NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307
August 13, 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. Beilke called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
   Mrs. Beilke, Vice-President, was named President for the August 13, 2025 meeting in the absence of Mrs. Smith-Gomez.

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

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

4. Mrs. Beilke asked for any additions or deletions to the July 9, 2025 minutes. Mr. Porras moved for Board approval of the July 9, 2025 minutes, as presented. Mrs. Neese seconded the motion and it passed with 4 ayes and 1 abstention from Highland.

5. Ms. Gilmore recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated July 31, 2025. Mr. Kuva moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report dated July 31, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.

6. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of Resolution #25-13: To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund for July 2025. Mr. Music moved for Board approval of Resolution
   #25-13, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.

7. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the memo regarding the 2005 Ford Special Purpose Bus and NISEC's intention to scrap the bus. Mr. Kuva moved for Board approval of the memo regarding the 2005 Ford Special Purpose Bus, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.

8. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the memo regarding the 2018 Thomas Special Purpose Bus and NISEC's intention to sell the bus to Tri-Creek School Corporation. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the memo regarding the 2018 Thomas Special Purpose Bus, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.

9. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the NEOLA Bylaws and Policies – Teacher appreciation Grant – Policy 3220.01. Mrs. Beilke made the motion to approve the NEOLA Bylaw and policy for the Teacher Appreciation Grant, as presented. Mr. Music seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Mrs. Horn provided the Board of Managers with the NISEC evaluation summary report for the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Horn shared 70 teachers were rated as highly effective, 68 teachers were rated as effective, 1 teacher received a rating of needs improvement and 1 teacher received a rating of ineffective. Mrs. Horn said she was very pleased with the amount of Effective and Highly Effective evaluations for the 140 staff members evaluated.

11. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the NISEC Health and Dental Insurance Premiums for the 2025-2026 school year. Ms. Gilmore explained the premiums are increasing by 6% this year. Mr. Music moved for Board approval of the NISEC Health and Dental Insurance Premiums for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.

12. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the NISEC Technology Fees for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Porras moved for Board approval of the NISEC Technology Fees for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.

13. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the Eagle Park Fees for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Music moved for Board approval of the Eagle Park Fees for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.

14. Mrs. Cain requested Board approval of the Eagle Park Community School Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Cain shared the updates to the handbook included dates and attendance information. Mr. Kuva made the motion to approve the Eagle Park Community School Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.

15. Mrs. Cain requested Board approval of the Registered Staff Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Cain shared benefit information was updated within the handbook. Mrs. Neese made the motion to approve the Registered Staff Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kuva and passed unanimously.

16. Mrs. Cain requested Board approval of the 10-12 Month Staff Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Cain shared benefit information was updated within the handbook. Mrs. Beilke made the motion to approve the 10-12 Month Staff Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.

17. Mrs. Cain requested Board approval of the Classified Staff Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Cain shared benefit information and the evaluation rubric were updated within the handbook. Mr. Kuva made the motion to approve the Classified Staff Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.

18. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the Teacher Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Music made the motion to approve the Teacher Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.

19. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the Administrative Benefits. Ms. Gilmore shared the updates to the administrative benefits document included the removal of the IEP Facilitator position and benefits as well as updating benefits for the other Administrative positions. Mr. Music

made the motion to approve the Administrative Benefits, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.

20. **Director's Report:**

- Mrs. Horn shared the Best Buddies Champion of the Year is a competitive fundraising campaign that unites and recognizes our community's most active leaders in the name of inclusion. One of our very own, Erica Bizon, ASD Teacher at Southridge Elementary, was nominated and recognized for her contributions to this program.
- Mrs. Horn shared the events of the first two weeks of August, including CPI Training, New Teacher Training and Paraprofessional Training.
- Mrs. Horn shared the flyer for the annual New Administrator's training for all new building administrators and guidance counselors who may participate in special education conferences.

21. **Personnel:**

Mrs. Horn recommended approval to the following personnel actions:

A. Retirement

Certified

Susan Miller, Mild Interventions Teacher at Hanover High School, effective July 20, 2025.

Classified

Caroline Kwilas, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective July 9, 2025.

B. Resignations

Certified

Brandi Amones, Educational Diagnostician in Highland, effective July 14, 2025.
Kimberley Burns, Educational Diagnostician in Hanover Schools, effective July 21, 2025.
Leah Senese, Educational Diagnostician with NISEC, effective July 17, 2025.
Shannon Silva, Mild Interventions Teacher at Red Cedars Elementary, effective August 10, 2025. Never worked.
Marie Sullivan, Early Learning Teacher at the Early Learning Center at George Earle, effective July 31, 2025.

Classified

Judit Arceo, Paraprofessional at Highland Middle School, effective July 30, 2025.
Christine Barnes, Virtual Speech E-Helper at River Forest High School, effective August 4, 2025.
Elizabeth Benecki, Paraprofessional at Lowell Intermediate School, effective August 3, 2025.
Erica Brown, Paraprofessional at Southridge Elementary, effective July 10, 2025.
Malinda Coker, Paraprofessional at Evans Elementary, effective August 9, 2025.
Jessica Cruse, Paraprofessional at Joan Martin Elementary, effective July 15, 2025.
Cheryl Curtis, Paraprofessional at Red Cedar Elementary, effective July 25, 2025.
Nevaeh Douthitt, Paraprofessional/Substitute Teacher at Evans Elementary, effective July 22, 2025.
Kevin English, Paraprofessional at Lowell High School, effective July 29, 2025.
Angelica Ernst, Paraprofessional at Red Cedars Elementary, effective July 25, 2025.
Patricia Fletcher, Paraprofessional at Highland Middle School, effective August 6, 2025.
Kelly Galocy, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 3, 2025.
Lonita Garrage, Paraprofessional at Hanover Middle School, effective August 6, 2025.
Carrissa Groen, Paraprofessional at Southridge Elementary, effective July 15, 2025.
Stephanie Grohe, Paraprofessional at Jane Ball Elementary, effective August 6, 2025.
Martin Grubbs, Paraprofessional at Southridge Elementary, effective July 9, 2025.
Jordan Hayden-Hills, Paraprofessional at Johnston Elementary, effective August 6, 2025.

Olivia Henke, Paraprofessional at Lowell Intermediate School, effective August 5, 2025.
Kira Lesczynski, Virtual Speech E-Helper with NISEC, effective July 14, 2025.
Roberto Martinez, Paraprofessional at Highland Middle School, effective July 25, 2025.
Donna Murphy, Paraprofessional at Lake Prairie Elementary, effective August 1, 2025.
Gina Perez, Paraprofessional at Highland Middle School, effective July 28, 2025.
Waunetta Person, Paraprofessional at Highland Middle School, effective August 5, 2025.
Linda Postma, Paraprofessional at Lowell Middle School, effective August 5, 2025.
Zachary Pritchard, Paraprofessional at Joan Martin Elementary, effective August 6, 2025.
Bridget Pullara, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective July 17, 2025.
Crystal McClendon, Paraprofessional at Longfellow Elementary, effective July 24, 2025.
Katherine Sinish, Paraprofessional at Hanover Middle School, effective July 5, 2025.
Douglas Smith, Paraprofessional at Edison Jr./Sr. High School, effective July 23, 2025.
Frank Storino, Paraprofessional at Highland High School, effective July 23, 2025.
Megan Tekin, Paraprofessional at Evans Elementary School, effective August 6, 2025.
Catalina Vila-Pereira, Paraprofessional at Johnston Elementary School, effective July 23, 2025.
Shameela White, Paraprofessional at Highland High School, effective July 30, 2025.
Kathleen Wirth, Paraprofessional at Edison Jr./Sr. High School, effective August 6, 2025.

Registered

Tina Dolan, School Nurse at Eagle Park Community School, effective September 8, 2025.
Ashley Munroe, Certified Occupational Therapist with NISEC, effective July 28, 2025.

C. Terminations

Certified

Sophia Harlan, Mild Interventions Teachers with NISEC, effective August 12, 2025.

Classified

Deja McClatchey, Intense Interventions Tech (former RBT) at Eagle Park Community School, effective July 10, 2025.

D. Appointments

Certified

Julie Feikes, Split Mild Interventions Teacher between Evans Elementary and Meister Elementary, effective August 11, 2025.
Spencer Mosner, Mild Interventions Teacher at Hanover High School, effective August 11, 2025.
Amanda Spoolstra, Split Mild Interventions Teacher between Southridge Elementary and Highland Middle School, effective August 11, 2025.

Classified

Belinda Brooks, Paraprofessional at River Forest Middle School, effective August 18, 2025.
Ashley Burandt, Paraprofessional at Evans Elementary, effective August 13, 2025.
Ryshawne David, Paraprofessional at Highland Middle School, effective August 12, 2025.
Denise Fultz, Part-time Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 12, 2025.
Lisa Hodge, Paraprofessional at Southridge Elementary, effective August 13, 2025.
Amy Ingram, Paraprofessional at Three Creeks Elementary, effective August 13, 2025.
Micah Jennette, Paraprofessional at Hobart High School, effective August 13, 2025.
Michelle Krampen, Paraprofessional at Highland High School, effective August 12, 2025.
Belinda Kreutz, Paraprofessional at Southridge Elementary, effective August 13, 2025.
Nyisir Long, Intense Interventions Tech at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 13, 2025.
Frances Lueder, Paraprofessional at Red Cedars Elementary School, effective August 18, 2025.
Evonne Pagan, Paraprofessional at Evans Elementary School, effective August 18, 2025.
Jennifer Power, Paraprofessional at Three Creeks Elementary, effective August 13, 2025.
Darla Rice, Paraprofessional at Lowell Intermediate School, effective August 13, 2025.
Penny Roper, Intense Interventions Tech at Eagle Park Community School, effective August 13, 2025.
Dana Scalzitti, Paraprofessional at Highland Middle School, effective August 14, 2025.
Mariana Soriana, Paraprofessional at Joan Martin Elementary School, effective August 18, 2025.
Brandy Starkey, Paraprofessional at Highland Middle School, effective August 12, 2025.
Jacinda Summerlin, Paraprofessional at Bailey Elementary School, effective August 14, 2025.

Alison Wajvoda, Paraprofessional at Lowell Middle School, effective August 19, 2025.

Registered

Kimberly Bos-Janiak, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant with NISEC, effective August 11, 2025.

Julie Dye, Behavior Support Specialist at Lowell Middle School, effective August 11, 2025.

Michele Fraze, Behavior Support Specialist/Long Term Teacher Substitute at the Early Learning Center at George Earle, effective August 11, 2025.

E. Independent Contracts

None at this time.

F. Leave of Absence

Irma Long, Unpaid leave of absence from October 10, 2025 – October 15, 2025 for a total of 4 unpaid days.

G. Conference Leave

None at this time.

H. Other

Nancy Acosta, Substitute Teacher at Edison Jr./Sr. High School until a licensed teacher is hired, then will move into a Paraprofessional position.

Cheryl Curtis, Rescinded previous resignation as a paraprofessional at Red Cedars Elementary School, effective August 13, 2025.

Nicole Luttman, Change of position from Behavior Support Specialist at River Forest High School to a Mild Interventions/Life Skills Teacher at River Forest High School, effective August 11, 2025.

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

22. Mrs. Beilke asked for comments or questions from the Board.
The Board Members thanked everyone for their hard work.

23. Mrs. Beilke asked for comments or questions from the Audience.
There were none.

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