

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – Thursday, May 28, 2026

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call -

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

Public Participation – There was none

Resolution #2026-05-04 - Approve Agenda as Amended

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

Superintendent's Report

~~Resolution #2026-05-05 – Approve Non-renewal of Classified Employee~~

~~**Be It Resolved** that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio declares its intention not to renew the limited contract of the following classified employee for the 2026-2027 school year. The Treasurer is directed to give notice of this action no later than May 31, 2026.~~

~~● Pending...~~

Resolution #2026-05-06 – Approve Reduction in Force (RIF) for Classified Employee

Be it Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio shall reduce in force within the ranks of non-teaching (classified) staff, through the suspension of their 2026-2027 employment contract(s) 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 May 31, 2026.

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- Carla Blaney: Para-Professional: Euclid City Schools
- Kelly Sherlock: Performing Arts Technology Coordinator: Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
- Rachel Upp: BCBA: Barberton City Schools
- Rena Pinales: ASL Interpreter: Barberton City Schools
- ~~Cynthia Brunovsky: Pupil Personnel Compliance Assistant: Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools~~

Motion: Christine Krol; seconded by William L. Morrison, Jr.

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

Motion approved 5-0

Resolution #2026-05-07 Approve Reduction in Force (RIF) for Administrative Employee

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the ESC shall reduce in force within the ranks of administrative staff, through the suspension of their 2026-2027 employment contract (s) 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 May 31, 2026.

- Kathleen Mack: GT Instructional Specialist: Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
- Rachel Seifert: Gifted Coordinator: Euclid City Schools

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

Resolution #2026-05-08 – 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 teaching (certified) staff, through the suspension of their 2026-2027 employment contract(s) 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 May 31, 2026.

- Katherine Swartzbeck: Performing Arts Instructor: Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
- Sally Raso: SSIP: Euclid City Schools
- Megan McMahon: 21st Century Grant Manager: Cleveland Heights/University Heights City Schools

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- Michael Larkin: School Psychologist: Mentor Exempted Village Schools
- Katie Wojno-Demarchi: BCBA: Independence Local Schools
- Wayne Schneider: Attendance Officer: Olmsted Falls City Schools

Motion: Carol Fortlage; seconded by Christine Krol

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

Motion approved 5-0

Stephanie Denham, Operations Coordinator, delivered a compelling and moving presentation on the ESC's involvement in Parma City Schools' crisis response following the recent tragedy at Valley Forge High School.

Resolution #2026-05-09 - Accept the April 2026 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 April 30, 2026, which include the following reports: General Fund Financial Report, Cash Position Report by Fund, Schedule of Investments, and Bank Reconciliation.

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 #2026-05-10 – Approve Electricity Purchase Program Agreement of the Ohio Schools Council

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio approves the Electricity Purchase Program Agreement of the Ohio Schools Council.

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 Treasurer discussed the impact of the personnel agenda on the general fund. He then reviewed and discussed the meeting minutes policy with board members. Lastly, he gave an update on the Richmond Heights Treasurer search.

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Resolution #2026-05-11 - 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 April 30, 2026 Regular Meeting, as amended
- b. Minutes of May 8, 2026 Regular Meeting
- ~~e. List of Personnel Changes~~
- d. List of New OSTs Substitute Teachers
- e. List of OSTs Substitute Teacher Renewals
- f. Positive Education Program Monthly Supplemental Wages
- g. 2026-2027 ESC Salary Schedule
- h. 2026-2027 ESC Salary Ranges
- i. 2026-2027 Salaries for ESC Internal Staff and SST Staff
- j. 2026-2027 Program Staff Salaries
- k. 2026- 2027 Service Contract of Non-Public Entity
- l. 2026-2027 Inter-District Service Area Contract
- m. Achievement Centers for Children 2026-2027 Program Agreement
- n. Positive Education Program 2026-2027 Program Agreement
- o. Carrington 2026-2027 Agreement

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by Christine Krol

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

Motion approved 5-0

Resolution #2026-05-11.01 – Approve List of Personnel Changes

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio approves the list of personnel changes, dated May 31, 2026.

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

Other Board Business

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Resolution #2026-05-12 - 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: 1) employment and 2) compensation of employees of the board per ORC 121.22(G).

Time Enter: **3:14 p.m.**

Time Exit: **3:35 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

Resolution #2026-05-12.01 – Approve Salary for the Treasurer of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Be It Resolved that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center hereby approves the new salary for the Treasurer for the 2026-27 fiscal year in the amount of \$199,000, effective August 1, 2026.

Motion: Christine Krol; seconded by William L. Morrison, Jr.

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

Motion approved 5-0

Board Member Reports and Comments

Ms. Fortlage discussed the adoption of the AI Policy as determined by DEW.

Dr. Krol reported on her attendance at the recent Chamber of Commerce State of the Schools address. She also informed the group that the Independence tax levy would be back on the ballot in November. In addition, she shared highlights from the Excellence in Education event she attended. Lastly, Dr. Krol requested a comprehensive review of departments, services, and programs, with a specific focus on their alignment to Teaching and Learning. She asked that a report be presented at the next Teaching and Learning Committee meeting and that the information also be shared with the full Board.

Mr. Miceli also spoke about attending the Excellence in Education event. He mentioned that he received an email from Positive Education Program (PEP) regarding two table sponsorships (\$10,000).

Mr. Morrison, Jr. attended the 8th Grade Promotion ceremony at Richmond Heights, where he presented the ESCNEO Humanitarian Award to Richmond Heights student, Shania Respress.

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Future Agenda Items

Adjournment - Resolution #2026-05-13 Time: 3:51 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

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 – Board Work Session @ 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 25, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting @ 9:30 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Andrew Pizzulo, Treasurer

Minutes approved 6/16/2026



President



Treasurer