

**NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION  
COOPERATIVE 2150 W. 97<sup>th</sup> PLACE  
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307  
August 9, 2023**

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.

1. Mr. Frank Porras called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Mrs. Judy Dunlap took Roll Call. The following members were recorded as present: Ms. Sylvia Pedroza for River Forest, Mr. Frank Porras for Hobart, Mrs. Judy Dunlap for Merrillville, Dr. Nathan Kleefisch for Tri-Creek, Mrs. Tara Beilke for Hanover and Mrs. Erica Smith-Gomez for Highland. There was no representation from Lake Station or Lake Ridge.
3. Mr. Porras asked for comments or questions on agenda items from the audience. There were none.
4. Mr. Porras asked for any additions or deletions to the July 12, 2023 minutes. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith-Gomez and passed unanimously.
5. Ms. Rosinko recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated July 31, 2023, as presented. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.
6. Ms. Rosinko requested Board approval of Resolution #23-09 To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund, as presented. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of Resolution #23-09. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kleefisch and passed unanimously.
7. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of Resolution Re:/ I.C. 20-28-9-1.5 (a), as presented. Mrs. Dunlap moved for Board approval of Resolution #23-07. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith-Gomez and passed unanimously.
8. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of NEOLA Bylaws and Policies – Teacher Appreciation Grant, as presented. Mrs. Smith-Gomez moved for Board approval of the Teacher Appreciation Grant policy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.
9. Mrs. Cain presented the NISEC Evaluation Summary Report for the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Cain shared 90 teachers were rated as highly effective, 86 teachers were rated as effective and 4 teachers received a rating of needs improvement. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked Mrs. Cain what happens when a teacher receives a rating of needs improvement. Mrs. Cain explained the teachers who typically receive a rating of needs improvement are first year teachers and if they are a first- or second-year teacher, they are still eligible to receive the tag grant. She said if a teacher receives a rating of needs improvement and are not a first- or second-year teacher, an improvement plan is put in place.

10. Ms. Rosinko presented a Medicaid cost comparison chart for different vendors within the state of Indiana. Ms. Rosinko stated the costs to NISEC with Go Solutions are lower than the other vendors, Claim Aid and Public Consulting Group.
11. Mrs. Horn discussed the new Paraprofessional Training Grant with the Board of Managers. Mrs. Horn explained with this grant we were able to apply for up to \$25,000 for additional paraprofessional training through the year. Mr. Porras thanked NISEC for applying for this grant. Mrs. Smith-Gomez stated being able to provide more training is always better and this money will help us achieve that.
12. Ms. Rosinko requested Board approval of the NISEC Health and Dental Insurance Premiums for the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Rosinko explained an 8-10% increase was projected but the increase ended up being 7%. Ms. Rosinko explained the trust was able to keep the overall increase at 7% by increase the deductible and out of pocket maximum for the high deductible plan and also asking each district to promote the cost saving programs offered by the Trust. Mrs. Horn shared that herself and Lori Brown Runyon, NCTU Union President, will be attending each staff meeting to inform staff about the cost saving programs offered by the Porter County Trust. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the NISEC Health and Dental Insurance Premiums for the 2023-2024 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.
13. Mrs. Rosinko discussed the need increase the salary for the NISEC/Eagle Park School Head of Maintenance. Ms. Rosinko then requested Board approval to adjust the salary for the NISEC/Eagle Park School Head of Maintenance. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval to adjust the salary for the NISEC/Eagle Park School Head of Maintenance, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.
14. Ms. Rosinko requested Board approval to increase the salary of the Eagle Park School Dean of Students. Mrs. Smith-Gomez moved for Board approval to increase the salary of the Eagle Park School Dean of Students, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kleefisch and passed unanimously.
15. Ms. Rosinko requested Board approval of the Eagle Park Fees for the 2023-2024 school year. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the Eagle Park Fees for the 202-2024 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dunlap and passed unanimously.
16. Ms. Rosinko presented a memo from the Indiana Department of Education Regarding Excess Costs. Ms. Rosinko explained that NISEC submits excess cost applications on behalf of the Districts for some students attending the Therapeutic Day Program at Eagle Park School. The state has announced a change to the excess cost application reimbursement, this change forces NISEC to pay our portion of the excess cost application before the state will reimburse their portion. Last year, the state paid their portion of the excess cost application first and then NISEC paid their portion of the application.
17. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of an Alternative and Residential Contract for the School City of Hobart. Mrs. Smith-Gomez moved for Board approval of the Alternative and Residential Contract, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dunlap and passed unanimously.
18. **Director's Report:**
  - ✓ Mrs. Horn shared the events of the first two weeks of August, including CPI Training, New Teacher Training and Paraprofessional Training.

- ✓ Mrs. Horn shared the flyer for the annual New Administrator’s training for all new building administrator and guidance counselors who may participate in special education conferences. Mrs. Horn made note of the training occurring on September 7, 2023 at 9:30am.
- ✓ Mrs. Horn shared information that was discussed with the District Directors on targeted support. Mrs. Horn explained the Indiana Department of Education, is concerned with the pass rates of ILEARN, specifically Middle School English Language Arts. Mrs. Horn also shared that she has expressed her interest in joining that stakeholder group, she will find out in the near future if she has been chosen.

19. **Personnel:**

Mrs. Horn recommended approval to the following personnel actions:

**A. Retirement**

None at this time.

**B. Resignations**

Administration

*Lisa Rosinko*, Chief Financial Officer, effective September 1, 2023.

*Kathleen Tatone*, IEP Facilitator in Merrillville, effective August 3, 2023. Never worked.

Certified

*Robyn Buehrle*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Hobart High School, effective July 19, 2023. Never Worked.

*Anna Cochrane*, Autism Teacher at Eagle Park Community School, effective July 27, 2023.

*Kylee Cwetna*, Autism Teacher at Eagle Park Community School, effective July 27, 2023.

*Michaelene Igielski*, Teacher for Therapeutic Day Program at Eagle Park School, effective August 2, 2023.

*Lucinda Jolliff*, BLAST Teacher at Eagle Park Community School, effective July 17, 2023.

*Gina Justak*, Autism Teacher at Eagle Park Community School, effective July 18, 2023.

*Gabrielle Krueger*, Educational Diagnostician, effective July 24, 2023.

*Vicki McLean*, Early Childhood Teacher at Lowell Middle School, effective July 17, 2023. Never Worked.

*Wendy Whah*, Life Skills Teacher at Lake Ridge Middle School, effective July 27, 2023.

Classified

*Naomi Arebalo*, Paraprofessional at Southridge Elementary, effective August 1, 2023.

*Jh'myra Ford*, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 2, 2023.

*Joyce Reblin*, Virtual Speech E-Helper at Merkley Elementary, effective August 2, 2023.

*Makayla Vanvleet*, Paraprofessional at Joan Martin Elementary, effective August 2, 2023.

*Willa Wingard*, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective July 31, 2023.

*Paige Zimmerman*, Paraprofessional at Veterans Elementary, effective July 31, 2023.

Registered

*Ashley Matthews*, Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant, effective June 30, 2023.

*Sara Palkon*, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, effective July 21, 2023.

*Casey Pflughoeft*, Behavioral Consultant in Merrillville, effective July 13, 2023.

**C. Terminations**

None at this time.

**D. Appointments**

Certified

*Paige Cieslak*, Autism Teacher at Merrillville Intermediate, effective August 14, 2023.

*Christina Crisman*, Early Childhood Teacher at Wood Elementary, effective August 14, 2023.

*Samantha Dafgard*, Educational Diagnostician, effective August 14, 2023.

*Sara Fournet*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Three Creeks Elementary, effective August 10, 2023.

*Jamahl Jones*, Social and Emotional Learning Teacher at Wood Elementary, effective August 14, 2023.

*Tamera Julkes*, Early Childhood Teacher at Wood Elementary, effective August 14, 2023.  
*Cryst'n Morgan*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Merrillville High School, effective August 14, 2023.  
*Jermel Nelson*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Merrillville High School, effective August 14, 2023.  
*Ethan Ortiz*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Merrillville Intermediate School, effective August 14, 2023.

*Amanda Robinson*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Hobart High School, effective August 14, 2023.  
*Talitha Taylor*, Educational Diagnostician, effective August 14, 2023.  
*Makayla Vanvleet*, Early Childhood Teacher at Lowell Middle School, effective August 10, 2023.

#### Classified

*Zuleyka Alanis*, Paraprofessional at Bailey Elementary, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Lauren Arena*, Paraprofessional at Wood Elementary, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Kathalina Baker*, Paraprofessional at Hobart Middle School, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Christine Barnes*, Virtual Speech E-Helper at River Forest High School, effective August 15, 2023.  
*Kaylyn Benoit*, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Karen Coleman*, Paraprofessional at Miller Elementary, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Jessica Cruse*, Paraprofessional at Joan Martin Elementary, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Kearsten Eastridge*, Paraprofessional at Joan Martin Elementary, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Shayna Franz*, Virtual Speech E-Helper at Merrillville Intermediate, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Felicia Grimmer*, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Melanie Haberin*, Paraprofessional at Red Cedars Elementary, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Julie Kennard*, Part-time Paraprofessional at Wood Elementary, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Annie Kielpikowski*, Virtual Speech E-Helper at Longfellow Elementary, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Donna Murphy*, Part-time Paraprofessional at Lowell Middle School, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Sarah Nelson*, Paraprofessional at Southridge Elementary, effective August 11, 2023.  
*Anayanna Robertson*, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Kiersten Tinoco*, Paraprofessional at Merkley Elementary, effective August 11, 2023.  
*Jessica Tippy*, Paraprofessional at Oak Hill Elementary, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Felicity Vaught*, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Deborah Ward*, Paraprofessional at Merrillville Intermediate School, effective August 16, 2023.  
*Alexander Williams*, Paraprofessional at Wood Elementary, effective August 16, 2023.

#### Non-Certified Clerical

*Beth Kinley*, Medicaid Data Entry Clerk at NISEC, effective July 31, 2023.

#### Registered

*Alea Britton*, Board Certified Behavior Analyst at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 14, 2023.  
*Tammi Frailich*, Behavior Intervention Specialist at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 14, 2023.  
*Laura Martinez*, Behavior Intervention Specialist at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 14, 2023.  
*Andrea Moran*, Behavioral Consultant in Merrillville, effective August 15, 2023.  
*Joelle Niemzyk*, Speech and Language Assistant, effective August 14, 2023.  
*Tiffany Noel*, Behavior Intervention Specialist/Long Term Teacher Substitute at Merkley Elementary, effective August 10, 2023.  
*Taryn Sanchez*, Behavior Interventions Specialist/Long Term Teacher Substitute at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 14, 2023.  
*Julie, Vraniskoski*, Behavior Intervention Specialist at Joan Martin Elementary, effective August 14, 2023.  
*Paul Winfrey*, School Safety Coordinator at Eagle Park School/NISEC, effective August 16, 2023.

#### **E. Independent Contracts**

None at this time.

#### **F. Leave of Absence**

None at this time.

#### **G. Conference Leave**

*Kathy Cain*, Indiana Education Employment Relations Board Collective Bargaining, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 18, 2023.

*Marsha Horn*, Indiana Education Employment Relations Board Collective Bargaining, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 18, 2023.

**H. Other**

None at this time.

Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the Personnel Report, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.

Item 21: **Additional Personnel**

Mrs. Horn presented a memo and recommended the following personnel actions:

**B. Resignations**

**Non-Certified Clerical**

*Peyton Gilmore*, Financial Assistant, effective September 1, 2023.

**D. Appointments**

**Administration**

*Peyton Gilmore*, Chief Financial Officer, effective September 1, 2023.

Mrs. Dunlap moved for Board approval of the Additional Personnel Report, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kleefisch and passed unanimously.

20. Mr. Porras asked for comments or questions from the Board.

Mrs. Smith-Gomez shared her appreciation regarding how hard everyone is working this school year.

21. Mr. Porras asked for comments or questions from the Audience.

There were none.

22. Dr. Kleefisch moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dunlap and passed unanimously.