

NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307
May 12, 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, Mrs. Judy Dunlap for Merrillville, Mr. Jonathan Evans for Lake Ridge, Mrs. Luanne Jurczak for Highland, Mrs. Michelle Martin for River Forest, Mr. Terry Butler, Proxy for Frank Porras, for Hobart and Mr. Douglas Ward for Tri-Creek. There was no representation for Hanover.
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 14, 2021 minutes. Mrs. Martin moved for Board approval of the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Evans and passed unanimously.
5. Ms. Rosinko recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated April 30, 2021 as presented. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Jurczak and passed unanimously.
6. Ms. Rosinko requested Board approval of Resolution #20-23 To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund as presented. Mrs. Jurczak moved for Board approval of Resolution #20-23 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Evans and passed unanimously.
7. Ms. Rosinko requested Board approval of the 2021 Reappropriated General Fund Budget, 2022 General Fund Budget, 2022 Capital Projects Budget and the 2022 Transportation Budget.

Ms. Rosinko explained that the cash balance is increasing from \$900,000 to \$1,300,000 in order to be able to retain 2 payrolls in our cash balance. We have increased the state revenue for the 2021 and 2022 budget as a result of the state providing us with more funds. She also explained that the general assessments have had a substantial reduction due to the increase in special education dollars. Mrs. Winkoff shared that we have not seen a return this large in many years. Mr. Butler moved for Board approval of the 2021 Reappropriated General Fund Budget, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dunlap and passed unanimously.

Ms. Rosinko explained that the new state revenue is built into the 2022 General Fund Budget. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of the 2022 General Fund Budget, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Martin and passed unanimously.

Mrs. Dunlap moved for Board approval of the 2022 Capital Projects Budget, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Jurczak and passed unanimously.

Mr. Butler moved for Board approval of the 2022 Transportation Budget, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Evans and passed unanimously.

8. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the NISEC Staffing Proposal for the 2021-2022 School Year. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of the 2021-2022 Staff Proposal, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dunlap and passed unanimously.
9. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the ESSER II and ESSER III Fund Proposal. Mrs. Winkoff explained that after a great deal of consideration we put together a proposal for a small portion of the \$59,000,000.00 that our combined districts were able to receive from ESSER. NISEC is asking for \$214,594.00 for predominately professional development. Mrs. Winkoff also provided the board members with a sheet of items that would be beneficial to our staff out in the districts but are optional for districts to purchase if they were to have extra funds. This "optional items" list is not included in the proposal being voted on tonight. Mrs. Martin moved for Board approval of the ESSER II and ESSER III Fund Proposal, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Jurczak.

Before the proposal was voted on, Mr. Evans stated "For the record, Lake Ridge schools is receiving roughly \$12,000,000.00 and Lake Ridge is one of the poorer districts as far as income level, tax collection, and the percentage of students on reduced lunch program. With that being said, that is why we received the \$12,000,000.00. Not that it is a huge amount of money that you are us asking for, at this point we are tight. Our budgets are tight, we do not have a referendum that we have been able pass. Our chances of receiving additional taxes in our district are slim to none. There are no big businesses moving in or families moving into the area to help us with our funding issues. This windfall here, I am assuming, is a one-time deal. Our district has a lot of remediation, just like some of our other districts here do, but we have a lot of remediation to attend to. The bottom line is, it looks like it is a lot of money and it is but the need and the use of that money is pretty much accounted for already. This money will help but it isn't going to take care of all the problems. In good conscious and representing the district here I will not be voting in favor of the ESSER proposal tonight."

The ESSER II and ESSER III Fund Proposal passed with 6 ayes and 1 nay from Mr. Evans.

10. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the Cluster Site Programs for the 2021-2022 School Year. Mrs. Winkoff explained that there are no changes to the cluster site program locations from this school year to next school year. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval

of the Cluster Site Programs for the 2021-2022 School Year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Butler and passed unanimously.

11. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the ReEntry Plan for Eagle Park Community School for the 2021-2022 School Year. She asked the Board to please approve only in person learning for the 2021-2022 School Year. Mrs. Jurczak moved for Board approval of the ReEntry Plan, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dunlap and passed unanimously.
12. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the Fundraiser for Eagle Park Community School. Mrs. Winkoff explained that Eagle Park Community School is hosting Field Day on June 2, 2021. The school hopes to raise \$1,500 from the fundraiser that will pay for the Field Day event and any additional monies raised will be put in the Eagle Park Activity Fund.
13. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the Student Teacher Affiliation Agreement Between Grand Canyon University and NISEC. Mrs. Winkoff explained there is a new affiliation agreement for each school we do student teacher placements for and Grand Canyon University is a new school for us to partner with. She also explained that this is an online university. Mr. Butler moved for Board approval of the Student Teacher Affiliation Agreement, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dunlap and passed unanimously.
14. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the Alternative and Residential Contract for Merrillville. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of the alternative and residential contract, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Jurczak and passed unanimously.
15. **Director's Report:**
 - ✓ Mrs. Winkoff shared that graduation activity details happening here at Eagle Park Community School will be shared with the Board Members.
 - ✓ Mrs. Winkoff asked Mrs. Cain to share information regarding staff appreciation. Mrs. Cain shared that unfortunately this year again we are not able to host our typical staff appreciation dinner but we are hoping and planning on having something in the Fall to recognize all of our employees' years of service. We have been working on honoring our retirees from last year and this year. What we did was we ordered the large "Sign Gypsy" signs that say "WE LOVE OUR NISEC RETIREES". They fill the entire front yard of the homes and get put up in the middle of the night. Our retirees have been sending in photos and thank you's for the acknowledgement. The retirees received a letter letting them know they were receiving a surprise and that we were unable once again to celebrate with them in person. Mrs. Cain also shared that for teacher appreciation week we gave all of our teaching staff T-Shirts to acknowledge our appreciation for them. She thanked Merrillville for allowing us to work with their printing department to get the shirts made.
 - ✓ Mrs. Winkoff also shared the we officially filled the front office and have a

- completed the NISEC Office Organization Chart that is shared with you tonight.
✓ Mrs. Winkoff shared a draft of her evaluation with the Board Members.

16. **Personnel:**

Mrs. Winkoff recommended approval to the following personnel actions:

A. Retirement

None at this time.

B. Resignations

Certified

Regina Balash, Teacher of Autism at Eagle Park Community School, effective June 4, 2021.

Jessica Heighway, Educational Diagnostician, effective June 7, 2021.

Michael O'Daniel, Teacher of Emotional Disabilities at Bailey Elementary, effective April 23, 2021.

Classified

Salma Espinoza, Paraprofessional at Lincoln Elementary in Hanover, effective April 21, 2021.

Sara Fleming, Paraprofessional at Wood Elementary in Merrillville, effective May 14, 2021.

Christine Hallahan, ECD Arena Team Assistant, effective June 7, 2021.

Yvonne Sondag, Paraprofessional at Longfellow Elementary in Lake Ridge, effective April 19, 2021.

C. Terminations

None at this time.

D. Appointments

Certified

Kevin Marine, Teacher of Intense Interventions at Merrillville Intermediate, effective August 16, 2021.

Non-Certified Clerical

Jennifer Silsby, Administrative Assistant, effective May 4, 2021.

E. Leave of Absence

None at this time.

F. Conference Leave

Sheila Parker, Certified Clinical Trauma Professional Training, Highland, IN, March 31, 2021 and April 1, 2021.

G. Independent Contracts

None at this time.

H. Other

None at this time.

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

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

Mr. Butler made a comment on how nice the building looks and that it looks the same as 15-20 years ago. He said whoever is maintaining the building is doing a nice job. Mrs. Winkoff shared that we have been short a custodial staff member for 8 months so it has just been Joe Bosel and Sue Helton working very hard to help maintain the building and I will definitely share this information with them.

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

Mrs. Trish Foley, Teacher Union President, said everyone has been working so hard during this pandemic and with traveling to every district with my position I wanted to say how awesome teacher appreciation week was this year. She wanted to let the districts know how much the teachers appreciated being celebrated.

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