

NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, In. 46307
October 12, 2016

Executive Session: The Board of Managers met in executive session at 5:30 p.m. and discussed items related to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(2)(B),(6) and (9).

1. Mr. Larry R. Biggs called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Mrs. Luanne Jurczak took Roll Call. The following members were recorded as present: Mr. Jonathan Evans, Mrs. Michelle Dumbsky, Ms. Mary Pat Burkel, Mr. Larry R. Biggs, Mr. Thomas Bainbridge, Mrs. Luanne Jurczak, Ms. Lisa Megquier, Mr. Dave Bigler and Mr. David Mufford representing River Forest.
3. Mr. Biggs asked for comments or questions on agenda items from the audience. There were none.
4. Mr. Biggs asked for any additions or deletions to the September 14, 2016 minutes. Mr. Evans moved for approval of minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bainbridge and passed unanimously.
5. Mrs. Kathy Cain, as Treasurer in Mrs. Mary Naglich's absence, recommended approval of the Monthly Financial Reports dated September 30, 2016 as presented. Mr. Bainbridge moved for Board approval of the financial reports as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Evans and passed unanimously.
6. Mrs. Winkoff presented the additional Staff Needs for 2016-2017: one full-time Paraprofessional for Beiriger in Griffith; one full-time Paraprofessional for Hanover Middle and Lincoln; and one full-time Paraprofessional for Merrillville High School. Mrs. Winkoff expressed concern over the lack of viable candidates for the open paraprofessional positions and shared NISEC has posted positions on Monster and Top Jobs and has run advertisements in The Times. Mrs. Winkoff shared we are also looking into hosting a Job Fair. Mrs. Winkoff suggested posting openings on each district's website to generate interest in NISEC's open Paraprofessional positions. The Board members were open to this idea and said they would speak with their Superintendents. Mrs. Jurczak moved for Board approval of the additional Staff Needs as presented. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Dumbsky and passed unanimously.
7. Mrs. Cain presented a chart showing the breakdown of the years of experience and education of NISEC's current Certified Staff.
8. Mrs. Winkoff presented a request from Mr. Joe Power to hold a fundraiser at the Tri Kappa Evening of Elegance held at the Radisson Hotel on October 27, 2016. This event allows Mr. Power to display and sell the artwork the students create and the funds are then used to purchase additional art supplies for the classes. Mr. Bainbridge moved for approval of the fundraiser as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Evans and passed unanimously.

10. Director's Report:

Mrs. Winkoff, along with Mrs. Kristine Besch, Mrs. Candi Dines-Cress and Mr. Mike Kepchar, attended the fall session of ICASE in Indianapolis, on October 6th and 7th. Mrs. Winkoff noted the main theme of the session was that Special Education is a support system to General Education and encouraged the Principals to attend ICASE in order to work together to create the best educational environment for students and staff. Mrs. Winkoff also said there was a great speaker on behavior and she would like to work with the Service Center to invite her to our area to present her unique views on the subject.

Mrs. Winkoff shared the NISEC Administrators have agreed to forego raises in order to support our teachers and the hiring of the IEP Facilitators. Mrs. Dumbky was most grateful to the administrators for making this sacrifice, she wanted them to know it has not gone unnoticed and they are greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Winkoff updated the Board on Professional Development. Mrs. Winkoff stated that Mrs. Cain has met with the IEP Facilitators every other week. Mrs. Winkoff also said Mrs. Cain and Mrs. Naglich are integrating nicely with NISEC.

11: Personnel:

Mrs. Winkoff will recommend the following personnel actions:

a. Resignations:

Certified

Laura Clifford, Teacher of Intense Interventions at Meister Elementary, effective October 7, 2016

Michelle Osburn, Teacher of Students with Emotional Disabilities at Hanover Central Middle School, effective October 19, 2016

Cynthia Voller, Speech and Language Pathologist, effective September 19, 2016

Registered

Mark Popovich, Behavioral Consultant, effective November 11, 2016

Classified

Mary Alger, Paraprofessional for Edison Jr/Sr High, effective September 30, 2016

Joy Cameron, Paraprofessional for Wood Elementary, effective September 26, 2016

Acquarner Howard, Paraprofessional for Merrillville High, effective October 8, 2016

Kyla Jagiela, Paraprofessional for Fieler Elementary, effective September 30, 2016

b. Terminations:

Classified

Kelly Gilbert, Paraprofessional for Eagle Park Community School, effective September 21, 2016

c. Appointments:

Certified

Steven Karpinski, Educational Diagnostician, effective October 20, 2016

Melanie Tameling, Mild Interventions Teacher, effective August 15, 2016

Kristin Wiesjahn, Teacher of Students with Emotional Disabilities at Hanover Central Middle, effective October 19, 2016

Registered

Linda Ramos, Substitute Occupational Therapy Assistant, effective September 19, 2016

Classified

Victoria Anderson, Paraprofessional for Ready Elementary in Griffith, effective October 25, 2016

Lovely Bowen, Paraprofessional for Griffith High School, effective September 26, 2016

Ashley Czapczyk, Paraprofessional for Eagle Park Community School, effective September 12, 2016

Judith Hill, Paraprofessional for Hanover Middle School, effective September 26, 2016

Karen Proffer, Job Coach/Paraprofessional for Calumet New Tech High School in Lake Ridge, effective September 19, 2016

Tasha Williams, Paraprofessional for Wood Elementary in Merrillville, effective October 12, 2016

d. Leave of Absence:

Mary Naglich on medical leave pursuant to the terms of the memo from Mrs. Kathy Cain dated October 4, 2016

Pritika Patel on personal leave from January 9, 2017 – January 17, 2017. Ms. Patel will use 4.5 personal days and 1.5 days of lost time.

e. Conference Leaves

Brittany Belko, PATINS State Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 2, 2016

Lori Brown-Runyon, Northwest Indiana Transition Cadre, Michigan City, Indiana, September 15, 2016 and Regional Transition Training, Chesterton, Indiana, September 20, 2016

Edmund Foote, Eating With Ease: Managing Complex Feeding and Swallowing Problems in Children, Tinley Park, Illinois, September 30, 2016

Denise Jamerson, High Functioning Autism, Merrillville, Indiana, September 21, 2016

Mary Naglich, ESCRFT Renewal, Plainfield, Indiana, November 28, 2016

Linda Pancheri, Indiana Association of School Nurses Annual Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 3-4, 2016

Elizabeth Ring, Solutions for Success, Munster, Indiana, September 28, 2016

Vanessa Willis, Writing Goals and Measuring Progress, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 4, 2016

f. Retirement

None at this time.

g. Independent Contracts

DCR Speech Therapy Services, LLC (Deborah Robbins – retired Speech and Language Pathologist)

Mr. Bainbridge moved for approval of the Personnel Report as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Evans and passed unanimously.

12. Mr. Biggs asked for comments or questions from the Board. Ms. Burkel thanked NISEC on behalf of Hanover for adjusting to their needs. Mr. Biggs thanked Mrs. Winkoff for helping the parent he referred to her. Mrs. Jurczak thanked the NISEC Administration for foregoing raises for the good of the organization. Mrs. Dumbsky expressed her appreciation for the positive way NISEC adjusts to the ever-changing educational environment.

13. Mr. Biggs asked for comments or questions from the Audience.
Ms. Patricia Foley, President of NISEC Teachers Union, was pleasantly surprised to learn the NISEC Administrators did not get a raise this year in order to support the teachers and new IEP Facilitators. Ms. Foley also strongly encouraged all present to vote in the upcoming election.
14. Mr. Bainbridge moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Evans and passed unanimously.