

NORTHWEST INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
2150 W. 97th PLACE
CROWN POINT, IN. 46307
June 10, 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. Smith-Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Mr. Keehn took roll call. The following members were recorded as present: Mrs. Erica Smith-Gomez for Highland, Mrs. Tara Beilke for Hanover, Mr. Bradley Keehn for Hobart, Mrs. Louise Neese for Lake Ridge, Dr. Nathan Kleefisch for Tri-Creek, Mr. Kevin Music for Lake Station and Ms. Sylvia Pedroza for 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 May 13, 2026 minutes. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the May 13, 2026 minutes, as presented. Mrs. Neese seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
5. Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked for any additions or deletions to the May 20, 2026 Special Board Meeting minutes. Mr. Keehn moved for Board approval of the May 20, 2026 Special Board Meeting minutes, as presented. Mrs. Neese seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
6. Ms. Gilmore recommended Board approval of the monthly financial reports dated May 31, 2026. Mrs. Beilke moved for Board approval of the monthly financial report dated May 31, 2026. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kleefisch and passed unanimously.
7. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of Resolution #26-06: To Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund for May 2026. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of Resolution #26-06, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Music and passed unanimously.
8. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of Resolution #26-07: Concerning Alternative Services Agreements with IDOE and Private Education Agencies. Mr. Music moved for Board approval of Resolution #26-07, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Keehn and passed unanimously.
9. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the memorandum regarding the sale of a NISEC vehicle. Ms. Gilmore explained with Mrs. Horn leaving the Cooperative and Dr. Harkema accepting the role of Director, a vehicle is no longer a part of the terms for the Director's contract. Ms. Gilmore said with the memo presented, this will allow NISEC to start looking at vendors to sell the car to since it is no longer needed. She shared with the Board the last time the car was in for service at Nissan she inquired about them buying the car back and Nissan said they would only be interested in a trade in, they would not buy the car without doing a trade-in. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the memo regarding the sale of the Director's car, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and Mrs. Smith-Gomez asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. The Board gave recommendations such as Carmax, Carvana and a few others. Ms. Gilmore thanked the Board members for their feedback. Mrs. Smith-Gomez then proceeded with a vote on the motion and second and the item passed unanimously.

10. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the 2027 General Fund Budget. Mr. Keehn moved for Board approval of the 2027 General Fund Budget, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Beilke and passed unanimously.
11. Ms. Gilmore requested Board approval of the 2027 Capital Projects Budget. Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the 2027 Capital Projects Budget, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.
12. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the Second and Final Reading of the NEOLA Bylaws and Policies Volume 38, No. 1 Nondiscrimination (Part 1), as presented:

Replacement Policy: 1422
Rescinded Policies: 1422.02 | 1662
Revised Policies: 2260 | 2260.01 | 2266
Technical Correction: 1662.01

Dr. Kleefisch moved for Board approval of the Second and Final Reading of the Neola Bylaws and Policies Volume 38, No. 1 Nondiscrimination (Part 1), as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Neese and passed unanimously.

13. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the First Reading of the NEOLA Bylaws and Policies Volume 38, No. 1 Nondiscrimination (Part 2), as presented:

Replacement Policies: 3122 | 4122
Rescinded Policies: 3122.02 | 3362 | 4122.02 | 4362
Technical Corrections: 3362.01 | 4362.01

Mr. Keehn moved for Board approval of the First Reading of the Neola Bylaws and Policies Volume 38, No. 1 Nondiscrimination (Part 2), as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.

14. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the SAC and Board of Managers Meeting Dates for the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Music made the motion to approve the meeting dates for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pedroza and passed unanimously.
15. Mrs. Horn requested Board approval of the Eagle Park Summer Programming and ESY/Compensatory Services for the Summer of 2026. Mrs. Beilke made the motion to approve the Eagle Park Summer Programming and ESY/Compensatory Services for the Summer of 2026, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Keehn and passed unanimously.

16. **Director's Report:**

- Mrs. Horn shared the results of the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board Compliance Report. Mrs. Horn was excited to share there were no findings on the report, IEERB did include 2 recommendations that will be taken into consideration when updating the master agreement during the upcoming negotiations to stay in compliance for the following year.
- Mrs. Horn shared the updated job description for the position of Director of Eagle Park with the Board.
- Mrs. Horn shared the job description for the new position of HR Generalist. Mrs. Horn explained this position was created by shifting around roles in the central office due to the reduction of the Assistant Director position for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Mrs. Horn updated the Board on the fun activities that were held at Eagle Park School during the last week of school such as Field Day and Graduation. Mrs. Horn shared it looked like it was going to rain leading up to Field Day but the day turned out to be beautiful and the staff and students had a great time. Mrs. Horn shared Graduation was a wonderful event as it always is, Eagle Park had many students who either earned a diploma, certification, or who aged out of the Special Education programming. Mrs. Horn thanked Mrs. Neese for attending the ceremony.

17. **Personnel:**

Mrs. Horn recommended approval to the following personnel actions:

A. Retirement

None at this time.

B. Resignations

Administrative

Marsha Horn, Executive Director, effective June 30, 2026. Revision of effective date.

Certified

Diane Jones, School Psychologist with NISEC, effective May 28, 2026.

Jessica Polito (Meraz), Mild Interventions Teachers at Highland High School, effective May 28, 2026.

Katelyn Stanko, Mild Interventions Teacher at Southridge Elementary School, effective May 28, 2026.

Elizabeth Vaughan, Educational Diagnostician with NISEC, effective June 2, 2026.

Classified

Veronica Aceves, Paraprofessional at Jane Ball Elementary School, effective May 29, 2026.

Mariah Frazier, Paraprofessional at Joan Martin Elementary School, effective June 2, 2026.

Denise Fultz, Part-Time Paraprofessional at Eagle Park Community School, effective May 27, 2026.

Wynecta Fisher, Long-Term Substitute Teacher at Longfellow Elementary School, effective June 3, 2026.

Stephanie Garrett, Paraprofessional at River Forest Middle School, effective June 1, 2026.

Rachel Hernandez, Paraprofessional at Hanover High School, effective May 29, 2026.

Brittany Jacobs, Paraprofessional at Three Creeks Elementary School, effective May 29, 2026.

Morgan Leinstock, Paraprofessional/Long-Term Substitute Teacher at Eagle Park Community School and Edison Jr./Sr. High School, effective June 1, 2026.

Kira Lesczynski, Paraprofessional at Southridge Elementary School, effective May 28, 2026.

Tammy Outler, Paraprofessional at Oak Hill Elementary School, effective May 29, 2026.

Amanda Seiter, Paraprofessional at Oak Hill Elementary School, effective May 29, 2026.

C. Terminations

None at this time.

D. Appointments

Certified

Sarahi Imhof, Mild Interventions Teacher at Joan Martin Elementary School, effective August 10, 2026.

Madelyn Strothoff, Mild Interventions/Autism Teacher at Bailey Elementary School, effective August 10, 2026.

E. Independent Contracts

None at this time.

F. Leave of Absence

Irma Long, Leave of absence from September 23, 2026 – October 5, 2026 for a total of 5 unpaid days per the Master Agreement.

G. Conference Leave

None at this time.

H. Other

Polly Brown, Change of position from Behavior Intervention Specialist at Eagle Park Community School to a Mild Interventions/Life Skills Teacher at Highland Middle School, effective August 10, 2026.

Gabriella Cottrell, Change of position from Behavior Support Specialist at Liberty Elementary to a Mild Interventions Teacher at Liberty Elementary, effective August 10, 2026.

Schuyler Lopez, Change of position from Long-term Substitute Teacher at Joan Martin Elementary to a Mild Interventions/Life Skills Teacher at Oak Hill Elementary, effective August 12, 2026.

Marsha Horn, Special Education Administrator, effective from July 1, 2026 through August 7, 2026 unless terminated earlier by either party upon written notice.

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

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