

NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307
June 9, 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, Mr. Robert Kuva, Proxy for Luanne Jurczak, for Highland, Mr. Frank Porras for Hobart and Mr. Douglas Ward for Tri-Creek. There was no representation for Merrillville or 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 May 12, 2021 minutes. This item was tabled until the July 14, 2021 Board Meeting. There was not a quorum for this agenda item.
5. Ms. Rosinko recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated May 31, 2021 as presented. Mr. Kuva moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Evans and passed unanimously.
6. Ms. Rosinko requested Board approval of Resolution #20-24 To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of Resolution #20-24 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sterkowitz and passed unanimously.
7. Mrs. Cain requested Board approval of Resolution #20-25 Concerning Alternative Services Agreements with IDOE and Private Education Agencies. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of Resolution #20-25 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kuva and passed unanimously. Mrs. Cain also informed the Board of Managers that they were each given a resolution to take to each of their Boards as well for approval.
8. Mrs. Cain requested Board approval of the Alternative and Residential Contract for Tri-Creek School Corporation, Merrillville Community School Corporation and Lake Ridge New Tech Schools. Mr. Ward moved for Board approval of the alternative and residential contracts as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Evans and passed unanimously.

9. Mrs. Cain requested Board approval of the Staff Needs for the 2020-2021 School Year. Mrs. Cain explained to the Board of Managers that Merrillville has requested an additional half-time teaching position be added at Salk Elementary due to caseload number. Mrs. Cain shared that the caseload number does not meet NISEC's standard for staff increases so Merrillville will be purchasing this position ala carte which will increase their assessment. Mr. Kuva moved for Board approval of the Staff Needs as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.
10. Mrs. Cain requested Board approval of the Registered Staff Stipend for Ms. Emily Zahora. Mrs. Cain explained that the state of Indiana is no longer approving emergency permits for Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP). Ms. Zahora is in the middle of her master's program to become an SLP. Before starting her Master's Program and becoming an SLP for NISEC on an emergency permit, Ms. Zahora was a Speech and Language Assistant. Mrs. Cain explained that Ms. Zahora will be a speech and language assistant for NISEC again for the 2021-2022 school year but we are asking for a stipend to be approved to compensate for the decrease in pay from Speech and Language Pathologist to Speech and Language Assistant. Mrs. Cain shared that the terms of the agreement were on the Memo provided by Mrs. Winkoff. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of the stipend for Ms. Emily Zahora as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ward and passed unanimously.
11. Mrs. Cain requested Board approval of the ESY Chart for Summer 2021. Mrs. Cain explained the chart and asked if there were any questions. Mrs. Cain also explained that Eagle Park Community School will be housing the ESY program for Merrillville Community Schools. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of the ESY Chart as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.
12. **Director's Report:**
 - ✓ Mrs. Cain shared information on the compliance report issued by IEERB. For the fourth year in a row there have been no issues reported.
 - ✓ Mrs. Cain asked the Board of Managers to consider the dates the NISEC Board of Managers meetings will be held for the 2021-2022 School Year. She said that calendar will be voted on at the July meeting, once everyone has the opportunity to review the proposal and check their district's calendars.
 - ✓ Mrs. Cain updated the Board of Managers on the fun activities that were held at Eagle Park School during the last week of school. Mrs. Cain shared information about the graduation ceremony for students in the High School Autism room and Field Day at Eagle Park. Mrs. Cain shared that Eagle Park usually has Camp Day at Lemon Lake every year but this year due to COVID 19 they had Field Day at Eagle Park. She said it was a huge success and can see Eagle Park continuing to do Field Day in the future.
 - ✓ Mrs. Cain added that Mrs. Winkoff included a flyer for the Sarah Ward Presentation on Executive Functioning being held in the Merrillville High School Auditorium. This event is being funded through the ESSER funds that were approved at the last Board Meeting.

13. **Personnel:**

Mrs. Cain recommended approval to the following personnel actions:

A. Retirement

None at this time.

B. Resignations

Certified

Matthew Aylesworth, Emotional Disabilities Teacher at Bailey Elementary School, effective June 8, 2021.

Paige Cieslak, Teacher of Autism at Fieler Elementary, effective June 7, 2021.

Michelle Curry, Teacher of Autism at Fieler Elementary, effective June 7, 2021.

Christine Matthews, Teacher of Autism at Fieler Elementary, effective June 30, 2021.

Samantha Orcutt, Mild Interventions Teacher at Merrillville Intermediate School, effective June 7, 2021.

Brian Richter, District Director for Merrillville, effective June 30, 2021.

Classified

Melissa Messere, e-Helper for Virtual Speech at Hobart Middle School effective, June 2, 2021.

Non-Certified Clerical

Jennifer Silsby, Administrative Assistant, effective May 14, 2021.

C. Terminations

None at this time.

D. Appointments

Certified

Caitlyn Anderson, Mild Interventions Teacher at Lowell High School, effective August 16, 2021.

Shannon Davis, Teacher of Mild Interventions split between Evans Elementary in River Forest and Bailey Elementary in Lake Station, effective August 16, 2021.

Nichole Hay, Teacher of Intense Interventions at Lowell Middle School, effective August 16, 2021.

Tricia Matthews, Teacher of Mild Interventions split between Early Childhood and Mild Interventions at Johnston Elementary, effective August 16, 2021.

Megan Monahan, BLAST Teacher at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 16, 2021.

Michelle O'Brien, Speech and Language Pathologist, effective August 16, 2021.

Judith Queen, Split between LRE Teacher at Fieler Elementary and Assistive Technology, effective August 16, 2021.

Brian Richter, Teacher of Mild Interventions at Hobart Middle School, effective July 1, 2021.

Christine Samanas, Mild Interventions at Liberty Elementary in Hobart, effective August 16, 2021.

Registered

Christine Matthews, NISEC Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), effective July 1, 2021.

Non-Certified Custodial

Christian Rak, Temporary Custodian for Summer 2021, effective June 7, 2021.

E. Leave of Absence

None at this time.

F. Conference Leave

Lori Brown-Runyon, Facing Futures Together Virtual Conference, July 21-23, 2021.

Alisha Gorman, 2021-2022 Learn and Lead Cohort, Indianapolis, IN, July 16, 2021.

Nancy Pieszchala, Indiana Deaf Educator and Educational Interpreter Conference, Plainfield, IN, June 27-28, 2021.

Claudia Reyes, 2021-2022 Learn and Lead Cohort, Indianapolis, IN, July 16, 2021.

G. Independent Contracts

None at this time.

H. Other

Melissa Hansen, Braille Independent Study Course for Summer 2021.

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

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

Mr. Biggs asked that all Board members please turn in their evaluations for Mrs. Winkoff.

Mr. Evans and Mr. Biggs asked Mrs. Cain to make a statement regarding stipends on behalf of the Board. Mrs. Cain stated "I know there has been some discussion on stipends for our staff and we have reassured our staff that our superintendents do want to give stipends to our staff and it was also reiterated by our Board tonight that they are also in favor of stipends for our staff. We are just figuring out a timeline. We do want to let everyone know how much we appreciate them and all the hard work they have put in during this difficult year and we want to compensate our staff for the work they have done."

Mr. Kuva seconded Mrs. Cain comment for Highland. Mr. Biggs thanked Mrs. Cain for the statement.

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

There were none.

16. Mr. Evans moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kuva and passed unanimously.