

NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307
November 12, 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. Mrs. Tara Beilke took roll call. The following members were recorded as present: Mrs. Erica Smith-Gomez for Highland, Mrs. Louise Neese for Lake Ridge, Mr. Kevin Music for Lake Station, Mrs. Tara Beilke for Hanover and Dr. Nathan Kleefisch for Tri-Creek. There was no representation for Hobart and River Forest.
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 October 8, 2025 minutes. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the October 8, 2025 minutes, as presented. Mrs. Neese seconded the motion and passed unanimously.
5. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for any additions or deletions to the October 29, 2025 Special Board Meeting minutes. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the October 29, 2025 minutes, as presented. Mr. Music seconded the motion and passed unanimously.
6. Ms. Gilmore recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated October 31, 2025. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report dated October 31, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.
7. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of Resolution #25-17: To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund for October 2025. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of Resolution #25-17, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.
8. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of Resolution #25-18/Re: I.C. 20-28-9-1.5 (a). Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of Resolution #25-18, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for any discussion. Mrs. Beilke, Mrs. Smith-Gomez and Dr. Kleefisch thanked the teachers who have stepped up and taking on additional duties. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
9. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the Teacher's Master Agreement, July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, as presented. Mr. Music moved for Board approval of the Teacher's Master Agreement. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kleefisch and Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for any discussion. Mrs. Smith-Gomez and Dr. Kleefisch thanked the NISEC administration and the Teacher's Union for their hard work and time during negotiations. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the 2025-2026 Staff Salaries/Hourly Rates Increase Memo. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the 2025-2026 Staff Salaries/Hourly Rates Increase Memo, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.
11. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the NISEC Administrator Proposed Salaries for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Music moved for Board approval of the NISEC Administrator Proposed Salaries for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kleefisch and passed unanimously.
12. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the Hourly Rate Ranges for Classified School Year Employees for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Music moved for Board approval of the Classified School Year Employees for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.
13. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the memo regarding the procurements for grant, specifically sole providers. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the memo regarding procurements for grants, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.
14. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the IDEA Part B 611 grant for fiscal year 2026. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the IDEA Part B 611 grant, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.
15. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the Preschool 619 grant for fiscal year 2026. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the Preschool 619 grant, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.
16. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the agreement between Innovations In Learning PC and NISEC. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the agreement between Innovations In Learning PC and NISEC, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.
17. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of an alternative and residential contract for Tri-Creek School Corporation. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the alternative and residential contract, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.
18. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the Family Night Fundraiser for Eagle Park Community School. Mrs. Horn shared Family Night will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2026 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm and proceeds raised from the fundraiser will be used for Field Day, classroom cooking and other school activities. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the Eagle Park Community School Fundraiser, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.
19. **Director's Report:**
 - Mrs. Horn shared information about the first official meeting for NISEC's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) which will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2025.
 - Mrs. Horn shared information about the Eagle Park activities that occurred in October including the Scarecrow decorating contest and Halloween. Mrs. Horn said all of the

Scarecrows the classrooms decorated were outstanding. The Room 3 autism classroom won the contest with their fisherman scarecrow. Mrs. Horn also said Halloween was a huge success this year and the students had a really fun time Trick or Treating.

- Mrs. Horn shared information about the activities that will be occurring during the month of November at Eagle Park Community School. Mrs. Horn said the Thanksgiving luncheon at Eagle Park Community School will be held on Wednesday, November 19th at 11:00am and all the Board Members are welcome to come. Mrs. Horn said it is always a wonderful time.
- Mrs. Horn shared with the Board the School Town of Highland will be providing NISEC staff placed in Highland with retention stipends. In order for NISEC staff to receive the stipend, they must be in the same position they were in the previous school year.

20. **Personnel:**

Mrs. Horn recommended approval to the following personnel actions:

A. Retirement

None at this time.

B. Resignations

Certified

Thea Headd, Mild Interventions Teacher at Joan Martin Elementary, effective October 24, 2025.

Classified

Deja Fields, Paraprofessional at Joan Martin Elementary, effective October 16, 2025.

Penny Roper, Intense Interventions Tech at Eagle Park Community School, effective October 22, 2025.

Registered

Kimberly Bos-Janiak, Part-time Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant with NISEC, effective October 24, 2025.

C. Terminations

None at this time.

D. Appointments

Certified

Brenna Callahan, Speech and Language Pathologist at Eagle Park Community School, effective November 3, 2025.

Elizabeth Johnston, Mild Interventions Teacher at Lowell Intermediate School, effective November 11, 2025.

Classified

Maxima Huizar, Paraprofessional at Highland High School, effective November 17, 2025.

Makenzie Jackson, Paraprofessional at Oak Hill Elementary, effective November 10, 2025.

Elizabeth Perigo, Paraprofessional at Lowell Intermediate School, effective November 6, 2025.

Lanona Semancik, Paraprofessional at Lowell Intermediate School, effective November 24, 2025.

E. Independent Contract

None at this time.

F. Leave of Absence

Sarah Franklin, FMLA leave pursuant to the memo from Kathy Cain, dated November 6, 2025.

Stephanie Garrett, Medical leave pursuant to the memo from Kathy Cain, dated November 6, 2025.

Olga Perez, Medical leave pursuant to the memo from Kathy Cain, dated November 6, 2025.

G. Conference Leave

None at this time.

H. Other

Vida Choucalas, Long Term Teacher of Record Substitute at George Earle Learning Center, effective October 27, 2025.

Brandy Medendorp, Behavior Support Specialist/Long Term Teacher of Service Substitute at Eagle Park Community School, effective November 17, 2025.

Magdalena Sanchez, Long Term Teacher of Service Substitute at Evans Elementary School,
effective November 10, 2025.

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

21. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions from the Board.
There were none.
22. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions from the Audience.
There were none.
23. Dr. Kleefisch moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.