

**Ohio Valley Educational Service Center  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 15, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.  
Lori's Restaurant, Caldwell, Ohio**

Opening ceremony with Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer

The organizational and regular meeting was called to order by President Pro-tem, Rusty Winland

Roll Call: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Absent: Burrow

Public Participation: none

Mr. Biggs moved to **approve the agenda as presented**. Mrs. Hess seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

Nominations were accepted for President for 2026. **Mr. Rusty Winland was nominated.**

Mr. Lang moved to **close nominations for President for 2026**. Mr. Biggs seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, and Warner  
Abstained: Winland  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Lang moved to **elect Mr. Rusty Winland as President for 2026**. Mr. Biggs seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, and Warner  
Abstained: Winland  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

Nominations were accepted for Vice-President for 2026. **Mrs. Shelly Hess was nominated.**

Mr. Lang moved to **close nominations for Vice-President for 2026**. Mr. Winland seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Abstained: Hess  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

Mrs. Jackson moved to **elect Mrs. Shelly Hess as Vice-President for 2026**. Mr. Biggs seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Abstained: Hess  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

**Mr. Winland assumed the President's chair – (SINE DIE – 2025)**

Mr. Winland moved **approval to establish the regular governing board meeting time and dates for 2026, as follows.** All meetings will be held at 6:00 pm at Lori's Restaurant, Caldwell, Ohio. Mr. Ogle seconded the motion.

**January 15, March 26, May 14, June 25, August 27, October 15, and December 17**

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Lang moved to **approve the following committees.** Mrs. Jackson seconded the motion.

Finance/Audit Committee – Superintendent, Treasurer, Robert Burrow, Trina Jackson  
Policy Committee – Superintendent, Treasurer, Shelly Hess, Bob Caldwell, Lori Parry  
Inventory Committee – Superintendent, Treasurer, Woody Biggs, Randy Shrider, Lynn Warner  
Personnel Committee – Trina Jackson, Patrick Lang, Steve Ogle, Rusty Winland  
Records Commission Committee: Superintendent, Treasurer, Board President (Rusty Winland)

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

Mrs. Hess moved **approval of the following annual business resolutions.** Mr. Biggs seconded the motion.

1. To authorize the Treasurer to invest interim funds when such funds are available
2. To authorize the Treasurer to pay all bills as they are received and report those bills at the next regularly scheduled Governing board meeting
3. To authorize the Superintendent to employ such personnel as needed. Such employees will be presented to the governing board at the next regular meeting for consideration of continued employment subject to board approval
4. Authorization to apply for all grants and/or funding for programs that the OVESC administration deems beneficial
5. To authorize the Superintendent to serve as purchasing agent for the Educational Service Center
6. To authorize the Superintendent to serve as Civil Rights Coordinator
7. The budget created in the state software (USAS) will be used for internal management use only
8. To authorize the use of blanket purchase orders as needed
9. To authorize Tonya Buchanan as Homeless liaison
10. To appoint Megan Atkinson as designee to attend public records training
11. To designate that the following trainings and events are for a designated public purpose and any food purchased in conjunction with corresponding event is for a public purpose:
  - Ohio Valley ESC Common PD Day
  - Ohio Valley ESC Staff Opening Day
  - Ohio Valley ESC Superintendent, Cabinet, Department, Director\ and Office Meetings
  - Board Leadership Academies/Trainings/Collaboratives
  - ESC Sponsored and Collaborative Trainings
  - Staff Professional Trainings and Conferences
  - Heart of Service Awards Ceremony
12. To designate McGown & Markling Co, LPA, as legal counsel to represent the Ohio Valley ESC
13. To designate Bricker Grayden for any additional legal services.
13. To designate that the reimbursed mileage rate for travel will follow the IRS rate for 2026

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

Nominations were accepted for **OSBA Legislative Liaison and OSBA Student Achievement Liaison for 2026**. **Mrs. Shelly Hess was nominated as Legislative Liaison and OSBA Student Achievement Liaison.**

Mrs. Jackson moved to **close nominations for OSBA Legislative Liaison and OSBA Student Achievement Liaison for 2026**. Mr. Winland seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Abstained: Hess  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Biggs moved to **elect Mrs. Shelly Hess as OSBA Legislative Liaison and OSBA Student Achievement Liaison for 2026**. Ms. Warner seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Abstained: Hess  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING - CERTIFIED REEMPLOYMENT:**

*At this point in the meeting, the Governing Board is providing the opportunity for public comment on the retirement and subsequent rehiring of James P. Feldner, Director/Supervisor of Communications/Grant Obtainment and Technology/Application and Delivery. Public notice of this meeting was given in the November 10, 2025 edition of the local newspaper.*

No public was present, therefore, no public comments.

Mr. Ogle moved to **approve the following Treasurer's Consent Recommendations**. Ms. Warner seconded the motion.

- **Approval** of minutes from the regular meeting on December 18, 2025
- **Approval** of the Treasurer's report and bills of \$1,276,707.44 for December 2025
- **Approval** to participate in the OSBA Legal Assistance fund for 2026
- **Approval** of membership with the Ohio School Board Association for 2026

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

Ms. Warner moved to approve the following **Superintendent's Consent Recommendations**. Mr. Lang seconded the motion.

It is recommended by the Ohio Valley ESC Superintendent that the personnel listed be employed for the term indicated and at the existing salary schedule (where applicable) pending certification (where applicable) and satisfactory BCI/FBI background check (where applicable).

**PERSONNEL:**

**CERTIFIED:**

- **Feldner, James P.**....Director/Supervisor of Communications/Grant Obtainment and Technology/ Application and Delivery...OVESC...to be issued a one year limited contract for up to 100 days... effective February 1, 2026 to begin work duties on February 2, 2026...paid by the Ohio Valley ESC

**CLASSIFIED:**

- **Dean, Arianna**....Custodian....OVESC...to be issued a one year limited contract for up to 300 hours.... effective 2025-2026 school year....paid by Ohio Valley ESC

**RESIGNATIONS AND RETIREMENTS:**

- **Bauer, Chelsea**....Recommendation to approve the resignation of **Chelsea Bauer**....Paraprofessional.... Ewing....effective January 30, 2026
- **Madison, Jessica**....Recommendation to approve the resignation of **Jessica Madison**...School Site Coordinator.... Belpre City Schools....effective January 2, 2026

**SUPPLEMENTALS:**

- **Approval** for insurance opt out stipend grandfathered from ECOESC for **Caila Rogers**...Teacher...at the rate of \$2,375....effective 2025-2026 school year....paid by Rolling Hills Local School District
- **Approval** for supplemental contract **Haley Bonar**....School Site Coordinator....Belpre.... at the rate of \$1,500....effective for the remainder of 2025-2026 school year....paid by Belpre City School District.... payable upon completion of duties
- **Approval** for supplemental contract **Carrie Neil**....Occupational Therapist....Wolf Creek....up to 5 additional days....effective 2025-2026 school year.... paid by Wolf Creek Local Schools...payable upon receipt of timesheets

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- **Recommendation** to approve field trip for the Washington Elementary Bright Beginnings Preschool to go to Discovery World – Parkersburg on March 27, 2026
- **Recommendation** to approve field trip for the Washington Elementary Bright Beginnings Preschool to go to Tomlinson Park – Williamstown on May 22, 2026
- **Recommendation** to approve the following field students from Marietta College to observe in the following classrooms:
  - **Berentz, Haylee – Phillips Elementary (Marietta) AM – Alexis Stead**
  - **Bradford, Morgan – Washington Elementary (Marietta) AM – Makayla Liedtke**
  - **Bruns, Payten – Warren Middle School PM – Stacy Eding**
  - **Curry, Nathaniel - Washington Elementary (Marietta) PM – Alissa Riedel**
  - **Dunn, Brooklyn – Beverly Center (Fort Frye) AM – Austlynn Snodgrass**
  - **Elliott, Grace – Belpre AM – Jennifer Riser**
  - **Fee, Connor – Warren Middle School AM – Tiffany Eichinger**
  - **Gorgacz, Mallory – Washington Elementary (Marietta) PM – Makayla Liedtke**
  - **Helmick, Audrey – Washington Elementary (Marietta) AM – Alissa Riedel**
  - **Ketchum, Molly – Warren Middle School AM -Stacy Eding**
  - **Oldson, Kamden – Warren Middle School PM – Tiffany Eichinger**
  - **Powell, Callie – Belpre PM – Jennifer Riser**
  - **Wolfe, Camden – Beverly Center (FF) AM – Austlynn Snodgrass**
- **Recommendation** to approve unauthorized dock days for January 15, 2026 and January 16, 2026 for Ashley Wargo....Paraprofessional....OVESC Preschool

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

Mrs. Parry moved for **approval to enter into executive session** to consider the dismissal and discipline of a public employee. Mr. Ogle seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

Time in - 6:18 pm  
Time out - 6:53 pm

Mr. Lang moved to approve **Resolution #01152026-1**. Mrs. Jackson seconded the motion.

**APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, FINAL RELEASE, DISCHARGE, WAIVER, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE:** The Ohio Valley Educational Service Center Governing Board (“Governing Board”) hereby approves the “Settlement Agreement, Final Release, Discharge, Waiver, and Covenant Not to Sue” with Sarah Smith, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein. The Governing Board further directs the President, Superintendent, and Treasurer to execute this agreement, on behalf of the Governing Board.

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

Mrs. Jackson moved to approve **Resolution #01152026-2**. Mr. Winland seconded the motion.

## **RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH POSITION IN WHOLE AND SUSPEND EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT IN WHOLE – REDUCTION IN THE TEACHING STAFF – Sarah Smith**

### **Abolishing One (1) Position – Caldwell Exempted Village School District Preschool Teacher**

**WHEREAS** Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws permit the Governing Board to proceed in achieving a reduction in the teaching staff by abolishing positions – in whole or in part – in accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws, the Superintendent recommends that the Governing Board proceed in achieving a reduction in the teaching staff by abolishing one (1) Caldwell Exempted Village School District Preschool Teacher position in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective January 15, 2026.

### **Suspending Contract – Sarah Smith**

**WHEREAS** Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws permit the Governing Board to proceed in achieving a reduction in the teaching staff by suspending employment contracts – in whole or in part – in accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent (who shall, within each teaching field affected, give preference to teachers on continuing contracts and shall not give preference to any teacher based on seniority, except when

making a decision between teachers who have comparable evaluations) due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws, the Superintendent (who has, within each teaching field affected, given preference to teachers on continuing contracts and has not given preference to any teacher based on seniority, except when making a decision between teachers who have comparable evaluations) recommends that the Governing Board proceed in achieving a reduction in the teaching staff by suspending the employment contract of Sarah Smith in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective January 15, 2026, to the extent the employment relationship between the Governing Board and Sarah Smith has not ceased prior to January 15, 2026.

**WHEREAS** the notice requirements of R.C. 121.22, R.C. 3313.16, and applicable laws were complied with for this governing board meeting of January 15, 2026.

**WHEREAS** all formal actions of the Governing Board concerning and relating to the adoption of the instant resolution were taken in an open meeting of the Governing Board and all deliberations of the Governing Board that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws, the Governing Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation and hereby proceeds in achieving a reduction in the teaching staff by abolishing one (1) Caldwell Exempted Village School District Preschool Teacher position in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective January 15, 2026.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws and after given preference to teachers on continuing contracts within each teaching field affected and not based on seniority except when making a decision between teachers who have comparable evaluations, the Governing Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation and hereby proceeds in achieving a reduction in the teaching staff by suspending the employment contract of Sarah Smith in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective January 15, 2026, to the extent the employment relationship between the Governing Board and Sarah Smith has not ceased prior to January 15, 2026.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption by the Governing Board.

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Lang moved to approve **Resolution #01152026-3**. Mr. Winland seconded the motion.

**RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH POSITIONS IN WHOLE AND SUSPEND EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT IN WHOLE – REDUCTION IN THE NONTEACHING STAFF**

**Abolishing One (1) Position – Wolf Creek Local School District Occupational Therapist**

**WHEREAS** Governing Board Policy 3131, Governing Board Policy 4131, R.C. 3319.17, R.C. 3319.172, and applicable laws permit the Governing Board to proceed in achieving a reduction in the nonteaching staff by abolishing positions – in whole or in part – in accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, Governing Board Policy 4131, R.C. 3319.17, R.C. 3319.172, and applicable laws, the Superintendent recommends that the Governing Board proceed in achieving a reduction in the nonteaching staff by abolishing one (1) Wolf Creek Local School District occupational therapist position in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective January 15, 2026.

**Abolishing One (1) Position – Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Ewing School Occupational Therapist**

**WHEREAS** Governing Board Policy 3131, Governing Board Policy 4131, R.C. 3319.17, R.C. 3319.172, and applicable laws permit the Governing Board to proceed in achieving a reduction in the nonteaching staff by abolishing positions – in whole or in part – in accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, Governing Board Policy 4131, R.C. 3319.17, R.C. 3319.172, and applicable laws, the Superintendent recommends that the Governing Board proceed in achieving a reduction in the nonteaching staff by abolishing one (1) Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Ewing School occupational therapist position in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective January 15, 2026.

**Suspending Contract – Kristi Florence**

**WHEREAS** Governing Board Policy 3131, Governing Board Policy 4131, R.C. 3319.17, R.C. 3319.172, and applicable laws permit the Governing Board to proceed in achieving a reduction in the nonteaching staff by suspending employment contracts – in whole or in part – in accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent (who shall, within each teaching field affected, give preference to teachers on continuing contracts and shall not give preference to any teacher based on seniority, except when making a decision between teachers who have comparable evaluations) due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is

required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, Governing Board Policy 4131, R.C. 3319.17, R.C. 3319.172, and applicable laws, the Superintendent (who has, within each pay classification affected, given preference first to employees under continuing contracts and then to employees on the basis of seniority) recommends that the Governing Board proceed in achieving a reduction in the nonteaching staff by suspending the employment contract of Kristi Florence in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective January 15, 2026, and the last date of pay shall be January 7, 2026, to the extent the employment relationship between the Governing Board and Kristi Florence has not ceased prior to January 15, 2026.

**WHEREAS** the notice requirements of R.C. 121.22, R.C. 3313.16, and applicable laws were complied with for this governing board meeting of January 15, 2026.

**WHEREAS** all formal actions of the Governing Board concerning and relating to the adoption of the instant resolution were taken in an open meeting of the Governing Board and all deliberations of the Governing Board that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, Governing Board Policy 4131, R.C. 3319.17, R.C. 3319.172, and applicable laws, the Governing Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation and hereby proceeds in achieving a reduction in the nonteaching staff by abolishing one (1) Wolf Creek Local School District occupational therapist position in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective January 15, 2026.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, Governing Board Policy 4131, R.C. 3319.17, R.C. 3319.172, and applicable laws, the Governing Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation and hereby proceeds in achieving a reduction in the nonteaching staff by abolishing one (1) Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Ewing School occupational therapist position in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective January 15, 2026.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws and after, within each pay classification affected, given preference first to employees under continuing contracts and then to employees on the basis of seniority, the Governing Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation and hereby proceeds in achieving a reduction in the nonteaching staff by suspending the employment contract of Kristi Florence in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons and the reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective January 15, 2026, to the extent the employment relationship between the Governing Board and Kristi Florence has not ceased prior to January 15, 2026.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption by the Governing Board.

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

**Superintendent Reports and Updates:**

- January is Board Member appreciation month – ESC thanks and appreciates the service of our board

Mr. Biggs moved to **adjourn**. Mr. Caldwell seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Yeas: Biggs, Caldwell, Hess, Jackson, Lang, Ogle, Parry, Shrider, Warner and Winland  
Nays: None. The motion carried.

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President

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Treasurer