

NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307
September 8, 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. Luanne Jurczak for Highland, Mr. Frank Porras for Hobart, Mrs. Judy Dunlap for Merrillville and Mrs. Michelle Martin for River Forest. There was no representation from Hanover or 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 August 11, 2021 minutes. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of the minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.
5. Ms. Rosinko recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated August 31, 2021, as presented. Mrs. Jurczak moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dunlap and passed unanimously.
6. Ms. Rosinko requested Board approval of Resolution #21-05 To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of Resolution #21-05, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Martin and passed unanimously.
7. Ms. Rosinko requested Board approval of the IDEA and Preschool Grants for the fiscal year 2022. Mrs. Jurczak moved for Board approval of the grants, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Evans and passed unanimously.
8. Ms. Rosinko requested Board approval of the NISEC Health and Dental Insurance Premiums for the 2021-2022 School Year. The premiums for the 2021-2022 school year reflect a five percent increase from last years' premiums. The premiums were approved through the Porter County Trust based on increases from Anthem. Mrs. Dunlap moved for Board approval of the Health and Dental Insurance Premiums, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.

9. Mrs. Cain requested Board approval of the Certified Nurse’s Assistant (CNA) position and salary range. Mr. Porras asked how many CNA’s we were interested in hiring and Mrs. Cain said we are hoping to fill about 5 positions based on student need. Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of the CNA position and salary range, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Martin and passed unanimously.
10. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the revised Eagle Park Community School Return to Learn Plan. The plan includes mandating masks for Eagle Park School staff and students starting on Monday, September 13, 2021. Mrs. Jurczak moved for Board approval of the Eagle Park Community School Return to Learn Plan, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Evans and passed unanimously.
11. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the Fundraiser for Eagle Park Community School. The fundraiser involves the “Holiday Wishes” catalog and will run from October 1, 2021 to October 15, 2021. The proceeds from the fundraiser will go into the Eagle Park Activity Fund. Mrs. Winkoff shared that she will make the catalog available for the Board members to look through at the next Board meeting. Mrs. Martin moved for Board approval of the fundraiser, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Jurczak and passed unanimously.

12. **Director’s Report:**

- ✓ Mrs. Winkoff shared information regarding the NISEC, district-based Dyslexia specialists training, as reported by Dr. Harkema. Mrs. Winkoff shared that NISEC had one teacher from each district go through the Orton-Gillingham training over the summer. We were able to send staff to this training through the ESSER funds that were Board approved.

13. **Personnel**

Mrs. Winkoff recommended approval of the following personnel actions:

A. Retirement

None at this time.

B. Resignations

Certified

Robert Moran, Teacher of Mild Interventions at Merrillville High School, effective August 16, 2021.

Classified

Angelica Brzezinski, Paraprofessional at Evans Elementary, effective September 10, 2021.

Stacey Graves, Paraprofessional at Bailey Elementary, effective August 18, 2021.

Medina Griffin, Paraprofessional at Merrillville High School, effective August 18, 2021.

Kimberly Krueger, Paraprofessional at Bailey Elementary, effective August 17, 2021.

Vanessa Shaffer, Paraprofessional at TELC at George Earle, effective September 2, 2021.

Summer Vizena, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 18, 2021. Never Worked

Kimberly Young, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 18, 2021.

C. Terminations

None at this time.

D. Appointments

Certified

Jody Brown, Teacher of Mild Interventions at Hanover Central High School, effective August 24, 2021.

Ryan Cramer, Virtual Intense Interventions Teacher for Merrillville, effective August 30, 2021.

Lindsay Foerg, Teacher of Mild Interventions at Veterans Elementary, effective August 16, 2021.

Shanita Green, Teacher of Intense Interventions at Salk Elementary, effective September 13, 2021.

Sean Kavois, Teacher of Mild Interventions at Merrillville High School, effective August 19, 2021.

Classified

Jennifer Abramson, Paraprofessional at Veterans Elementary, effective September 20, 2021.

Melissa Erickson, Paraprofessional at Lincoln Elementary, effective September 7, 2021.

Kelly Galocy, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 18, 2021.

Deloria Green, Paraprofessional at Lake Ridge Middle School, effective August 30, 2021.

Serena Green, Paraprofessional at Merrillville High School, effective August 18, 2021.

Hannah Kurgan, Paraprofessional at River Forest Middle School, effective September 13, 2021.

Tammy Outler, Paraprofessional at Oak Hill Elementary, effective August 27, 2021.

Pandora Perkins, Paraprofessional at Fieler Elementary, effective August 18, 2021.

Sonya Robinson, Paraprofessional at Hanover Central Middle School, effective September 13, 2021.

Michelle Scheffel, Paraprofessional at Warren Elementary, effective September 13, 2021.

James Weldon, Paraprofessional at River Forest Middle School, effective August 23, 2021.

Kathleen Wirth, Paraprofessional at Edison Jr./Sr. High School, effective September 13, 2021.

E. Independent Contracts

Deborah Robbins, Speech Language Pathologist, effective September 17, 2020.

F. Leave of Absence

None at this time.

G. Conference Leave

Jill Bruhn, ICASE, Elizabeth, IN, September 30, 2021 – October 1, 2021.

Kathy Cain, ICASE, Elizabeth, IN, September 30, 2021 – October 1, 2021.

Abigail Gonzalez, ICASE, Elizabeth, IN, September 30, 2021 – October 1, 2021.

Marsha Horn, ICASE, Elizabeth, IN, September 30, 2021 – October 1, 2021.

H. Other

Regretful passing of Cassandra Martin, Educational Diagnostician with NISEC in Highland for 23 years.

Mr. Evans moved for Board approval of the Personnel Report, as presented. The motion

was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.

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

Mrs. Dunlap asked that everyone please keep Merrillville's superintendent, Mr. Nick Brown, in their thoughts as he undergoes surgery and a long recovery time.

Mr. Biggs also said he hopes that we can find more special education staff to help in our classrooms.

Mrs. Jurczak thanked everyone for their hard work, including our special education teachers.

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 Mrs. Jurczak and passed unanimously.