

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

***MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING– Thursday, June 29, 2023***

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

**Roll Call –**

Present – Christine Krol, Anthony Miceli, George Klepacz, Anthony Miceli, Frank Mahnic  
Administration Present – Bob Mengerink, Bruce Basalla, Steve Rogaski

**Public Participation** – There was none.

**Resolution #2023-06-01 - Approve Agenda**

Motion: Frank Mahnic; seconded by Carol Fortlage

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

*Motion approved 5-0*

**Resolution #2023-06-02 - Accept the May 2023 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 May 31, 2023 that includes the following reports: General Fund Analysis Report, Financial 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, Frank Mahnic, Anthony Miceli

*Motion approved 5-0*

**Resolution #2023-06-03 - Accept the May 2023 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 May 1 to May 31, 2023.

Motion: Frank Mahnic; seconded by Anthony Miceli

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

*Motion approved 5-0*

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**Resolution #2023-06-04 - Approve Final FY 2022-2023 Appropriations including year-end Transfers and Advances**

**Be it Resolved** that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio hereby approves the Final Appropriations in the amount of \$160,214,476. Also included in this resolution, the Governing Board approves year-end transfers in the amount of \$404,829 and year-end advances in the amount of \$5,200,000.

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by George Klepacz

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

*Motion approved 5-0*

**Resolution #2023-06-05 - Approve Temporary Appropriations for FY 2023-2024**

**Be it Resolved** that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio hereby approves the Temporary Appropriations for FY 2023-24 in the amount of \$40,053,544.

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by Frank Mahnic

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

*Motion approved 5-0*

**Resolution #2023-06-05.01 – 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 (\$91.96) for expenses incurred.

Motion: Frank Mahnic; seconded by Carol Fortlage

Ayes: Frank Mahnic, Carol Fortlage, George Klepacz, Anthony Miceli

Abstention: Christine Krol

*Motion approved 4-0*

**Resolution #2023-06-05.02 – 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 (\$151.70) for expenses incurred.

Motion: Frank Mahnic; seconded by George Klepacz

Ayes: Frank Mahnic, George Klepacz, Carol Fortlage, Christine Krol

Abstention: Anthony Miceli

*Motion approved 4-0*

**Resolution #2023-06-05.03 – 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 (\$23.58) for expenses incurred.

Motion: Carol Fortlage; seconded by Anthony Miceli

Ayes: Carol Fortlage, Anthony Miceli, Christine Krol, Frank Mahnic

Abstention: George Klepacz

*Motion approved 4-0*

**Resolution #2023-06-05.04 – 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 Frank Mahnic, Jr. (\$39.23) for expenses incurred.

Motion: Anthony Miceli; George Klepacz

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

Abstention: Frank Mahnic

*Motion approved 4-0*

The Treasurer committed to giving an update on Connect ITC at the board meeting in August. He informed the group that all personnel costs were included in the appropriations report. The Treasurer also talked about the upcoming auction and sale of the 5700 W. Canal property, stating that the board is not required to accept a bid that is below the asking price. Next, he updated the board on the changes to the Advocacy and Communications contract (no longer three separate contracts – one combined contract this year for all services). Lastly, he stated that we have 38 days of cash on hand.

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**Resolution #2023-06-06 – 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 2023-2024 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 June 30, 2023.

- Julianna Bodziony: Tutor: Brecksville-Broadview Heights Schools
- Tonia Byers: Tutor: Brecksville-Broadview Heights Schools
- Jennifer Michaels: Tutor: Brecksville-Broadview Heights Schools
- Aleasha Pierzchala: Tutor: Brecksville-Broadview Heights Schools
- Angela Roncone: Tutor: Brecksville-Broadview Heights Schools
- Emma Torrence: Tutor: Brecksville-Broadview Heights Schools
- Olivia Kalinowski: Intervention Specialist: Early Childhood: Olmsted Falls City Schools
- Taylor Manway: Intervention Specialist: Early Childhood: Olmsted Falls City Schools
- Tara Haggerty: ASL Interpreter: Brooklyn City Schools
- Emily Beese: Tutor: Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
- Christine Totte: Tutor: Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
- Cheryle Vadakin-Salvati: Speech Pathologist: Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
- Andrea Dwenger: Math Coach: Bedford City Schools
- Brianna Schnur: Intervention Specialist: Early Childhood: Westlake City Schools
- Brooke Niehaus: Teaching Assistant: Lakewood Catholic
- Alison Tortelli: Teacher: Saint Albert the Great
- Lynn Zanath: Teacher: Saint Albert the Great
- Barbara Israel: Intervention Specialist: Saint Dominic
- Anna Grigoli: Tutor: Saint Paul
- Elana Clavner: Learning Coach: Saint Stanislaus
- Toya Nobles: Learning Coach: Saint Stanislaus
- Michael Dixon: Vocational Manager: PEP Hopewell
- Tracy Biller: Speech and Language Therapist: PEP Willow Creek

Motion: Carol Fortlage; seconded by George Klepacz

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

*Motion approved 5-0*

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**Resolution #2023-06-07 – 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 non-teaching (classified) staff, through the suspension of their 2023-2024 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 June 30, 2023.

- Freddy Cuevas: Team Associate: Positive Education Program
- Sarah McFarland: Board Certified Behavior Analyst: Euclid City Schools
- Ashley Wagner: Board Certified Behavior Analyst: Euclid City Schools
- Anthony Sanabria: Registered Behavior Technician: Euclid City Schools
- Takaya Towns: Registered Behavior Technician: Euclid City Schools
- Kelly Kukes: Aide: Holy Cross
- Debra Ryba: Aide: Saint Brendan
- Leslie Ray: Aide: Saint Mary of the Falls
- Amanda Kadlec: Aide: Saint Bartholomew
- Kathy Ponyicky: Aide: Saint Bartholomew
- Meredith Manning: SEL Coach: Saint Dominic
- Jirbril Gordon: Team Associate: PEP Eastwood
- Brian Lincks: Team Associate: PEP Hopewell
- Michael Rushton: Team Associate: PEP Greenview
- Marvin Smith: Team Associate: PEP Greenview

Motion: George Klepacz; seconded by Carol Fortlage

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

*Motion approved 5-0*

**Resolution #2023-06-08 – Approve 2023-2024 Contract with Advocacy and Communication Solutions**

**Be it Resolved** that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio approve a contract for Advocacy and Communication Solutions, in the amount of \$120,000 per year, to continue their work with general advocacy, critical issues workgroups and relationship-building activities with legislators.

Motion: Frank Mahnic; seconded by Carol Fortlage

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

*Motion approved 5-0*

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**Resolution #2023-06-09 – Approve Conditions of Sale for 5700 W. Canal Rd. Facility**

**Be it Resolved** that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio approve the Conditions of Sale for the public auction of the facility at 5700 W. Canal to be held on July 17, 2023.

Motion: Frank Mahnic; seconded by Anthony Miceli

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

***Motion approved 5-0***

The Superintendent talked about the upcoming ESC workshop sessions for board members (dates to be announced). He then gave an update on several grants including:

- Literacy Grant for \$2M, awarded for 2 years which will allow us to hire 8 new Literacy Coaches, as well as a Grants Coordinator
- Early Childhood Wellness Grant (pending – not yet awarded)
- Student Violence Grant, \$100K
- Kent State Mental Health Awareness Grant
- Continuation of the Safe Babies Court Team Grant
- Potential acquisition of \$15M to create a family community center in Lake/ Geauga Counties.

**Resolution #2023-06-10 - 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 May 25, 2023 Regular Meeting
- ~~b. List of Personnel Changes \*~~
- c. List of OSTs New Teacher Substitutes
- d. List of OSTs Substitute Teacher Renewals
- e. Positive Education Program Monthly Supplemental Wages
- f. State Auditor Agreement
- g. Property and Liability Insurance Contract 7-01-2023 thru 6-30-2024
- h. 2023-2024 ESC of Western Reserve Service Agreement
- i. 2023-2024 Salaries for PEP Staff
- j. 2023-2024 Salaries for Bright Beginnings Staff
- k. 2023-2024 Salaries for Ohio Schools Council Staff

*\* Item “b” was pulled out for further discussion*

Motion: George Klepacz; seconded by Carol Fortlage

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

***Motion approved 5-0***

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**Resolution #2023-06-10.01 – List of Personnel Changes from Consent Agenda**

**Be It Resolved** that the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio approves the list of Personnel Changes from the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by Frank Mahnic

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

*Motion approved 5-0*

**Other Board Business****Resolution #2023-06-11 – 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: 10:27 a.m. Time Exit: 11:05 a.m.

Motion: Frank Mahnic; seconded by Anthony Miceli

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

*Motion approved 5-0*

**Board Member Reports and Comments**

Mrs. Fortlage talked about the new high school principal for Independence Local Schools.

Mr. Klepacz talked about how proud he was to learn of all the good work that is done here at the ESC at the recent Teaching and Learning Committee meeting.

Dr. Krol talked about attending the PEP Rally for Kids event earlier this month. She also mentioned that while attending the recent Teaching and Learning Committee meeting, she discovered how many grants the ESC is awarded.

Mr. Mahnic talked about the board member vacancy at Cuyahoga Heights and mentioned that a member of the PTA was appointed to fill the vacancy in the interim.

Mr. Miceli began by complimenting the ESC leadership. He then mentioned that he, too, attended the PEP Rally for Kids event earlier this month. He also talked about his concerns over how current events have made teaching and learning more difficult in the schools.

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Future Agenda Items

- Connect ITC Update
- Student Programs Update
- NCSSA Update
- Transportation Update

**Adjournment - Resolution #2023-06-12 Time: 11:27 a.m.**

Motion: Anthony Miceli; seconded by Frank Mahnic

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

*Motion approved 5-0*

*Next Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.*

*Minutes submitted by Bruce Basalla, Treasurer*

Minutes approved 07/31/2023



President



Treasurer