

NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307
May 13, 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, Mrs. Louise Neese for Lake Ridge, Mrs. Tara Beilke for Hanover and Dr. Nathan Kleefisch for Tri-Creek.
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 April 8, 2026 minutes. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the April 8, 2026 minutes, as presented. Mrs. Beilke seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
5. Ms. Gilmore recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated April 30, 2026. Mr. Keehn moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report, dated April 30, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and the motion passed unanimously.
6. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of Resolution #26-05: To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of Resolution #26-05, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Pedroza and passed unanimously.
7. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance Policy between the Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative and Liberty Mutual Insurance. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance Policy between NISEC and Liberty Mutual Insurance, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.
8. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the First Reading of the NEOLA Policies Volume 38, No. 1 Nondiscrimination (Part 1), as presented:

Replacement Policies: 1422

Rescinded Policies: 1422.02 | 1662

Revised Policies: 2260 | 2260.01 | 2266

Technical Correction: 1662.01

Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the First Reading of the Neola Policies Volume 38, No. 1 Nondiscrimination (Part 1), as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.

9. **Director's Report:**

- Mrs. Horn shared information regarding graduation at Eagle Park School and provided each Board member with an invitation.

- Mrs. Horn shared with the Board of Managers the week of May 4th was teacher appreciation week and NISEC passed out a coaster in the shape of a puzzle piece with an inspirational quote to each certified and registered staff member as well as a QR code. The staff member could then scan the QR code to enter into a drawing to win 1 of 6 baskets.
- Mrs. Horn shared an updated job description for the Behavior Consultant position with the Board of Managers.

10. **Personnel:**

Mrs. Horn recommended approval to the following personnel actions:

A. Retirement

Classified

Michelle Cox, Paraprofessional at Hobart Middle School, effective June 2, 2026.

B. Resignations

Certified

Jane Beasley, Life Skills Teacher at Highland Middle School, effective May 28, 2026.

Elizabeth Coe, Mild Interventions Teacher at Red Cedars Elementary, effective June 1, 2026.

Christina Crisman, Early Childhood Teacher at Jane Ball Elementary, effective June 1, 2026.

Tiffany Scott, Mild Interventions Teacher at Joan Martin Elementary, effective June 3, 2026.

Classified

Benjamin Cash, Paraprofessional at Highland Middle School, effective April 22, 2026.

Nevaeh Douthitt, Behavior Support Specialist at Evans Elementary School, effective May 4, 2026.

Kylee Loudember, Paraprofessional at Warren Elementary School, effective April 10, 2026.

Joann Nunez, Paraprofessional at Highland High School, effective May 28, 2026.

Ali Sutton, Paraprofessional at Johnston Elementary School, effective May 4, 2026.

Tasha Williams, Paraprofessional at Longfellow Elementary School, effective April 25, 2026.

Registered

Jennifer Pachowicz, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant with NISEC, effective June 1, 2026.

C. Terminations

Classified

Zuleyka Alanis, Paraprofessional at Edison Jr./Sr. High School, effective April 8, 2026.

D. Appointments

Classified

Cheyenne Camacho, Paraprofessional at Joan Martin Elementary School, effective April 20, 2026.

Amanda Shoback, Intense Interventions Tech at Eagle Park Community School, effective April 20, 2026.

E. Independent Contracts

None at this time.

F. Leave of Absence

None at this time.

G. Conference Leave

None at this time.

H. Other

Toni Cuellar, Long Term Substitute Teacher contract began on May 4, 2026.

Cali Smith, Long Term Substitute Teacher contract ended on March 6, 2026.

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

11. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions from the Board. The Board members thanked the NISEC Administrators and Teachers both in the Districts and at Eagle Park School for all of their hard work this school year, Mrs. Smith-Gomez said May especially is a very

tough month with all the extra activities. It was also mentioned that the Best Buddies walk was this weekend and there was representation from many NISEC Districts.

12. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for comments or questions from the Audience. There were none.
13. Dr. Kleefisch moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.