

NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307
June 14, 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 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Mr. Frank Porras took Roll Call. The following members were recorded as present:
Mr. Larry Biggs for Lake Station, Mrs. Louise Neese for Lake Ridge, Ms. Sylvia Pedroza for River Forest, Mr. Frank Porras for Hobart, Mrs. Tara Beilke for Hanover and Mrs. Erica Smith-Gomez for Highland. Merrillville and Tri-Creek were not represented.
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 10, 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 May 31, 2023, as presented. Mrs. Neese moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.
6. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of Resolution #23-04 To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund, as presented. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of Resolution #23-04. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.
7. Mrs. Winkoff presented the 2023 Reappropriated Budget and requested Board approval of the 2023 Reappropriated Budget. Mr. Porras moved for Board approval of the 2023 Reappropriated Budget, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.
8. Mrs. Winkoff presented the 2024 General Fund Budget and requested Board approval of the 2024 General Fund Budget. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the 2024 General Fund Budget, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith-Gomez and passed unanimously.
9. Mrs. Winkoff presented the 2024 Capital Projects Budget and requested Board approval of the 2024 Capital Projects Budget. Mr. Porras moved for Board approval of the 2024 Capital Projects Budget, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith-Gomez and passed unanimously.
10. Mrs. Winkoff presented the 2024 Transportation Budget and requested Board approval of the 2024 Transportation Budget. Mrs. Smith-Gomez moved for Board approval of the 2024 Transportation Budget, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.
11. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the NISEC Staffing Proposal for the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the NISEC Staffing Proposal for the 2023-2024 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously. Mr.

Porras thanked Mrs. Winkoff for all of her hard work putting this proposal together. Mrs. Winkoff stated she can't take all of the credit and that it was a large group effort.

12. Mrs. Cain discussed the need to adjust the salary range for the Behavior Intervention Specialists and presented the memo regarding the adjustment. Mrs. Cain then request Board approval to adjust the salary range for the Behavior Intervention Specialists. Mrs. Smith-Gomez moved for Board approval to adjust the salary range for the Behavior Intervention Specialists, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously. The Board said they hope this increase will help us find Behavior Intervention Specialists.
13. Mrs. Cain discussed the need to adjust the salary range for the Eagle Park School Nurse and presented the memo regarding the adjustment. Mrs. Cain then request Board approval to adjust the salary range for the Eagle Park School Nurse. Mrs. Neese moved for Board approval to adjust the salary range for the Eagle Park School Nurse, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.
14. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of Resolution #23-05 Concerning Alternative Services Agreements with IDOE and Private Education Agencies, as presented. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of Resolution #23-05. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.
15. Mrs. Winkoff discussed the Eagle Park Summer Programming/ ESY Compensatory Services Chart. Mrs. Winkoff explained the need for ESY Services varies year by year depending on the need of the students and all ESY services are outlined in the students' IEP, Individualized Education Plan. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval of the Eagle Park Summer Programming/ ESY Compensatory Services for the summer of 2023. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the Eagle Park Summer Programming/ESY Compensatory Servicer for the summer of 2023, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.
16. Mrs. Winkoff requested Board approval for one Alternative and Residential Contract for Lake Ridge New Tech Schools. Mr. Porras moved for Board approval of the Alternative and Residential Contract, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.
17. **Director's Report:**
 - ✓ Mrs. Winkoff shared the revised NISEC Administration Organizational Chart. Mrs. Winkoff stated that she is in full support of these administrative changes and is excited for the future of NISEC.
 - ✓ Mrs. Winkoff and Mrs. Cain shared professional development the NISEC is offering this summer and early fall, including Dr. Terry Scott who has been secured for August 22, 2023. The Districts are invited to send staff to the August 22nd professional development on the topic of behavior strategies.
 - ✓ Mrs. Winkoff asked Mrs. Cain to share an update with the Board regarding School Safety. Mrs. Cain shared she and Mrs. Horn have been working with Hobart to discuss the difference between a School Resource Officer (SRO) and a Safety/Security Coordinator. They feel for Eagle Park School, a Safety/Security Coordinator is the best position for the school. Mrs. Cain said this is still an ongoing discussion and said a job description may be presented at the July board meeting. Mrs. Cain stated with Merrillville leaving the Cooperative in June of 2024 there are a lot of updates needing to be made to the School Safety Plan since we currently involve Merrillville in our evacuation plan and other items throughout the School Safety Plan.

- ✓ Mrs. Winkoff shared the Eagle Park Community School Wellness Report for the 2022-2023 school year, as submitted by Ms. Elsey, Principal of EPCS.
- ✓ Mrs. Winkoff explained the new, annual fee that Go Solutions is imposing on the districts.
- ✓ Mrs. Winkoff asked the Board to consider the dates the NISEC Board of Managers meetings will be held for the 2023-2024 school year. She would propose the calendar be voted on at the July meeting, once Board members have had an opportunity to review the proposal and check their districts calendars.
- ✓ Mrs. Winkoff and Mrs. Cain updated the Board on the fun activities that were held at Eagle Park School during the last week of school.

18. **Personnel:**

Mrs. Winkoff recommended approval to the following personnel actions:

A. Retirement

Certified

Elizabeth Hulsey, Life Skills Teacher at Merrillville High School, effective June 1, 2023.

B. Resignations

Administrative

Kristy Elsey, Principal at Eagle Park Community School, effective June 9, 2023.

Alisha Gorman, IEP Facilitator within the Tri-Creek District, Veterans Elementary and Trinity Lutheran in Hobart, effective July 31, 2023.

Darcie Johnston, IEP Facilitator within the Merrillville District, effective June 2, 2023.

Michelle Mullins, IEP Facilitator in Lake Station and River Forest, effective July 31, 2023.

Certified

Janice Anstead, Early Childhood Teacher at Lowell Middle School, effective May 26, 2023.

Kriste Bell, Mild Interventions Teacher at Hobart High School, effective June 30, 2023.

Donovan Estridge, Mild Interventions Teacher at Lowell High School, effective June 5, 2023.

Tracilyn Haddad, Speech and Language Pathologist, effective August 4, 2023. Revised

Nolyn Harpp, Mild Interventions Teacher at Merrillville Intermediate School, effective June 2, 2023.

Harmony Hofstra, Autism Teacher at Merrillville Intermediate School, effective June 2, 2023.

Elyssa Jankowski, Mild Interventions Teacher split between Oak Hill Elementary and Three Creeks Elementary, effective June 5, 2023.

Alana Kinnis, Mild Interventions Teacher at Oak Hill Elementary, effective June 30, 2023.

Misty Knestrict, Educational Diagnostician, effective June 30, 2023.

Kirsten Mazzaro, Social and Emotional Learning Teacher at Red Cedars Upper Elementary effective May 22, 2023.

Crystal McClendon, Life Skills Teacher at Longfellow Elementary, effective June 30, 2023.

Maja Nikolov, Mild Interventions Teacher at Wood Elementary, effective June 2, 2023.

Matthew Sokol, Mild Interventions Teacher at Merrillville High School, effective June 2, 2023.

Christina Vargo, Mild Interventions Teacher at Highland High School, effective May 26, 2023.

Renee Witham, Mild Interventions Teacher at Three Creeks Elementary, effective June 5, 2023.

Classified

Shawna Aeshliman, Paraprofessional at Red Cedars Elementary, effective June 1, 2023.
Ann Davis, Paraprofessional at Merrillville Intermediate School, effective June 2, 2023.
Diana Duvall, Paraprofessional at Oak Hill Elementary, effective June 2, 2023.
Elisha Maticik, Paraprofessional at Jane Ball Elementary, effective June 1, 2023.
Hannah McFall, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective June 2, 2023.

Shelly Mishler, Paraprofessional at Lowell Middle School, effective May 18, 2023.

Dahlilah Pepin, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective May 12, 2023.

Jessica Smith, Paraprofessional at River Forest Middle School, effective May 18, 2023.

Courtnee Steffek, Paraprofessional at Lowell High School, effective June 2, 2023.

Michelle Williamson, Paraprofessional at Veterans Elementary, effective June 2, 2023.

Registered

Wolly Joseph, Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant, effective June 1, 2023.

Emily Zahora, Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant, effective June 2, 2023.

C. Terminations

Certified

Fred Ard, Life Skills Teacher at Calumet High School, effective June 2, 2023.

Classified

Nikole Davis, Paraprofessional at Fieler Elementary, effective May 5, 2023.

D. Appointments

Administrative

Kriste Bell, IEP Facilitator within the River Forest District and Lake Station District, effective August 1, 2023.

Alexandra Blank, IEP Facilitator within the Merrillville District, effective August 1, 2023.

Alisha Gorman, District Director within the Hobart District and Lake Ridge District, effective August 1, 2023.

Alana Kinnis, IEP Facilitator within the Tri-Creek School Corporation, Veterans Elementary and Trinity Lutheran in Hobart, effective August 1, 2023.

Misty Knestrict, District Director within the Merrillville District, effective August 1, 2023.

Michelle Mullins, District Director within the Hanover District and Merrillville High School, effective August 1, 2023.

Kathleen Tatone, IEP Facilitator within the Merrillville District on a temporary 1-year contract, effective August 1, 2023.

Certified

Nicole Austgen, Mild Interventions Teacher at Hanover Middle School, effective August 15, 2023.

Nicole Biel, Mild Interventions Teacher at Longfellow Elementary, effective August 14, 2023.

Hannah Crider, Speech and Language Pathologist at Jane Ball Elementary, effective August 15, 2023.

Vicki McLean, Early Childhood Teacher at Lowell Middle School, effective August 14, 2023.

Christina Osika, Educational Diagnostician, effective August 14, 2023.

Melinda Parent, Mild Interventions Teacher at Wood Elementary, effective August 15, 2023.

Dannetta Turturillo, Mild Interventions Teacher at Lowell Middle School, effective August 14, 2023.

Emily Zahora, Speech and Language Pathologist at Joan Martin Elementary, effective August 14, 2023.

Classified

Crystal McClendon, Paraprofessional at Longfellow Elementary, effective August 16, 2023.

Registered

Jessica Heinrich, Registered Nurse at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 15, 2023.

Sadie Sottos, Behavior Intervention Specialist, effective August 15, 2023.

E. Independent Contracts

Kelly Ezbenko, Orientation and Mobility Specialist, effective August 11, 2023.

F. Leave of Absence

None at this time.

G. Conference Leave

None at this time.

H. Other

None at this time.

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

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

Mr. Biggs told Mrs. Winkoff he wishes her well in her retirement and thanks Mrs. Winkoff for all of the years she gave NISEC. Mr. Porras also thanked Mrs. Winkoff for her years of service and Mrs. Winkoff thanked the Board for all of their support and also thanked them for the beautiful cake.

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

Ms. Denise Hickey, NCTU member, said on behalf of the union, Mrs. Winkoff will be missed.

21. Mrs. Beilke moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.