NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307
July 9, 2025

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. Mrs. Smith-Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Mr. Frank Porras took roll call. The following members were recorded as present: Mrs. Erica Smith-Gomez for Highland, Mr. Frank Porras for Hobart, Mrs. Tara Beilke for Hanover, Mrs. Louise Neese for Lake Ridge, Mr. Kevin Music for Lake Station and Ms. Sylvia Pedroza for River Forest. There was no representation for Tri-Creek.

3. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions on agenda items from the audience. There were none.

4. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for any additions or deletions to the June 11, 2025 minutes. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the June 11, 2025 minutes, as presented. Ms. Pedroza seconded the motion and it passed with 5 ayes and 1 abstention from Hobart.

5. Ms. Gilmore recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated June 30, 2025. Mr. Porras moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report dated June 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.

6. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of Resolution #25-10: To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund for June 2025. Ms. Pedroza moved for Board approval of Resolution #25-10, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.

7. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of Resolution #25-11: For Purposes of Evaluation and Dismissal for NISEC Employees - Superintendent. Mr. Music moved for Board approval of Resolution #25-11, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.

8. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of Resolution #25-12: For Purposes of Evaluation and Dismissal for NISEC Employees - Principal. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of Resolution #25-12, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.

9. Mrs. Cain requested Board approval of the memo regarding staff changes for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Cain shared the changes outlined in the memo are for NISEC's behavior staff regarding titles and benefits. Mr. Music made the motion to approve the memo regarding staff changes for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The Board of Managers thanked the administration for their continued efforts and creative ideas. Mrs. Beilke seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the Anderson Grant for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Horn shared NISEC was awarded $10,000.00 through the Anderson Grant, this money will be used to help fund the art program at Eagle Park School. Ms. Pedroza moved for Board approval of the Anderson Grant, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.

11. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the Crown Point Community Foundation Grant for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Horn shared NISEC was awarded $2,785.00 through the Crown Point Community Foundation Grant, this money will assist in completing the purchase of the remaining language-based

curriculum materials and manipulatives for the Early Childhood Program. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the Crown Point Community Foundation Grant, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.

12. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the Hourly Rates for Paraprofessional, Virtual Speech E-Helpers, certified Nurse Assistants, Intense Interventions Tech, and Health/Nutrition Aides for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Horn said the only changes to the document are to update the job title from Registered Behavior Tech to Intense Intervention Tech and to update the list of benefits. Mr. Music made the motion to approve the Hourly Rates for Paraprofessionals, Virtual Speech E-Helpers, Certified Nurse Assistants, Intense Interventions Tech, and Health/Nutrition Aides for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.

13. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the Registered Staff Salary Ranges. Mrs. Horn said the only change to the document was the additional of the job title "Behavior Support Specialist" with the corresponding salary range. Mrs. Beilke made the motion to approve the Registered Staff Salary Ranges, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.

14. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the Second and Final Reading of the NEOLA Policies, as presented:

    Revised Bylaw: 0100 | 0167.2
    Rejected Policy: 6140
    New Policies: 4213.01 | 5111 | 7530.02 | 7540.09 | 7544
    Revised Policies: 5500 | 5517.01 | 5610 | 7540.03 | 7540.04 | 8420

    Mr. Music moved for Board approval of the Second and Final Reading of the Neola Policies, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.

15. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the NISEC Cluster Program Chart for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Horn said there were no changes to the Cluster Program Chart for this school year. Ms. Pedroza made the motion to approve the NISEC Cluster Program Chart for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.

16. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the NISEC Master Professional Services Agreement. Mrs. Horn said everything highlighted in yellow will be edited to reflect the specific District information upon signature. Mr. Porras made the motion to approve the NISEC Master Professional Services Agreement, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.

17. **Director's Report:**

    - Mrs. Horn shared the NISEC Organizational Chart and the District Director Additional Duties Organizational Chart.
    - Mrs. Horn shared the job descriptions for 2 new jobs titles at NISEC. The 2 new job titles are Intense Interventions Tech and Behavior Support Specialist.

18. **Personnel:**
    Mrs. Horn recommended approval to the following personnel actions:

    A. Retirement
    Administrative
    Kathy Cain, Assistant Director at NISEC Central Office, effective July 1, 2026.
    Classified
    Sue Ross, Paraprofessional at Southridge Elementary, effective June 17, 2025.
    Carla Russell, Paraprofessional at Liberty Elementary, effective June 17, 2025.

B. Resignations

Certified

Richard Horn, Mild Interventions Teacher at Hanover High School, effective July 2, 2025.

Classified

Taylor Brening, Paraprofessional at Three Creeks Elementary, effective June 24, 2025.
Jocelyn Hansen, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective June 10, 2025.
Megan Milbourn, Paraprofessional at Lowell Middle School, effective June 16, 2025.
Rasheedah Muhammad, No longer accepting Paraprofessional position for the 2025-2026 school year, effective June 11, 2025.
Aleksandra Serdar, Paraprofessional at Joan Martin Elementary, effective June 25, 2025.
Katherine Sinish, Paraprofessional at Hanover Central Middle School, effective July 5, 2025.
Jessica Thomas, Paraprofessional at Lake Ridge New Tech Middle School, effective June 27, 2025.
Darla Zajicek, Paraprofessional at Edison Jr./Sr. High School, effective June 17, 2025.

C. Terminations

None at this time.

D. Appointments

Certified

Jayne Sindewald, Mild Interventions Teacher at Johnston Elementary, effective August 11, 2025.
Irma Long, Life Skills Teacher at Johnston Elementary, effective August 11, 2025.

Classified

Richard Horn, Paraprofessional location TBD, effective August 11, 2025.
Lauren Kallay, Paraprofessional at Jane Ball Elementary, effective August 11, 2025.
Lindsey Kikalos, Paraprofessional at Southridge Elementary, effective August 11, 2025.
Janet Semrau-Carroll, Paraprofessional at Three Creeks Elementary, effective August 11, 2025.

E. Independent Contracts

None at this time.

F. Leave of Absence

None at this time.

G. Conference Leave

None at this time.

H. Other

Kathleen Farner, Change of position from Behavior Intervention Specialist at Eagle Park Community School to a Mild Interventions Teacher at Edison Jr./Sr. High School, effective August 11, 2025.
Monica Kendrick, Change of position from Long-term Substitute Teacher at Lake Ridge New Tech Middle School to a Mild Interventions Teacher at Lake Ridge New Tech Middle School, effective August 11, 2025.

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

19. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions from the Board.
Mr. Porras thanked all of the administrators for their hard work and Mrs. Smith-Gomez seconded this statement.

20. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions from the Audience.
There were none.

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