO
- Gary White: Coordinator of Technology: ESCNEO
- Tom Schemer: Tech Specialist: ESCNEO
- James Yeigh: Building Manager: ESCNEO
- Kimberly Eckhart: Safe Babies Quality Improvement Coordinator: ESCNEO
- Lindsay Ciavarelli: Student Wellness Grant Coordinator: ESCNEO
- Mark Miller: Office Coordinator: ESCNEO
- Michele Ware: Office Coordinator: ESCNEO
- Matthew Dugovics: SST Consultant: State Support Team Region Three
- Nyeshja Malone: Administrative Assistant II: State Support Team Region Three
- Shonte' Smith: Administrative Assistant II: ESCNEO

Motion: William L. Morrison, Jr.; seconded by Carol Fortlage

Ayes: William L. Morrison, Jr., Carol Fortlage, George Klepacz, Christine Krol, Anthony Miceli

Motion approved 5-0

Resolution #2025-12-04 – Approve Reduction in Force (RIF) for Administrative Employees

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio shall reduce in force within the ranks of administrative staff, through the suspension of their 2025-2026 employment contract (s) effective December 31, 2025 for financial conditions pursuant to Section 3319.171 of the Ohio Revised Code as determined by the Superintendent. The Treasurer is directed to give written notice of this action no later than December 30, 2025.

- Anthony Pizzuti: Director of Student Wellness/Mental Health: ESCNEO
- Keith Bell: Director of Leadership: ESCNEO
- Kory Jalowiec: Teaching and Learning Consultant: ESCNEO
- Lindsay Slater: Associate Director of SST: State Support Team Region Three
- Michael Shoaf: Leadership Service Consultant: ESCNEO
- Thomas Hanicak: Student Wellness Consultant: ESCNEO
- Wendy Jovan: Program Manager: First Ring: ESCNEO

Motion: Carol Fortlage; seconded by William L. Morrison, Jr.

Ayes: Carol Fortlage, William L. Morrison, Jr., George Klepacz, Christine Krol, Anthony Miceli

Motion approved 5-0

The Superintendent provided an update on staff reactions to the reductions in force, noting that feedback has been positive.

Resolution #2025-12-04.01 – Executive Session

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio enters into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

Time Enter: 9:50 a.m.

Time Exit: 10:09 a.m.

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by William L. Morrison, Jr.

Ayes: Anthony Miceli, William L. Morrison, Jr., Carol Fortlage, George Klepacz, Christine Krol

Motion approved 5-0

Resolution #2025-12-05 - Accept the November 2025 Financial Statements

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio hereby accepts the Treasurer’s Financial Statements as of November 30, 2025, that includes the following reports: General Fund Analysis Report, Cash Position Financial Report by Fund, Schedule of Investments, Bank Reconciliation, and Check Register.

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by Carol Fortlage

Ayes: Anthony Miceli, Carol Fortlage, George Klepacz, Christine Krol, William L. Morrison, Jr.

Motion approved 5-0

Break: 10:27 am

Resume: 10:44 am

Resolution #2025-12-06 –Approve Board Member Reimbursement for Travel Expenses

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio authorizes the Treasurer to reimburse Christine Krol (**\$469.50**) for expenses incurred.

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by William L. Morrison, Jr.

Ayes: Anthony Miceli, William L. Morrison, Jr., Carol Fortlage, George Klepacz

Abstention: Christine Krol

Motion approved 4-0

Resolution #2025-12-07 – Approve Board Member Reimbursement for Travel Expenses

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio authorizes the Treasurer to reimburse George Klepacz (**\$411.90**) for expenses incurred.

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by William L. Morrison, Jr.

Ayes: Anthony Miceli, William L. Morrison, Jr., Carol Fortlage, Christine Krol

Abstention: George Klepacz

Motion approved 4-0

Resolution #2025-12-08 – Approve Board Member Reimbursement for Travel Expenses

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio authorizes the Treasurer to reimburse Carol Fortlage **(\$2,544.74)** for expenses incurred.

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by William L. Morrison, Jr.

Ayes: Anthony Miceli, William L. Morrison, Jr., George Klepacz, Christine Krol

Abstention: Carol Fortlage

Motion approved 4-0

Resolution #2025-12-09 – Approve Board Member Reimbursement for Travel Expenses

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio authorizes the Treasurer to reimburse Anthony Miceli **(\$523.20)** for expenses incurred.

Motion: Carol Fortlage; seconded by William L. Morrison, Jr.

Ayes: Carol Fortlage, William L. Morrison, Jr., George Klepacz, Christine Krol

Abstention: Anthony Miceli

Motion approved 4-0

Resolution #2025-12-10 – Approve Board Member Reimbursement for Travel Expenses

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio authorizes the Treasurer to reimburse William L. Morrison Jr. **(\$3,223.46)** for expenses incurred.

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by George Klepacz

Ayes: Anthony Miceli, George Klepacz, Carol Fortlage, Christine Krol

Abstention: William L. Morrison, Jr.

Motion approved 4-0

The Treasurer discussed the impact of current legislation on districts in Cuyahoga County.

Resolution #2025-12-11 - Approve Consent Agenda

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio approves the Consent Agenda with the following items:

- a. Minutes of November 20, 2025 Regular Meeting
- b. List of Personnel Changes
- c. List of OSTs New Substitute Teachers
- d. List of OSTs Substitute Teacher Renewals
- e. Positive Education Program Monthly Supplemental Wages List
- f. Dalad Contract Renewal

Motion: William L. Morrison, Jr.; seconded by George Klepacz

Ayes: William L. Morrison, Jr., George Klepacz, Carol Fortlage, Christine Krol, Anthony Miceli

Motion approved 5-0

Other Board Business

Resolution #2025-12-12 - Appoint President Pro-Tempore for Organizational Meeting

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio appoints **Dr. Christine Krol** President Pro-Tempore for the January 2026 organizational meeting.

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by Carol Fortlage

Ayes: Anthony Miceli, Carol Fortlage, George Klepacz, Christine Krol, William L. Morrison, Jr.

Motion approved 5-0

Board Member Reports and Comments

Ms. Fortlage reported on her attendance at the recent AESA conference in Colorado, noting that this year's agenda was less robust than in previous years. She also made a recommendation for a grant writer.

Mr. Miceli discussed the recent chamber meeting with local mayors.

Mr. Morrison Jr. reported on his attendance at the AESA conference and board leadership session.

Our Vision: To be the leading organization serving any and all needs of school districts and agencies working on behalf of children.

Future Agenda Items

Adjournment - Resolution #2025-12-13 Time: 11:35 a.m.

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by William L. Morrison, Jr.

Ayes: Anthony Miceli, William L. Morrison, Jr., Carol Fortlage, George Klepacz, Christine Krol.

Motion approved 5-0

Facilities Committee will convene immediately following today's board meeting

Next Regular Board Meeting

Organizational Meeting - January 8, 2026 @ 9:30 a.m.

January 22, 2026 @ 9:30 a.m.

Upcoming Conferences

NSBA Annual Conference: April 10 - 12, 2026 (San Antonio, TX)

Minutes submitted by Andrew Pizzulo, Treasurer

Minutes approved 1/22/2026



President



Treasurer

Our Vision: To be the leading organization serving any and all needs of school districts and agencies working on behalf of children.