

**CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

CSIU Central Office
90 Lawton Lane
Milton, PA 17847

DINNER – 5:45 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 6:30 p.m.

Budget and Finance Committee
Buildings and Grounds Committee
Human Resources Committee
Technology/Marketplace Committee

BUSINESS MEETING – 7 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Call to Order

President Rhoads called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Roll Call – Directors present: 11; Directors absent: 4; Vacant: 2

Director	District	Present	Absent
Victor Abate	Midd-West	X	
Ethan Benjamin	Danville Area		X
Thomas Eberhart, Secretary	Mifflinburg Area	X	
Dr. John (Jove) Graham	Lewisburg Area	X	
Lauren Hackenburg, Treasurer	Line Mountain	X	
David Hess	Selinsgrove Area	X	
Robert Hormell	Warrior Run	X	
Jonathan Jones	Bloomsburg Area	X	
Jeffrey Kashner	Shamokin Area	X	
Brianna Maciejewski	Southern Columbia Area		X
William Pasukinis	Benton Area		X
Toni Phillips	Berwick Area	X	
Bruce Rhoads, President	Central Columbia	X	
Slade Shreck, Vice President	Shikellamy	X	
Jessica Whitmoyer	Millville Area		X
Vacant	Milton Area		
Vacant	Mount Carmel		

1.4 Announcements

The next regular monthly meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at the CSIU central office.

President Rhoads welcomed new board members Mr. Victor Abate from Mid-West, Mr. Jonathan Jones from Bloomsburg Area, and Ms. Toni Phillips from Berwick Area, as their school district representative.

1.5 Recognition of Guests and Opportunity for Public Comment

Bernadette Boerckel, Chief Outreach Officer
 Rae Ann Crispell, Chief Administrative Officer
 Shannon Downey, Director of Family Support
 Kenneth Erb, Buildings and Grounds Manager
 Alan Hack, Assistant Executive Director/Chief Academic Officer
 Kaitlyn Hall, Director of Early Childhood Education
 Kevin Kilgus, Director of Financial Services
 John Kurelja, Executive Director
 Jared Lehman, Chief Innovation Officer
 Terri Locke, Director of Special Education and Alternative Placement
 Shileste Overton-Morris, Chief Programs Officer
 Amy Pfleegor, Executive Office Manager/Board Recording Secretary
 Eric Shearer, Network Administrator
 Brian Snyder, Chief Financial and Operations Officer

1.6 Approval of Minutes (Attachment)

Directors were asked to approve the minutes of the CSIU Board of Directors meeting held on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026.

Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026 as presented.

Motion by Slade Shreck, second by Thomas Eberhart.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, Thomas Eberhart, John Graham, Lauren Hackenburg, David Hess, Robert Hormell, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Toni Phillips, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck

1.7 Spotlight Segment

Terri Locke, director of special education and alternative placement, provided directors with an overview of the CSIU's Special Education programs and services.

2. BOARD GOVERNANCE

2.1 Director Appointment

Directors were asked to approve the following school district board representative to the CSIU Board of Directors:

- **Mrs. Amy Waldron**, Milton Area

Replacement position effective Feb. 19, 2026 through June 30, 2027

Motion to approve a director appointment as presented.

Motion by Victor Abate, second by Toni Phillips.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, Thomas Eberhart, John Graham, Lauren Hackenburg, David Hess, Robert Hormell, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Toni Phillips, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck

2.2 Next Century, Inc. (NXC) – CSIU Board Representative

Directors were asked to make a CSIU Board of Directors' recommendation to serve on the Next Century, Inc. board, effective Feb. 19, 2026 through June 30, 2028 due to the resignation of a previous board member.

Next Century by-laws state that two of its members, elected by the CSIU Board of Directors, shall serve on the Next Century board. Mr. David Hess currently serves on the Next Century board.

Victor Abate, Midd-West School District, was nominated and elected as the new Next Century CSIU Board representative.

Motion to approve the CSIU Board of Directors' recommendation to serve on the NXC board as presented.

Motion by Bruce Rhoads, second by Slade Shreck.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, Thomas Eberhart, John Graham, Lauren Hackenburg, David Hess, Robert Hormell, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Toni Phillips, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck

2.3 Director Resignation

Mr. Edward Zack, Mount Carmel Area School District, submitted his resignation from the CSIU Board of Directors effective Feb. 13, 2026 after two months of service.

3. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE – Lauren Hackenburg, Chair; Robert Hormell, Committee Member

3.1 Monthly Financial Statements for January 2026 (Attachments)

Directors were asked to approve the following January 2026 financial statements:

- Financial Report;
- Program Balance Sheet; and
- General Fund Accounting Payment Summary. Funds for payment are available in program budgets.

Motion to approve monthly financial statements for January 2026 as presented.

Motion by Lauren Hackenburg, second by David Hess.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, Thomas Eberhart, John Graham, Lauren Hackenburg, David Hess, Robert Hormell, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Toni Phillips, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck

4. TECHNOLOGY/MARKETPLACE COMMITTEE – Thomas Eberhart, Chair; John Graham, Committee Member

4.1 Keystone Purchasing Network (KPN) Definite Quantity Line Item Bids (Attachment)

Directors were asked to approve the list of recommended KPN definite quantity line item bid awards, pending documentation, for the 2026-27 purchasing cycle.

KPN Definite Quantity Line Item Bid, Athletic Supply Category to:

- BSN Sports, LLC, Jenkintown, Pa., total sales volume \$12,140.33
- Henry Schein, Melville, N.Y., total sales volume \$5,871.58
- Longstreth Sporting Goods, LLC, Spring City, Pa., total sales volume \$834.04
- Pyramid School Products, Tampa, Fla., total sales volume \$23,003.54

- School Health Corporation, Rolling Meadows, Ill., total sales volume \$4,861.08
- Sportsman's, Johnstown, Pa., total sales volume \$80,929.35

Motion to approve KPN definite quantity line item bids, contingent upon receipt and approval of final documentation, as presented.

Motion by Thomas Eberhart, second by Lauren Hackenburg.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, Thomas Eberhart, John Graham, Lauren Hackenburg, David Hess, Robert Hormell, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Toni Phillips, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck

4.2 Keystone Purchasing Network (KPN) Bid Awards and Contract Extensions (Attachment)

Directors were asked to approve bid awards and contract extensions for the KPN and Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies (AEPA) as presented.

- KPN-AEPA Bid Awards through Feb. 28, 2027
- KPN Bid Awards through Dec. 31, 2027
- KPN-AEPA Contract Extensions through Feb. 28, 2027

Motion to approve KPN bid awards and contract extensions as presented.

Motion by Thomas Eberhart, second by Lauren Hackenburg.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, Thomas Eberhart, John Graham, Lauren Hackenburg, David Hess, Robert Hormell, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Toni Phillips, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck

5. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – Slade Shreck, Chair; Brianna Maciejewski and Bruce Rhoads, Committee Members

5.1 Full-Time Personnel

New Employee – Instructional Staff

Sierra Gulden, Northumberland, received a master's degree from Gwynedd Mercy University, Gwynedd Valley. She has been employed as an occupational therapist with Amergis Healthcare Staffing, Harrisburg. Ms. Gulden is recommended as an **occupational therapist** at the master's step 2 classification, effective July 20, 2026 (contingent upon receipt of required clearances), at an annual salary of \$57,847, according to the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Funds for this new position are available in the Early Intervention budget.

Position Transfer

- **Elizabeth A. Hoffer**, from youth development coordinator at a current annual salary of \$71,583.50 to **21st Century Community Learning Centers project support manager**, at an annual salary of \$74,000, effective Feb. 19, 2026

Change in Start Date

- **Christina M. Rockey**, communications and marketing coordinator, from Jan. 26, 2026 to Feb. 2, 2026

Resignations

- **Kristen Brouse**, non-traditional education support para-educator, effective Jan. 22, 2026
- **Larissa Fetterhoff**, classroom associate, effective Feb. 6, 2026

*Please note that the effective date listed above is the last paid working day.

Motion to approve full-time personnel recommendations as presented.

Motion by Slade Shreck, second by Thomas Eberhart.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, Thomas Eberhart, John Graham, Lauren Hackenburg, David Hess, Robert Hormell, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Toni Phillips, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck

5.2 Part-Time Personnel

New Employee – Non-Instructional Staff

- **Mackenzie R. Ade**, ELECT student support specialist, at the hourly rate of \$21, effective Feb. 19, 2026 (contingent upon receipt of required clearances)

Rescinded Acceptance of Job Offer

- **Thu Truong** rescinded her acceptance of the English as a Second Language instructor position approved at the December board meeting.

Resignation

- **Nicole Cowperthwait**, practical nursing program instructor, effective Jan. 30, 2026

*Please note that the effective date listed above is the last paid working day.

Motion to approve part-time personnel recommendations as presented.

Motion by Slade Shreck, second by Thomas Eberhart.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, Thomas Eberhart, John Graham, Lauren Hackenburg, David Hess, Robert Hormell, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Toni Phillips, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck

5.3 Substitute Personnel

Directors were asked to approve substitute personnel to work in CSIU classrooms and programs for the 2025-26 school year.

Substitute Teacher

Lina Elzomor

Motion to approve substitute personnel recommendations as presented.

Motion by Slade Shreck, second by Thomas Eberhart.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, Thomas Eberhart, John Graham, Lauren Hackenburg, David Hess, Robert Hormell, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Toni Phillips, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck

5.4 Holiday Schedule – 12-Month Non-Instructional Staff (Attachment)

Directors were asked to approve the 2026-27 holiday schedule for 12-month non-instructional staff.

Motion to approve the CSIU Holiday Schedule for 2026-27 as presented.

Motion by Slade Shreck, second by Thomas Eberhart.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, Thomas Eberhart, John Graham, Lauren Hackenburg, David Hess,

Robert Hormell, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Toni Phillips, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck

5.5 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) – Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Education Association (CSIUEA) (Attachment)

Directors were requested to approve a MOA between the CSIUEA and CSIU regarding the Voluntary Teacher Apprenticeship Mentorship Program. The MOA establishes and memorializes the expectations, terms and conditions for teachers who are assigned to serve as Apprentice Mentors for teacher apprentices enrolled in the program.

Motion to approve a MOA with the CSIUEA and CSIU as presented.

Motion by Slade Shreck, second by Thomas Eberhart.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, Thomas Eberhart, John Graham, Lauren Hackenburg, David Hess, Robert Hormell, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Toni Phillips, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck

6. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE – Jeffrey Kashner, Chair; William Pasukinis, Committee Member

No report.

7. POLICY COMMITTEE – Slade Shreck, Chair; Bruce Rhoads, Committee Member

No report.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM MATTERS

10.1 Northumberland Area Head Start and Early Head Start (Attachments)

According to federal regulations, the CSIU Board of Directors is the governing body of the CSIU's Head Start programs; therefore, the following items were presented for approval.

- Head Start/Early Head Start Monthly Report for December 2025
- Head Start Child Outcomes and Developmental Assessment Report
- Head Start/Early Head Start Self-assessment Plan: February 2026

Motion to approve the Head Start/Early Head Start items as presented.

Motion by Robert Hormell, second by David Hess.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, Thomas Eberhart, John Graham, Lauren Hackenburg, David Hess, Robert Hormell, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Toni Phillips, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck

10.2 Bus/Van Driver Approval

Directors were asked to approve additional school bus and van drivers for the CSIU's student transportation programs for the 2025-26 school year. These additional drivers are employed through an outside transportation contractor.

Fishing Creek

Patrick Musselman

Patricia Pascoe

Selena Rico

Janae Temple

Motion to approve school bus and van drivers for the CSIU's student transportation programs as presented.

Motion by Robert Hormell, second by David Hess.

Final Resolution: Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: Victor Abate, Thomas Eberhart, John Graham, Lauren Hackenburg, David Hess, Robert Hormell, Jonathan Jones, Jeffrey Kashner, Toni Phillips, Bruce Rhoads, Slade Shreck

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

None.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

12.1 Executive Leadership – Dr. John Kurelja, Executive Director

13. ADJOURNMENT

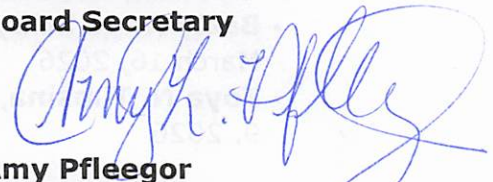
13.1 Adjourn Meeting

President Rhoads adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



**Thomas Eberhart,
Board Secretary**



**Amy Pfleeger
Board Recording Secretary**

14. INFORMATION ONLY

14.1 CSIU 907-A Report for 2024-25 Fiscal Year (Attachment)

Staff prepared and filed the PDE 907-A Report for Intermediate Units which identifies all contracts, interagency agreements, intergovernmental agreements, purchase orders, memoranda of understanding, agreements and other arrangements between a Commonwealth agency and the IU, and between the IU and another or other IUs, which have a value of \$50,000 or greater.

The CSIU report for the 2024-25 fiscal year included 49 agreements which aggregated to \$43,132,647 in annual value.

A copy of the CSIU 2024-25 907-A Report and guidelines was attached for directors information.

14.2 Human Resources – Stipend Payments

The executive director authorized the following:

- two installment stipend payments to the following individuals in the amount of \$1,500 for National Board Certification as per the current Collective Bargaining Agreement
 - **Heather L. Booth**, speech therapist
 - **Krista A. Burns**, speech therapist
 - **Anna M. Crone**, speech therapist
 - **Nicole S. Gessner**, speech therapist
 - **Jennifer L. Rakovan**, speech therapist
 - **Janet K. Rauch**, speech therapist
 - **Emily A. Smith**, educational consultant

14.3 Human Resources – Staff Leaves of Absence

Paid Leaves of Absence

- **Kathleen M. Dieffenderfer**, e-rate/printing, materials and distribution facilitator, intermittent from Nov. 10, 2025 to Nov. 10, 2026
- **Betty Anne Leiby**, practical nursing program instructor, from Feb. 2, 2026 to March 16, 2026
- **Toya N. Timsina**, newcomer programs coordinator, from Jan. 19, 2026 to Feb. 9, 2026

Updated Paid Leave of Absence

- **Thomas C. Paternostro**, non-traditional education teacher, from Jan. 26, 2026 to April 20, 2026

Return from Paid Leaves of Absence

- **Kelley A. Dussinger**, speech therapist, effective Jan. 12, 2026
- **Mary E. Mingle**, adult education program manager, effective Feb. 16, 2026
- **Andra L. Sauers**, special education program supervisor, effective Jan. 19, 2026
- **Rebecca S. Schu**, speech therapist, effective Jan. 28, 2026

Return from Unpaid Leave of Absence

- **Laura D. Rice**, instructional support program assistant, effective Feb. 9, 2026

14.4 Human Resources – Completion of New Employee Probationary Periods

The following staff members have completed their new employee probationary periods:

- **Emma N. Boyer**, Early Intervention instructional assistant, effective Jan. 20,

2026

- **Christine J. Bredbenner**, Head Start assistant, effective Jan. 23, 2026
- **Jessica Gottschall**, Pre-K Counts assistant instructor, effective Feb. 4, 2026
- **Kimberly Hoffman**, Early Intervention instructional associate, effective Jan. 18, 2026
- **Jennie Williams**, administrative support specialist, effective Jan. 9, 2026
- **Heather Y. Yarger**, classroom assistant, effective Jan. 15, 2026

14.5 Administration – Staff Travel

Katherine Vastine, CARES leadership coordinator, attended the ***National Convening on Registered Apprenticeships in Teaching*** on Jan. 28-30, 2026 in New Orleans, La. While there, she attended sessions that included information from state and local education agencies and educator preparation providers who are currently implementing registered apprenticeships in teaching. The conference also provided networking and other learning opportunities. Funds for estimated expenses in the amount of \$2,404 were available in the health professions opportunity grants budget.

Samuel Faulkner, clinical director of outpatient psychological services, will attend the ***National Association of School Psychologists*** conference on Feb. 24-27, 2026 in Chicago, Ill. While there, he will take part in professional development, continuing education, networking and innovative practices. Funds for estimated expenses in the amount of \$1,928 are available in the Project Aware Impact grant budget.

Katherine Kuhn, youth development coordinator, will attend the ***Beyond School Hours 2026 Conference*** on March 1-4, 2026 in Orlando, Fla. While there, she will attend and participate in general sessions to gauge updates and national perspectives on strategies, curricula and best practices in the out-of-school time field. She will also attend keynote and panel discussions, as well as networking opportunities, to learn how other states and programs navigate challenges like student attendance. Funds for estimated expenses in the amount of \$2,774 are available in the 21st Century budget.

John Kurelja, executive director, will attend the ***AESA Global Delegation 2026*** on March 15-22, 2026 in Beijing, China. While there, he will take part in a program that reinforces leadership in international education collaboration, deepens trusted global partnerships and establishes a professional consortium framework that advances innovation, mutual learning and long-term institutional impact. Funds for estimated expenses in the amount of \$3,900 are available in the administration budget.

14.6 Fiscal Communications

Jan. 13, 2026, an email from Christina Ramos (Workforce Development Analyst 2 – Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Bureau of Workforce Development Administration) notifying CSIU of the approved budget modification for the Certified Teacher Registered Apprenticeship (CTRA) Grant. Contract #427-24-334-3 remains in the amount of \$600,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.

Jan. 27, 2026, an email from Marcia Wilson (Clerical Assistant 3 – Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education) notifying CSIU of the 2025-26 Special Education (611) (062) grant award. Project #062-26-0016 is in the amount of \$7,595,969 for the period of July 1, 2025 through Sept. 30, 2026.