

**NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE**  
**2150 W. 97<sup>th</sup> PLACE**  
**CROWN POINT, IN. 46307**  
**August 11, 2021**

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. Larry Biggs called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Mr. Jonathan Evans took Roll Call. The following members were recorded as present: Mr. Larry Biggs for Lake Station, Mr. Jonathan Evans for Lake Ridge, Mrs. Connie Sterkowitz for Hanover, Mrs. Luanne Jurczak for Highland, Mr. Frank Porras for Hobart, Mrs. Judy Dunlap for Merrillville, Mrs. Michelle Martin for River Forest and Mr. Douglas Ward for Tri-Creek.
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 July 14, 2021 minutes. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of the minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dunlap and passed with 5 ayes and 3 abstentions from Hanover, Tri-Creek and Hobart.
5. Ms. Rosinko recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated July 31, 2021, as presented. Mrs. Jurczak moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Martin and passed unanimously.
6. Ms. Rosinko requested Board approval of Resolution #21-04 To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of Resolution #21-04, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dunlap and passed unanimously.
7. Mrs. Winkoff shared a chart of LRE Findings across NISEC for the 2020-2021 school year with the Board of Managers. Mrs. Winkoff shared that all districts have shown much growth over the years.
8. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the Specialty Staff Retention Plan. Mrs. Winkoff explained that the positions in this Specialty Staff Retention Plan require staff with specific licensing and either a Master's Degree or an EdS. Mrs. Jurczak moved for Board approval of the Specialty Staff Retention Plan, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Evans and passed unanimously.

9. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the Eagle Park Community School Return to Learn Plan. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of the Eagle Park Community School Return to Learn Plan, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.
10. **Director's Report:**
- ✓ Mrs. Winkoff shared information regarding PATINS no longer being housed at the NISEC Administration building.
  - ✓ Mrs. Winkoff shared a flyer for the annual New Administrator's training for all building administrators and guidance counselors who may participate in special education conferences.
  - ✓ Mrs. Winkoff and Mrs. Cain discussed the reasons for resigning from NISEC, and ideas for staff retention.
  - ✓ Mrs. Winkoff shared information regarding the first two weeks of August, including Ukeru Training, CPI Training, New Teacher Training and Paraprofessional Training. Mrs. Cain shared that the Ukeru training she went through, along with staff members at Eagle Park, was the best training she had been to in a very long time.
  - ✓ Mrs. Gilmore, Executive Administrative Assistant, presented the new NISEC website to the Board of Managers.

11. **Personnel**

Mrs. Winkoff recommended approval of the following personnel actions:

**A. Retirement**

*Florence Salai*, Speech and Language Pathologist, effective July 26, 2021.

**B. Resignations**

**Certified**

*Salvador Aguilar*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Hanover Central High School, effective June 4, 2021.

*Cecilia Bendinelli-Gonzalez*, Intense Interventions Teacher at Merrillville High School, effective June 7, 2021.

*Michelle Bowen*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Veterans Elementary, effective June 10, 2021.

*Julie Denormandie*, Intense Interventions Teacher at Calumet High School, effective October 15, 2021.

*Gianna Gazzillo*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Lincoln Elementary, effective June 4, 2021.

*Sydney Hopp*, Teacher of Autism at Eagle Park Community School, effective June 4, 2021.

*Alesandro Montes*, Mild Interventions Teacher at George Earle Elementary, effective June 10, 2021.

*Abygale Murphy*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Meister Elementary, effective June 9, 2021.

~~*Tracilyn Muszalski*, Speech and Language Pathologist, effective July 23, 2021. (Rescinded Resignation)~~

*Nickolas Roberts*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Merrillville High School, effective June 7, 2021.

*Emily Zahora*, Speech and Language Pathologist, effective August 13, 2021.

## Classified

*Isabel Arteaga*, Paraprofessional at Lincoln Elementary, effective June 3, 2021.  
*Tammi Barron*, Paraprofessional at Evans Elementary, effective June 8, 2021.  
*Melissa Churley*, Paraprofessional at Evans Elementary, effective June 8, 2021.  
*Takiyah Driver*, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective June 4, 2021.  
*Timothy Evans*, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective June 4, 2021.  
*Bethany Galligan*, Paraprofessional at River Forest Middle School, effective June 8, 2021.  
*Dominique Hacker*, Paraprofessional at Lake Ridge Middle School, effective June 16, 2021.  
*Debra Hadu*, Paraprofessional at Oak Hill Elementary, effective May 28, 2021.  
*Debra Lichtle*, Paraprofessional at Highland High School, effective May 26, 2021.  
*Madison Pacey*, Paraprofessional at Fieler Elementary, effective June 4, 2021.  
*Nancy Paul*, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective June 4, 2021.  
*Christian Rak*, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective June 4, 2021.  
*Sonya Robinson*, Paraprofessional at Hanover Central Middle School, effective June 3, 2021.  
*Deborah Slayton*, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective June 4, 2021.  
*Ashlie VanBlaircom*, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective June 4, 2021.  
*Jessica Vemmer*, Paraprofessional at Warren Elementary, effective May 26, 2021.  
*Jacqueline Wiler*, Paraprofessional at Evans Elementary, effective June 8, 2021.

## **C. Terminations**

None at this time.

## **D. Appointments**

### Certified

*Lauren Cap*, Teacher of Autism at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 16, 2021.  
*Patrick Cudzilo*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Merrillville High School, effective August 16, 2021.  
*Kylie Extin*, Teacher of Autism at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 16, 2021.  
*Michaelene Hanley*, Emotional Disabilities Teacher at Bailey Elementary, effective August 12, 2021.  
*Nichole Hay*, Intense Interventions Teacher at Lake Ridge Middle School, effective August 16, 2021. revised  
*Richard Horn*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Hanover High School, effective August 13, 2021.  
*Sabrina Jackson*, Teacher of Autism at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 16, 2021.  
*Salina Montes*, Intense Interventions Teacher at Joan Martin, effective August 16, 2021.  
*Maja Nikolov*, Mild Interventions Teacher split between Fieler Elementary and Salk Elementary, effective August 16, 2021.  
*Anna Pyke*, Teacher of Autism at Fieler Elementary, effective August 16, 2021.  
*Rosalinda Ruiz*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Merrillville Intermediate, effective August 16, 2021.

### Classified

*Jessica Bean*, Paraprofessional at Fieler Elementary, effective August 18, 2021.  
*Kari Corbin*, Paraprofessional at Joan Martin Elementary, effective August 16, 2021.  
*Ann Davis*, Paraprofessional at Merrillville Intermediate School, effective August 18, 2021.

*Avis Raybon*, Paraprofessional at Calumet High School, effective August 18, 2021.

Registered

*Alea Britton*, Behavior Intervention Specialist at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 16, 2021.

*Emily Zahora*, Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant, effective August 16, 2021.

**E. Independent Contracts**

None at this time.

**F. Leave of Absence**

*Kathleen Czarnecki*, Medical Leave pursuant to the memo dated August 11, 2021 from Mrs. Kathy Cain.

*Cassandra Martin*, FMLA pursuant to the memo dated August 11, 2021 from Mrs. Kathy Cain.

*Jill Stumpe*, Medical Leave pursuant to the memo dated August 11, 2021 from Mrs. Kathy Cain.

**G. Conference Leave**

None at this time.

Mrs. Jurczak moved for Board approval of the Personnel Report, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Evans and passed unanimously.

12. Mr. Biggs asked for comments or questions from the Board.

Mrs. Jurczak asked that NISEC welcomes all the teachers back for the Board Members and to let the teachers know how much the Board appreciates them.

The Board members shared how much they love the new website and thanked Kirsten Gilmore for the hard worked that went into developing it.

The Board members shared their appreciation for the Return to Learn Plan for Eagle Park and that they understand how it can change at any time.

13. Mr. Biggs asked for comments or questions from the Audience.

Mrs. Foley thanked Kirsten Gilmore for developing the new website for NISEC.

Mrs. Foley also shared how nice it was to see and hear students in the buildings again. She said Highland had a great first day back.

14. Mr. Evans moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dunlap and passed unanimously.