

**NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE**  
**2150 W. 97<sup>th</sup> PLACE**  
**CROWN POINT, IN. 46307**  
**March 11, 2026**

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.
2. Mr. Bradley Keehn took roll call. The following members were recorded as present: Mrs. Erica Smith-Gomez for Highland, Mr. Bradley Keehn for Hobart, Mr. Kevin Music for Lake Station, Ms. Sylvia Pedroza for River Forest and Mrs. Tara Beilke for Tri-Creek. There was no representation for Tri-Creek or Lake Ridge.
3. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for a motion to appoint Mr. Bradley Keehn as secretary of the Board. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the appointment of Mr. Keehn as the secretary of the Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously. Mr. Keehn thanked the Board members for the appointment.
4. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions on agenda items from the audience. There were none.
5. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for any additions or deletions to the February 18, 2026 minutes. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the February 18, 2026 minutes, as presented. Mr. Keehn seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
6. Ms. Gilmore recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated February 28, 2026. Mr. Keehn moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report, dated February 28, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and the motion passed unanimously.
7. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of Resolution #26-03: To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Mr. Music moved for Board approval of Resolution #26-03, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.
8. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of 2 Alternative and Residential Contracts, one for Lake Ridge and one for Lake Station. Mrs. Beilke made a motion to approve the 2 alternative and residential contracts, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.
9. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the Master Professional Services Agreement between NISEC and the School Town of Munster. Mr. Keehn moved for Board approval of the Master Professional Services Agreement between NISEC and the School Town of Munster, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.
10. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the NISEC/Eagle Park School Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year. Mrs. Horn stated each calendar from the 7-member Districts were taken into consideration when developing the calendar for the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Music moved for Board approval of the NISEC/Eagle Park School Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.

11. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the revised agreement between Team Select Homecare and NISEC. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the agreement between Team Select Homecare and NISEC, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.

12. **Director's Report:**

- Mrs. Horn shared with the Board, activities that will be occurring during the month of March for Disability awareness.
- Mrs. Horn shared that staff from both Eagle Park and the NISEC central office participated in the Polar Plunge on Saturday, February 21, 2026. They raised money for the Lake County Indiana Special Olympics and also plunged in memory of Lauren Cap, an Eagle Park Teacher who passed away.
- Mrs. Horn gave the Board of Managers a recap on the NISEC SEPAC Parent Resource Fair that was held on February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center in Hobart. Mrs. Horn said the night was a success and she is hopeful that in the future we can grow this event.

13. **Personnel:**

Mrs. Horn recommended approval to the following personnel actions:

**a. Retirement**

Classified

*Rebecca Hoke*, Paraprofessional at Merkley Elementary, effective May 28, 2026.

**b. Resignations**

Certified

*Monica Kendrick*, Mild Interventions Teacher at Lake Ridge Middle School, effective June 2, 2026.

Classified

*Ravyn Martin*, Paraprofessional at Highland High School, effective February 18, 2026.

*Alivia Pinon*, Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective February 18, 2026.

*Denise Reyes*, Behavior Support Specialist at Eagle Park Community School, effective February 18, 2026.

**c. Terminations**

None at this time.

**d. Appointments**

None at this time.

**e. Independent Contracts**

None at this time.

**f. Leave of Absence**

*Susan Cochrane*, medical leave pursuant to the memo from Kathy Cain, dated March 2, 2026.

*Debra Fazekas*, FMLA leave pursuant to the memo from Kathy Cain, dated March 2, 2026.

*Helena Gutierrez*, medical leave pursuant to the memo from Kathy Cain, dated February 24, 2026.

*Jasmine Miller*, medical leave pursuant to the memo from Kathy Cain, dated March 2, 2026.

**g. Conference Leave**

None at this time.

**h. Other**

*Mira Grubnic*, change in retirement date from Paraprofessional position, new retirement date is February 27, 2026.

*Kim Keevers*, Position as a Long-Term E-Helper Sub ended on February 24, 2025.

Ms. Beilke moved for Board approval of the Personnel Report, as presented. Mr. Music pointed out the Paraprofessional at Merkley Elementary, Rebecca Hoke, who is retiring at the end of the school year, is retiring with 33 years of service. He thanked Mrs. Hoke for her dedication to the Special Education field and NISEC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.

14. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions from the Board.  
Mrs. Beilke thanked all the teachers or their extra work during the month of March to spread disability awareness in fun and creative ways.
15. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions from the Audience.  
There were none.
16. Mr. Keehn moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.