

NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307
May 10, 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. Larry Biggs called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Mrs. Judy Dunlap took Roll Call. The following members were recorded as present: Mr. Larry Biggs for Lake Station, Mrs. Louise Neese for Lake Ridge, Mrs. Erica Smith-Gomez for Highland, Ms. Sylvia Pedroza for River Forest, Mr. Frank Porras for Hobart and Dr. Nathan Kleefisch for Tri-Creek. There was no representation from Hanover or Merrillville.
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 April 12, 2023 minutes. Mrs. Smith-Gomez moved for Board approval of the minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.
5. Mrs. Winkoff recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated April 30, 2023 as presented. The Board of Managers gave a shout out to Kristy Elsey for hosting a successful family night that brought in a long list of donations. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.
6. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of Resolution #23-03 To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund, as presented. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of Resolution #23-03. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.
7. Mrs. Winkoff shared information regarding the acquisition of Blackboard by Finalsite. Mrs. Winkoff explained Nick Serrano, Kirsten Gilmore and Lisa Rosinko looked into all of the options with the acquisition and found Finalsite to be the best option to sign a contract with and be our new website host.
8. Mrs. Cain updated the Board about Summit Holdings LLC, our new Workmen's Compensation Insurance. Mrs. Cain stated Summit Holdings is based in Georgia but they have representatives in the state of Indiana. She was excited to share information regarding a meeting she had with Summit Holdings. Mrs. Cain said they seem to be a very supportive and our employees are still able to use Working Well. The Board of Manager were excited to hear this information.
9. Mrs. Winkoff shared a new job category of Health and Nutrition Aide for Eagle Park School. Mrs. Winkoff explained there is a need for more kitchen assistance since our current kitchen employee works part time in the kitchen and is also a paraprofessional part time in our BLAST Program. There is also a need for assistance in our gym so the Eagle Park teachers can have a plan period while their students go to gym. The Health and Nutrition Aide will have more duties in the kitchen pertaining to emergency food supplies and student workers. This position will also develop

activities for students to do while in the gym under the supervision of paraprofessionals, behavioral interventions specialists and board certified behavior analysts.

10. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the Paraprofessional, Virtual Speech E-Helper, CNA, Registered Behavioral Technician and Health and Nutrition Aide Hourly Rates effective May 10, 2023. Mrs. Neese moved for Board approval of the hourly rates, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kleefisch and passed unanimously.
11. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of an Alternative and Residential Contract for Lake Station. Mrs. Smith-Gomez moved for Board approval of the Alternative and Residential Contract, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously
12. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the NISEC Organizational Charts. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the NISEC Organizational Charts, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously. Mrs. Winkoff mentioned she is sad that she will not see first-hand, these new administrators grow in their new roles but she is excited for the future of NISEC.

13. **Director's Report:**

- ✓ Mrs. Winkoff asked Mrs. Cain to speak about beginning a study to ascertain the need for a Resource Officer or Director of Safety at Eagle Park School, and detail why this is becoming vital to the school's ability to function. Mrs. Cain stated that she will be reaching out to a few of the District's that have different types of safety roles in their buildings to see what model would work best for Eagle Park School. She will continue to keep the Board of Managers updated with the results of the study.
- ✓ Mrs. Winkoff gave an update about the recently passed state budget and the implications for special education funding.
- ✓ Mrs. Winkoff discussed our partnership with Purdue Northwest and fulfilling their Education Student's Professional Year Requirement.
- ✓ Mrs. Winkoff presented an award the NISEC received for being a good community partner with Indiana University and their School of Social Work.

14. **Personnel:**

Mrs. Winkoff recommended Board approval to the following personnel actions:

a. Retirement

None at this time.

b. Resignations

Certified

Carrie Boelt, Social and Emotional Learning Teacher at Southridge Elementary, effective May 26, 2023.

Lindsay Foerg, Mild Interventions Teacher at Hobart High School, effective June 5, 2023.

Carrie Griffin, Mild Interventions Teacher at Pierce Middle School, effective June 2, 2023.

Tracilyn Haddad, Speech and Language Pathologist at Fieler Elementary, effective June 2, 2023.

Melissa Timm, Teacher of Autism at Southridge Elementary, effective May 26, 2023.

Classified

Maria Aceves, Paraprofessional at the George Earle Early Learning Center, effective May 2, 2023.

Chloe Jansson, Paraprofessional at Fieler Elementary, effective April 19, 2023.

Wydeia Mitchell, Paraprofessional at Longfellow Elementary, effective April 14, 2023.

Registered

Stephanie Mercedes, Registered Behavioral Technician at Eagle Park Community School, effective May 12, 2023.

Jillian Polman, Registered School Nurse at Eagle Park School, effective May 5, 2023.

c. Terminations

None at this time.

d. Appointments

Classified

Sherry Cottrell, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective May 3, 2023.

Rebecca Dewey, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective April 17, 2023.

Jh'myra Ford, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective April 17, 2023.

Susan Stam, Paraprofessional at Hanover Middle School, effective April 17, 2023.

Registered

Katelyn Booe, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, effective August 14, 2023.

Emily Zahora, Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant, effective May 1, 2023.

e. Independent Contracts

None at this time.

f. Leave of Absence

None at this time.

g. Conference Leave

None at this time.

h. Other

None at this time.

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

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

Mr. Biggs congratulated Alisha Gorman and Michelle Mullins for their new role as District Director's. He said a congratulations to Trish Foley as well since this is her last Board meeting.

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

Ms. Foley shared information regarding the AFT receiving an award for being a local for 50 years.

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