

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – Thursday, October 30, 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 #2025-10-01 - Approve Agenda

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

Presentation – Connect Update

Ryan Pendleton, Executive Director of Shared Services Alliance and Connect, provided an informative update on Connect. He shared a handout with the group outlining key developments and initiatives, offering valuable insights into current progress and plans.

Resolution #2025-10-02 - Approve the 2026 Board Meeting Dates

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio approves the following 2026 Board Meeting dates:

Organizational Meeting	Thursday, January 8, 2026	9:30 a.m.
Regular Meeting	Thursday, January 22, 2026	9:30 a.m.
Regular Meeting	Friday, February 20, 2026	9:30 a.m.
Regular Meeting	Thursday, March 19, 2026	9:30 a.m.
Regular Meeting	Thursday, April 30, 2026	9:30 a.m.
Regular Meeting	Thursday, May 28, 2026	9:30 a.m.
Regular Meeting	Thursday, June 25, 2026	9:30 a.m.
Regular Meeting	Thursday, July 30, 2026	9:30 a.m.

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

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

Resolution #2025-10-03 – Approve the Adoption of Cybersecurity Program

Be It Resolved and in accordance with Section 9.64 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio hereby approves the adoption and implementation of a cybersecurity program that is consistent with generally accepted best practices for cybersecurity and effectively safeguards the Educational Service Center’s data, information technology, and information technology resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity.

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

Resolution #2025-10-04- Adopt Special Education Model Policies and Procedures

WHEREAS, R.C. 3323.08 requires school districts and educational agencies to provide assurances to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (“DEW”) that it will ensure the education of children with disabilities within its jurisdiction and maintain policies, procedures, and programs that are consistent with the Special Education Model Policies and Procedures adopted by DEW; and

WHEREAS, in April 2025, DEW issued updated Education Model Policies and Special Education Model Policies and Procedures (“Model Policies”); and

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to adopt the Model Policies to ensure alignment with current federal and state laws and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, **Be It Resolved** by the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio Governing Board, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, that:

Section 1: The Board hereby adopts the Model Policies in their entirety.

Section 2: The Board acknowledges that the Model Policies, while comprehensive, do not encompass every requirement set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Ohio Revised Code, and/or the Ohio Administrative Code. The Board affirms its ongoing obligation to comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Section 3: All ESC staff shall implement and adhere to the Model Policies as adopted herein. The Board further authorizes and directs the Superintendent to notify DEW of the Board’s adoption of the Model Policies by submitting a copy of this Board resolution through DEW’s Monitoring System.

Section 4: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution complied with all legal requirements, including R.C. 121.22.

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

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by Carol Fortlage

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

Motion approved 5-0

The Superintendent presented a progress report outlining the advancement of his objectives and distributed a handout detailing his goals to the board members.

Resolution #2025-10-05 - Acceptance of September 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 September 30, 2025 that includes the following reports: General Fund Analysis Report, Cash Position Financial Report by Fund, Schedule of Investments and Bank Reconciliation.

Motion: George Klepacz; seconded by Carol Fortlage

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

Motion approved 5-0

Resolution #2025-10-06 - Acceptance of September 2025 Check Register

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio hereby accepts the Check Register for the period of September 1 to September 30, 2025.

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: 11:42 a.m.

Resume: 11:47 a.m.

The Treasurer provided a report summarizing his first 30 days in the role. He delivered a general finance update, which included the need to reschedule the upcoming Finance Committee meeting and Board Work Session due to board members attending the AESA Conference in Colorado. The Treasurer also discussed his intention to combine financial statements and the check register into one resolution moving forward. Lastly, he shared an update on the audit.

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

Resolution #2025-10-07 - 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 September 25, 2025 Regular Meeting
- b. List of Personnel Changes
- c. List of OSTs New Teacher Substitutes
- d. List of OSTs Renewals
- e. Positive Education Program Monthly Supplemental Wages List

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

Other Board Business**Resolution #2025-10-08 – Approve Professional Development for Board Members**

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio approves the 2025-26 School Board Leadership Professional Learning Opportunities for board members as approved training programs for board compensation.

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 recommended Josh from Connect as a possible guest speaker for the board leadership series.

Mr. Klepacz referenced the Independence Quarterly Newsletter and expressed surprise upon learning that the district serves over 800 students.

Mr. Miceli provided a brief recap of the recent Insurance Committee meeting. He also discussed Richmond Heights' levy and its potential impact on property taxes across Ohio.

Mr. Morrison, Jr. expressed his appreciation for Mr. Rogaski's coordination of the recent Insurance Committee meeting. He also raised concerns regarding the conclusion of two tenant leases at Essex Place and inquired about the possibility of extending or renewing those leases.

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

- OSBA Resolutions

Adjournment - Resolution #2025-10-09 Time: 12:19 p.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

Next Board Meeting

November 20, 2025 @ 9:30 a.m.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board Work Session, November 5, 2025 @ 9:30 a.m.

Technology Committee - November 19, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.

*Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce State of the Region – November 19, 2025 @ Holiday Inn
Rockside (Independence) at 11:30 a.m.*

Teaching & Learning Committee – November 21, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Upcoming Conferences

OSBA Capital Conference: November 16 -18, 2025 (Columbus, OH)

AESA Annual Conference: December 3 – 5, 2025 (Colorado Springs, CO)

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

Minutes submitted by Andrew Pizzulo, Treasurer

Minutes approved 11/20/2025

Christine A. Krol

President

Andrew Pizzulo

Treasurer

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