

NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307
December 10, 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Mrs. Tara Beilke took Roll Call. The following members were recorded as present: Mrs. Erica Smith-Gomez for Highland, Mrs. Tara Beilke for Hanover, Dr. Nathan Kleefisch for Tri-Creek and Mrs. Louise Neese for Lake Ridge. There was no representation for River Forest, Lake Station and Hobart.
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 November 12, 2025 minutes. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.
5. Ms. Gilmore recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated November 30, 2025, as presented. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.
6. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of Resolution #25-19 To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund, as presented. Mrs. Neese moved for Board approval of Resolution #25-19. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kleefisch and passed unanimously.
7. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of Resolution #25-20/Re: End of Year Transfers, as presented. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of Resolution #25-20. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kleefisch and passed unanimously.
8. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of Resolution #25-21/Re: I.C. 20-28-9-1.5 (a), as presented. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of Resolution #25-21. The Board members said they appreciate the teachers who have agreed to take on additional duties. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dr. Kleefisch and passed unanimously.
9. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the memo regarding an in-person feasibility study by Hoosier School Services. Mrs. Neese moved for Board approval of the memo, as presented. All of the Board members agreed that an in-person feasibility study would be the better option instead of a virtual study. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.
11. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of 2 Alternative and Residential Contracts, one for the School Town of Highland and another for Lake Station Community Schools. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the 2 Alternative and Residential Contracts, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kleefisch and passed unanimously.

13. **Director's Report:**

- ✓ Mrs. Horn shared information regarding 2 donations made to Eagle Park Community School. The SS. Constantine & Helen Orthodox Cathedral (Friends of Lazarus Ministry) donated 25 Aldi Gift Cards in the amount of \$50 to Eagle Park Community School for the students and families in need of financial assistance. Eagle Park Community School also received a donation of 25 Strack and Van Til Gift Cards in the amount of \$25 from the Barrington Ridge Baptist Church in Hobart, Indiana.
- ✓ Mrs. Horn talked about the Thanksgiving Luncheon at Eagle Park School and that it was a success thanks to the staff at NISEC and Eagle Park School. Mrs. Neese said she attended the luncheon and it was a wonderful time and delicious food.
- ✓ Mrs. Horn shared information with the Board of Managers regarding the activities occurring the Month of December at Eagle Park Community School. These activities include Spirit Week, classroom door decorating contest and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

14. **Personnel:**

Mrs. Horn recommended approval to the following personnel actions:

A. Retirements

None at this time.

B. Resignations

Certified

Christine Samanas, Mild Interventions Teacher at Liberty Elementary, effective December 5, 2025.

Classified

Haley Govert, Paraprofessional at Joan Martin Elementary, effective December 4, 2025.

Alexa Hampton, Paraprofessional at Johnston Elementary, effective November 14, 2025.

Emma Juhnke, Paraprofessional at The Early Learning Center at George Earle, effective November 28, 2025.

Jacinda Summerlin, Paraprofessional at Bailey Elementary, effective November 17, 2025.

Registered

Sadie Sottos, Behavior Intervention Specialist at Eagle Park Community School, effective December 19, 2025.

C. Terminations

None at this time.

D. Appointments

Classified

Julie Cerny, Paraprofessional at Merkley Elementary, effective December 8, 2025.

Shanice Daviston, Paraprofessional at Highland Middle School, effective December 1, 2025.

Neveah Douthitt, Behavior Support Specialist at Evans Elementary, effective November 24, 2025.

Kenya Jordan, Paraprofessional at Lake Ridge Middle School, effective December 2, 2025.

Melissa Karwick, Paraprofessional at Joan Martin Elementary, effective December 1, 2025.

Sharon Kennedy, Paraprofessional at Bailey Elementary, effective December 1, 2025.

Sherry Kennedy, Paraprofessional split between Bailey Elementary and Hamilton Elementary, effective December 1, 2025.

Sandy Talavera, Paraprofessional at Johnston Elementary, effective December 8, 2025.

E. Leave of Absence

Latoya Pate-Thompson, FMLA leave pursuant to the memo from Kathy Cain, dated November 21, 2025.

Gianna Polacek, FMLA leave pursuant to the memo from Kathy Cain, dated November 13, 2025

F. Conference Leave

None at this time.

G. Independent Contracts

None at this time.

H. Other

Gabriella Cottrell, Behavior Support Specialist/Long Term Teacher Substitute at Liberty Elementary, effective December 8, 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Wynecta Fisher, Substitute Teacher at Longfellow Elementary School, effective December 8, 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

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

The Board members wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

There were none.

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