

NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307
April 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. Erica 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. Louise Neese for Lake Ridge, Mr. Kevin Music for Lake Station, Ms. Sylvia Pedroza for River Forest, Mrs. Tara Beilke for Hanover and Dr. Nathan Kleefisch for Tri-Creek.
3. Mrs. Erica Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions on agenda items from the audience. There were none.
4. Mrs. Erica Smith-Gomez asked for any additions or deletions to the March 12, 2025 minutes. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the March 12, 2025 minutes, as presented. Ms. Pedroza seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
5. Ms. Gilmore recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated March 31, 2025. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report, dated March 31, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and the motion passed unanimously.
6. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of Resolution #25-05: To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of Resolution #25-05, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.
7. Ms. Gilmore provided the Board of Managers with an update regarding the workmen's compensation insurance pool. Ms. Gilmore shared in February 2025, NISEC received notice from Summit Withholdings, our correct provider for Worker's Compensation, that they would not be renewing their contract with us as of April 15, 2025. Ms. Gilmore stated we then entered the state pool for Worker's Compensation and were picked up by Liberty Mutual Insurance. Ms. Gilmore shared the contract between NISEC and Liberty Mutual will be on the Board of Managers May Meeting Agenda for approval.

8. **Director's Report:**

- Mrs. Horn provided an update on litigation. She shared there are currently no active complaints or due process hearings.
- Mrs. Horn shared with the Board upcoming activities at Eagle Park School, including Family Night, Field Day and Graduation. Ms. Gilmore shared Eagle Park School raised \$899.30 from the Penny Wars they hosted during the month of March. Ms. Gilmore also shared Mallory Bacon, the teacher of the BLAST Program at Eagle Park, applied for the master gardener's grant through Lake County and was chosen as a recipient. They plan to use the funds to build 2 vegetable gardens that BLAST will maintain and then also build a butterfly garden in memory of Larry Biggs. Mrs. Horn said Mrs. Bacon is incredible and has gone over and above in creating programs for the BLAST classroom. Mrs. Horn specifically shared the improvements she has made to the BLAST coffee cart, Cup of Joy.
- Mrs. Horn provided an update on professional development. Mrs. Horn shared herself and Kathy Cain attended Safety training on April 7th and April 8th.

- Mrs. Horn shared the invitation to the Staff Appreciation banquet. Mrs. Horn shared the Staff Appreciation banquet is always a great time and Kathy Cain and her Staff Appreciation committee put in a lot of time to make the evening a great time.

9. **Personnel:**

Mrs. Horn recommended approval to the following personnel actions:

A. Retirements

Virginia Sanders, Early Childhood Development Teacher at The Early Learning Center at George Earle, effective June 4, 2025.

B. Resignations

Classified

Janielle Jones, Registered Behavior Technician at Eagle Park Community School, effective April 3, 2025.

Avis Raybon, Paraprofessional at River Forest Middle School, effective April 4, 2025.

C. Terminations

Kayla Sandridge, Substitute Teacher at Eagle Park Community School, effective March 28, 2025.

D. Appointments

Classified

Sonia Garcia, Paraprofessional at Southridge Elementary School, effective April 7, 2025.

E. Leave of Absence

Lisa Fox, 1 Day Unpaid Absence on May 23, 2025.

Vickie Jabczynski, 1 Day Unpaid Absence on May 16, 2025

F. Conference Leave

Kathy Cain, Safety Conference in Indianapolis, IN April 7-8, 2025.

Marsha Horn, Safety Conference in Indianapolis, IN April 7-8, 2025.

G. Independent Contracts

None at this time.

H. Other

None at this time.

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

10. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions from the Board.

Mrs. Smith Gomez, Mr. Porras, Dr. Kleefisch and Mrs. Beilke thanked all staff for their hard work.

11. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions from the Audience.

Mrs. Lori Brown Runyon, Northwest Co-op Teacher's Union President, wanted to piggy back off of Mrs. Horn's discussion about the BLAST coffee cart at Eagle Park and shared Lowell High School, Highland High School and River Forest High School also have a coffee cart.

12. Dr. Kleefisch moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.