

NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307
October 8, 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. Louise Neese for Lake Ridge, Mr. Kevin Music for Lake Station, Ms. Sylvia Pedroza for River Forest and Dr. Nathan Kleefisch for Tri-Creek. There was no representation for Hanover.
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 September 10, 2025 minutes. Mrs. Neese moved for Board approval of the September 10, 2025 minutes, as presented. Mr. Porras seconded the motion and passed unanimously.
5. Ms. Gilmore recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated September 30, 2025. Ms. Pedroza moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report dated September 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.
6. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of Resolution #25-15: To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund for September 2025. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of Resolution #25-15, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.
7. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of Resolution #25-16/Re: I.C. 20-28-9-1.5 (a). Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of Resolution #25-16, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.
8. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the proposed new Medicaid provider beginning January 1, 2026. Mrs. Horn shared a cost comparison between the current provider, Go Solutions, and the proposed provider, Relay. The cost comparison showed switching to Relay would result in a significant savings. Mr. Porras moved for Board approval of Relay as the new Medicaid provider beginning January 1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.
9. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the Procedures for Non-Public and Homeschool services for the 2025-2026 school year. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the Procedures for Non-Public and Homeschool services for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.

10. **Director's Report:**

- Mrs. Horn shared information about the Eagle Park Community School Walk-A-Thon that was held on Thursday, October 2, 2025. Mrs. Horn said the Walk-A-Thon was a huge success, the weather was beautiful and the students raised a total of \$1,425.80.
- Mrs. Horn updated the Board of Managers regarding negotiations.
- Mrs. Horn updated the Board of Managers regarding current litigation.

11. **Personnel:**

Mrs. Horn recommended approval to the following personnel actions:

A. Retirement

None at this time.

B. Resignations

Certified

Joseph Fabian, Mild Interventions Teacher at Highland High School, effective September 26, 2025.

Sarah Myers, Mild Interventions Teacher at Lowell Intermediate School, effective September 29, 2025.

Classified

Roxanne Finniss, Paraprofessional at Johnston Elementary School, effective August 15, 2025.

Meagan Lukas, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective October 2, 2025.

Jennifer Power, Paraprofessional at Oak Hill Elementary School, effective August 19, 2025.

Tiffany Szwed, Paraprofessional at Merkley Elementary, effective October 15, 2025.

C. Terminations

None at this time.

D. Appointments

Certified

Frank Storino, Mild Interventions Teacher at Highland High School, effective October 13, 2025.

Classified

Irene Crouch, Paraprofessional at Highland Middle School, effective October 2, 2025.

Sophia Galetti, Intense Interventions Tech split between Lowell Intermediate School and Three Creeks Elementary, effective October 13, 2025.

Ravyn Kelley, Paraprofessional at Highland High School, effective September 29, 2025.

Lauren Marrell, Paraprofessional at Evans Elementary School, effective October 1, 2025.

Katherine Perigo, Paraprofessional at Oak Hill Elementary, effective October 7, 2025.

Tiffany Szwed, Paraprofessional at Merkley Elementary, effective September 22, 2025.

E. Independent Contract

None at this time.

F. Leave of Absence

Haley Govert, Leave of Absence from September 15, 2025 – September 19, 2025. 2 days unpaid.

Haley Govert, Unpaid Leave of Absence from October 13, 2025 – October 17, 2025.

Amy Ingram, medical leave pursuant to the memo from Kathy Cain dated October 3, 2025.

Candi Dines-Cress, FMLA leave pursuant to the memo from Kathy Cain dated October 7, 2025.

Amie Vaught, Leave of Absence from September 19, 2025 - September 26, 2025. 2 days unpaid.

G. Conference Leave

None at this time.

H. Other

Lynnette Jurcik, Long Term Mild Interventions Teacher Substitute at Hanover High School, effective September 29, 2025.

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

12. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions from the Board.
The Board Members thanked administration for their efforts in finding a more cost-effective Medicaid billing provider. The Board Members also thanked the BLAST students for their delicious beverages.
13. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions from the Audience.
There were none.
14. Dr. Kleefisch moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Porras and passed unanimously.