

CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Wednesday, May 17, 2023

CSIU Central Office
90 Lawton Lane
Milton, PA 17847

COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 5 p.m.

Budget and Finance Committee
Buildings and Grounds Committee
Human Resources Committee

DINNER / ART GALLERY RECEPTION – 5:30 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING – 7 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Call to Order

President Rhoads called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call – Directors present - 12; Directors absent - 4; Vacancy - 1

Director	District	Present	Absent
Victor Abate	Midd-West	X	
William Brecker	Mount Carmel Area		X
Lauren Hackenburg	Line Mountain		X
David Hess	Selinsgrove Area	X	
Tamara Hoffman, Treasurer	Warrior Run	X	
Jonathan Jones	Bloomsburg Area	X	
Jeffrey Kashner	Shamokin Area	X	
Dennis Keiser, Vice President	Mifflinburg Area	X	
Gregory Klebon	Southern Columbia Area		X
Susan Myers	Millville Area	X	
William Pasukinis	Benton Area		X
Bruce Rhoads, President	Central Columbia	X	
Slade Shreck, Secretary	Shikellamy	X	
Mary Ann Stanton	Lewisburg Area	X	
Dr. Alvin Weaver	Milton Area	X	
Susy Wiegand	Berwick Area	X	
Vacant	Danville Area		X

1.4 Announcements

Directors were asked to state their name when making a motion or second during the meeting, allowing for the motion to be recorded accurately.

President Rhoads announced an executive session would be held following the board meeting to discuss the Executive Director's Performance Evaluation for 2022-23.

The next regular monthly meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at the CSIU central office.

1.5 Recognition of Guests and Opportunity for Public Comment

Dr. Bernadette Boerckel, Chief Outreach Officer
Thomas Caruso, Director of Cooperative Purchasing
Rae Ann Crispell, Administrative Support Director
Kenneth Erb, Manager of Buildings and Grounds
Dr. Samuel Faulkner, Danville Area School District
Dr. Alan Hack, Chief Academic Officer
Kaitlyn Hall, Director of Early Childhood Education
Pamela Karnes, EA Representative
Kevin Kilgus, Director of Financial Services
Dr. John Kurelja, Executive Director
Dr. Shileste Overton Morris, Chief Programs Officer
Amy Pfleegor, Executive Office Manager/Board Recording Secretary
Laura Saccente, Center for School and Communities (CSC) Strategic Initiatives Director
Eric Shearer, Telecommunications Technology Network Coordinator
Brian Snyder, Chief Financial and Operations Officers
Heather Taggart, Communications Coordinator

1.6 Approval of Minutes (Attachment)

Directors were asked to approve the minutes of the CSIU Board of Directors meeting held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 as presented.

Motion by Mary Ann Stanton, second by Susy Wiegand.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

1.7 Spotlight Segment

There was no spotlight presentation this month.

Dr. Kurelja recognized **Tina Noll**, buildings and grounds management assistant, **Amy Pfleegor**, executive office manager/board recording secretary, and **Heather Taggart**, communications coordinator, for their hard work in organizing the 2023 CSIU Art Gallery Reception.

Dr. Kurelja also recognized **Tina Noll** on her upcoming retirement after 29 years of service and dedication to the CSIU.

2. BOARD GOVERNANCE

2.1 Director Appointment

Directors were asked to approve the following representative and effective dates to fill a vacant director position.

Dr. Samuel Faulkner – Danville Area School District
Effective dates: May 18, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Completing balance of unexpired term

Motion to approve a director appointment as presented.

Motion by Victor Abate, second by Susy Wiegand.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

2.2 PSBA Voting Delegate

The CSIU is entitled to appoint a voting member to participate in the 2023 PSBA Delegate Assembly. This year's Assembly will be a hybrid event on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023. Mr. Brecker served as the CSIU's representative from 2016 to 2020. Mr. Shreck served as the representative in 2021 and 2022 and is willing to serve for the 2023 Assembly.

Motion to approve Mr. Shreck to attend the 2023 PSBA Delegate Assembly as presented.

Motion by Mary Ann Stanton, second by Susan Myers.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

3. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE – Tamara Hoffman, Chair; Lauren Hackenburg, Committee Member

3.1 Monthly Financial Statements for April 2023 (Attachments)

Directors were asked to approve the following April 2023 financial statements:

- Financial Report;
- Program Balance Sheet; and
- General Fund Accounting Payment Summary. Funds for payment are available in program budgets.

Motion to approve monthly financial statements for April 2023 as presented.

Motion by Tamara Hoffman, second by Victor Abate.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

4. TECHNOLOGY/MARKETPLACE COMMITTEE – Jonathan Jones, Chair; Victor Abate and Alvin Weaver, Committee Members

4.1 Cooperative Purchasing Customer Appreciation Rebate for Local Districts

The CSIU sponsors a customer appreciation program to reward local school districts and career and technical centers for participating in its cooperative purchasing programs. Now entering its eleventh year, the program provides CSIU-region LEAs a rebate of a percentage of the fee the CSIU receives from contract sales. Administration proposes the

rebate be offered again for 2023-24 at 35 percent.

Motion to approve the cooperative purchasing customer appreciation rebate for local CSIU districts as presented.

Motion by Jonathan Jones, second by Slade Shreck.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

4.2 Keystone Purchasing Network (KPN) Bid Awards and Contract Extensions (Attachment)

Directors were asked to approve bid awards and contract extensions for the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies (AEPA) and KPN contracts as follows:

- KPN-AEPA Bid Awards through May 31, 2024;
- KPN Contract Extensions through June 30, 2024; and
- KPN-AEPA Contract Extensions through May 31, 2024.

Motion to approve KPN bid awards and contract extensions as presented

Motion by Jonathan Jones, second by Slade Shreck.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

4.3 Keystone Purchasing Network (KPN) Definite Quantity Line-Item Bids (Attachments)

Directors were asked to approve KPN definite quantity line-item bid awards effective for the 2023-24 purchasing cycle as presented.

- Fuel Oil/Diesel/Gasoline (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 Delivery)

Motion to approve KPN definite quantity line-item bid awards as presented.

Motion by Jonathan Jones, second by Slade Shreck.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

5. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – Dennis Keiser, Chair; Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck and Mary Ann Stanton, Committee Members

5.1 Full-Time Personnel

New Employee – Instructional Staff

- **Danielle J. Sommers**, Lewisburg, received a master's degree from Bloomsburg University. She has been employed as a speech/language teacher with Milton Area School District. Ms. Sommers is recommended as a **speech therapist** at the master's +45 step 9 classification, effective July 10, 2023 (contingent upon receipt of required clearances), at an annual salary of \$67,649, according to the terms of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement. Funds for this replacement position are available in the Early Intervention budget.

New Employees – Non-Instructional Staff

- **Montana M. Drumheller**, Stillwater, received a bachelor's degree from Bloomsburg University. She has been employed as a program supervisor with Diversified Treatment Alternative Center, Danville. Ms. Drumheller is recommended as an **Early Head Start senior family partner/home visitor**, at an hourly rate of \$19.09 (\$37,225.50 annually), effective June 5, 2023 (contingent upon receipt of required clearances). Funds for this replacement position are available in the Early Head Start budget.
- **Alicia M. Freed**, Freeburg, received a bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport. She has been employed as a registered nurse with Geisinger, Danville. Ms. Freed is recommended as a **practical nursing program instructor**, at an annual salary of \$65,000, effective May 18, 2023 (contingent upon receipt of required clearances). Funds for this replacement position are available in the Central Susquehanna LPN Career Center budget.
- **Louis S. Gansell**, Unityville, received a master's degree from Bloomsburg University. He has been employed as a psychological services specialist with the PA Department of Corrections, Muncy. Mr. Gansell is recommended as a **career counselor specialist**, at an hourly rate of \$22.50 (\$43,875 annually), effective June 1, 2023 (contingent upon receipt of required clearances). Funds for this replacement position are available in the YES Project budget.

Position Transfers

- **Laura A. Saccente**, from Center for Schools and Communities strategic initiatives director, at a current annual salary of \$97,341.75 to **Center for Schools and Communities assistant director**, at an annual salary of \$107,000, effective July 1, 2023
- **Jan A. Scherer**, from Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network helpline lead coordinator, at a current annual salary of \$63,247.93 to **Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network helpline supervisor**, at an annual salary of \$67,410.33, effective July 1, 2023
- **Rita Steele**, from client support specialist I, at a current annual salary of \$53,688.75 to **client support business systems analyst**, at an annual salary of \$70,000, effective July 1, 2023
- **Anita M. Williams**, from ELECT student support specialist, at a current hourly rate of \$20.81 (\$40,579.50 annually), to **ELECT student support and outreach coordinator**, at an hourly rate of \$24 (\$46,800 annually), effective July 1, 2023

Title Change

- **Nicola Y. Manning-Davenport**, from education data support services supervisor to **PIMS application support supervisor**, effective May 18, 2023

Change in Start Date

- **Roger K. Boschetto**, Corrections Education teacher, from Jan. 31, 2022 to Jan. 17, 2022

Resignations

- **Dellines Cuello**, recruitment specialist, effective April 25, 2023
- **Cheyenne E. Snyder**, Head Start assistant instructor, effective May 12, 2023
- **Kathy L. Spangler**, instructional support program assistant, March 31, 2023

*Please note that effective date listed above is the last paid working day.

Retirements

- **Lorraine M. Marcheski**, behavior intervention assistant, effective May 30, 2023
- **Janet E. Wachter**, Early Intervention instructional assistant, effective Sept. 5, 2023

*Please note that effective date listed above is the last paid working day.

Motion to approve full-time personnel recommendations as presented.

Motion by Slade Shreck, second by Mary Ann Stanton.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

5.2 Part-Time Personnel

New Employee – Non-Instructional Staff

- **Chelsea M. Egger**, driver/safety education instructor at an hourly rate of \$22, effective June 12, 2023 (contingent upon receipt of required clearances)

Change in Start Dates

- **Jasmine Canales-Carballo**, Migrant Education student support specialist, from April 20, 2023 to May 18, 2023
- **Matthew L. Shomaker**, Migrant Education student support specialist, from March 16, 2023 to April 17, 2023

Motion to approve part-time personnel recommendations as presented.

Motion by Slade Shreck, second by Mary Ann Stanton.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

5.3 Substitute Personnel

Directors were asked to approve substitute personnel to work in CSIU classrooms and programs for the 2022-23 school year.

Substitute Teacher

Susan Kramer

Motion to approve substitute personnel recommendations as presented.

Motion by Slade Shreck, second by Mary Ann Stanton.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

5.4 Non-Bargaining Unit Staff Salary Adjustments for 2023-24 (Attachments)

Administration recommended salary increases for non-bargaining unit staff for the 2023-24 fiscal year, effective July 1, 2023. Adjustments will be made to this percentage according to administrative regulation, hire dates, position transfers and salary adjustments, as applicable.

Motion to approve salary recommendations for non-bargaining unit staff for fiscal year 2023-24 as presented.

Motion by Slade Shreck, second by Mary Ann Stanton.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

5.5 Regular Part-time Staff Salary Adjustments for 2023-24 (Attachment)

Administration recommended salary increases for part-time staff for the 2023-24 fiscal year, effective July 1, 2023. Adjustments will be made to this percentage according to administrative regulation, hire dates, position transfers and salary adjustments, as applicable.

Motion to approve salary recommendations for part-time staff for fiscal year 2023-24 as presented.

Motion by Slade Shreck, second by Mary Ann Stanton.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

6. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE – William Brecker, Chair; Jeffrey Kashner, Bill Pasukinis and Susy Wiegand, Committee Members

6.1 Office Cubicles and Furniture Purchase

Administration recommended approval of a contract with Arnold's Office Furniture, Bridgeport, Pa., through the COSTARS contract, for the purchase and installation of office cubicles and other office furniture for the Center for Schools and Communities office, at a cost of \$237,154. Directors were also asked to approve the authorization of the executive director to approve any change orders that may occur up to a cumulative amount of \$25,000. Funds for this contract are available in the capital reserve budget.

Administration will provide any change orders for board review.

Motion to approve a contract with Arnold's Office Furniture as presented.

Motion by Jeffrey Kashner, second by Jonathan Jones.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

6.2 Purchase of Vehicles

According to federal regulations, the CSIU Board of Directors is the governing body of the CSIU's Head Start programs; therefore, the following item is presented for approval.

Directors were asked to approve the purchase of two 2023 Ford Hybrid Explorers from Sunbury Motors Ford, Sunbury, at a cost of \$113,200, per the COSTARS 026-E22-176 purchasing agreement. These vehicles will be used for the Head Start program. Funds for these purchases are available in the Head Start state budget.

Motion to approve the purchase of two vehicles for Head Start as presented.

Motion by Jeffrey Kashner, second by Jonathan Jones.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

7. POLICY COMMITTEE – Slade Shreck, Chair; Bruce Rhoads, Committee Member

7.1 New Board Policies – Second Reading/Adoption (Attachments)

The policies listed below were presented for second reading and adoption. They were reviewed and approved by the Board Policy Committee, executive director, senior leaders and legal counsel.

New Policies:

202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students

251 Students Experiencing Homelessness and Other Educational Instability

Motion to adopt at second and final reading the new policies as presented.

Motion by Slade Shreck, second by Victor Abate.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

7.2 Board Policy Revisions – Second Reading/Adoption (Attachments)

The policies listed below were presented for second reading and adoption. They were reviewed and approved by the Board Policy Committee, executive director, senior leaders and legal counsel.

Revised Policies:

011 Principles for Governance and Leadership

201 Admission of Students

204 Attendance

221 Dress and Grooming

Motion to adopt at second and final reading the revised policies as presented.

Motion by Slade Shreck, second by Victor Abate.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

8. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

8.1 Committee Report

The Board President appointed the following board members to the Nominations Committee:

- Victor Abate, Chair
- Lauren Hackenburg, Committee Member

Mr. Abate reported a full slate has been received for board officers. Election of officers for 2023-24 will take place at the June reorganization meeting.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM MATTERS

11.1 Bus Lease Agreement

Directors were asked to approve a bus lease agreement with S & R Bus Leasing Company, LLC, Duncannon, Pa., for two 2024 Thomas C2 81-passenger school buses, at a monthly cost of \$14,461.54. This lease is for June 1, 2023, ending no later than July 1, 2024. The CSIU will sublease the buses to Northumberland Christian School. Funds for this lease are available from an Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) grant awarded to Northumberland Christian School and managed by the CSIU.

Motion to approve a bus lease agreement with S & R Bus Leasing Company, LLC as presented.

Motion by Susan Myers, second by Victor Abate.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

11.2 SMART Boards and Accessories Purchase

Directors were asked to approve the purchase of 12 SMART Boards with interactive displays, 12 SMART Learning Suite one-year subscriptions, 12 high-speed HDMI cables and two lightweight flat panel mobile carts for North Central Secure Treatment Unit (NCSTU), from Visual Sound, Inc., a PEPPM vendor, at a cost not to exceed \$46,098.60. Funds for this purchase are available in the NCSTU state budget.

Motion to approve the purchase of SMART Boards and accessories as presented.

Motion by Susan Myers, second by Victor Abate.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

11.3 Laptops, Desktops and Monitors Purchase

Directors were asked to approve the purchase of 86 Dell laptops, 34 Dell desktops and 35 Dell monitors for North Central Secure Treatment Unit (NCSTU), from Winslow Technology Group, a PEPPM vendor, at a cost not to exceed \$66,815. Funds for this purchase are available in the NCSTU state budget.

Motion to approve the purchase of laptops, desktops and monitors as presented.

Motion by Susan Myers, second by Victor Abate.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, David Hess, Tamara Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Dennis

Keiser, Susan Myers, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck, Mary Ann Stanton, Alvin Weaver, Susy Wiegand

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

None.

13. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

13.1 Executive Leadership – Dr. John Kurelja, Executive Director

14. ADJOURNMENT

14.1 Adjourn Meeting

President Rhoads asked if there was any further action to come before the board. There was none.

President Rhoads called an executive session following adjournment to discuss the Executive Director's Performance Evaluation for 2022-23.

President Rhoads adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

The executive session began at 7:32 p.m. and ended at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Slade Shreck
Board Secretary**

**Amy Pfleegor
Board Recording Secretary**

15. INFORMATION ONLY

15.1 Human Resources – Stipend Payments

The executive director authorized the following:

- a one-time stipend payment to **Megan L. Fleetwood**, practical nursing program instructor, in the amount of \$900 for additional instructional duties upon the resignation of a staff member, which are above and beyond her job description;
- a one-time stipend payment to **Amy B. Gaines**, practical nursing program nursing lab and resource specialist, in the amount of \$900 for additional clinical experience duties upon the resignation of a staff member, which are above and beyond her job description;
- a one-time stipend payment to **Heather A. Goshert**, LPN nursing instructor, in the amount of \$900 for additional instructional duties upon the resignation of a staff member, which are above and beyond her job description; and
- a stipend payment to **Jessica L. Probst**, nursing education managing coordinator, in the amount of \$875 per pay through July 1, 2023, for assuming duties of director of LPN Center upon the resignation of a staff member, which are above and beyond her job description.

15.2 Human Resources – Completion of New Employee Probationary Periods

The following staff members have completed their new employee probationary period:

- **Meghan E. Dale**, Statewide Multilingual education professional learning project lead, effective March 30, 2023;
- **Jeremy C. Gaines**, nursing assistant laboratory instructional assistant, effective March 17, 2023;
- **Alyssa R. Mitchell**, Head Start assistant instructor, effective April 14, 2023; and
- **Soraida Padilla**, Migrant Education student support specialist, effective April 21, 2023.

15.3 Regional Media and Design Competitions (MADCom)

The CSIU sponsored and hosted the annual regional media and design competitions (MADCom), virtually testing students' computer knowledge and application skills. Overall, a middle school student from Danville Area School District submitted a project, while eight high school students from Danville Area, Line Mountain and SUN Area Vo-Tech submitted eight projects across five categories.

The first-place winners from this event will advance to the state competition to be held May 23-24, 2023 at Dickinson College in Harrisburg.

The CSIU has sponsored these regional competitions since 1998.

15.4 Esports League Tournament and Championship

Over the course of the 2022-23 school year, the CSIU sponsored and hosted the second annual Central Susquehanna Esports League Tournament and Championship. Throughout the season, participants competed virtually with a final face-to-face tournament on March 7, 2023 at the CSIU.

Esports requires players to develop various 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving and communication. These skills are essential in Esports and various aspects of life, including education and employment. Esports provides a unique platform for individuals to hone their skills and potentially build a career in the industry.

Overall, 70 students participated in two brackets (A and B). Berwick Area School District

was the 2023 A-Team winner, with Shamokin Area School District capturing the B-Team title. The A-Team winners will advance to the Pennsylvania Scholastic Esports League (PSEL) state virtual tournament, held throughout April and May 2023. More information can be found on the CSIU website at [Student Competitions](#).

15.5 Regional STEM K'Nex Design Challenge

The CSIU sponsored and hosted the annual regional STEM and K'Nex Design Challenge for elementary and middle school students. Nineteen elementary students from three area schools (Central Columbia, Danville Area and River Valley Nature School) submitted four projects.

First-place elementary winners in grades 4-5 were from Danville Area, while second-place winners were from River Valley Nature. In addition to the elementary participants, 15 middle school students from five regional schools (Central Columbia, Danville Area, Midd-West and River Valley Nature) submitted five projects. First-place middle school winners in grades 6-8 were from Midd-West, followed by second-place winners from River Valley Nature.

The first-place winners from both groups will advance to the state-level competition to be held May 12, 2023 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

15.6 Administration – Staff Travel

Dr. Alan Hack, assistant executive director/chief academic officer, **Dr. John Kurelja**, executive director, and **Dr. Shileste Morris**, chief programs officer, attended the ***Education Research and Development Institute (ERDI): Spring Thought Leader Symposium*** on April 30 to May 2, 2023 in Chicago, Ill. While there, they networked with other educational leaders across the country to discuss systems leadership for equity, the state of the nation and other topics facing schools nationwide. Funds for estimated expenses of \$79, \$329 and \$250, respectively, were available in the administration budget. Flight, lodging and most meal costs were covered by ERDI.

Dr. Shileste Morris, chief programs officer, attended the ***AESA Women's Leadership Network Event*** on May 3-5, 2023 in San Antonio, Texas. While there, she participated in a meeting, required as a participant in AESA's Women's Leadership Network, with other leaders in education service agencies across the country. Funds for estimated expenses of \$1,807.21 were available in the administration budget.

Miriam Krause, Out-of-School Time professional learning and instruction coordinator, will attend the ***Girls Build Solutions™*** conference on June 26-28, 2023 in Atlanta, Ga. While there, she will learn about hands-on learning and the power of women and girls to unlock creativity and innovation. This national event will bring together girls and leaders from all 50 states to change the narrative and elevate the potential of girls in STEM. Funds for estimated expenses of \$164 are available in the Mott Foundation budget. The flight, hotel and most meals are covered by STEM Next.

Leah Galkowski, safe schools coordinator, and **Michelle Kern**, safe schools coordinator, will attend the ***National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) National School Safety Conference*** June 28 to July 3, 2023 in Indianapolis, Ind. While there, they will exhibit for the Center for Schools and Communities. Funds for estimated expenses of \$1,485 each are available in the Center for Safe Schools budget.

Leah Galkowski, safe schools coordinator, will attend the ***World Anti-Bullying Forum 2023*** on Oct. 25-27, 2023 in Raleigh, N.C. While there, she will hear the latest worldwide research and activities in bullying prevention to share with local districts. Funds for estimated expenses of \$1,463 are available in the Center for Safe Schools budget.