MINUTES

CARBON LEHIGH INTERMEDIATE UNIT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CARBON LEHIGH INTERMEDIATE UNIT #21
4210 INDEPENDENCE DRIVE
SCHNECKSVILLE, PA

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026

6:30 P.M. - REGULAR MEETING – BOARD ROOM

Meeting No. 669

CALL TO ORDER

President George Williams called the six hundred and sixty ninth meeting of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance followed the Call to Order.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members in Attendance: Jason Bashaw, Jeremy Glaush, Gale Husack, Jennifer Senavaitis, Sherry Haas, Anthony DeMarco, Chris Pirrotta, Laura McKelvey, and George Williams. Board Members in Attendance Virtually: Dr. William Whitney. Board Members Absent: Andrene Brown-Nowell, Mary Figura, Emily Gehman and Barbara Sipler. Staff: Dr. Gregory Koons, Dana Davies, Brandon Humanick, George Husack, Eric Lech, Matthew Martucci, Jocelyn McCollum, Lucia Miletto O'Brien, Dr. Cathy Nelson, David Russell, Dr. Lisa Schumacher, Corey Swanger, Kim Talipan, Gretchen Titmas and Dr. Jonathan Walter. Also in Attendance: Ellis Katz, Esq., Solicitor.

President George Williams reported that an Executive Session was held on Monday, September 21, 2026 following the CLIU Board of Directors meeting to discuss personnel matters.

AUDIENCE INPUT ON AGENDA

There was no Audience Input on the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2026 CLIU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

- MOTION: The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors approves the minutes of the September 21, 2026 meeting as presented:

Moved: Jeremy Glaush; Seconded: Gale Husack; Vote: Yes - 10; No - 0; Abstentions - 0; Absent - 4.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Williams reminded Board members that the annual Holiday Basket Raffle, benefiting the Carbon Lehigh Special Needs Children's Foundation, is approaching and thanked Board member Sherry Haas for coordinating the Board of Directors basket donation.

Mr. Williams also highlighted the holiday cards currently on display in the Board Room. The cards were designed by CLIU students and are being sold as an additional fundraiser for the Carbon Lehigh Special Needs Children's Foundation.

Board members received an invitation to attend the Variety Bike Presentation held at the CLIU on October 20, 2026. Mr. Williams shared that Variety would be presenting eight adaptive bicycles to local children through its bike giveaway program.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD/CLIU UPDATE

Dr. Koons reported that, as a follow-up to the September 21, 2026 presentation on Deaf and Hard of Hearing services, Dr. Cathy Nelson shared Deaf and Hard of Hearing outreach resources with special education administrators throughout the participating school districts. District special education administrators will serve as points of contact for Deaf and Hard of Hearing questions and resources.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD/CLIU UPDATE (continued)

Dr. Koons took a moment to highlight the exceptional leadership and initiatives of the Curriculum and Instruction Department. He shared that Department Director Eric Lech referred to the Professional Development Day held on October 12, 2026, as the "C&I Super Bowl," noting that the event generated more than 500 participant touchpoints across multiple professional learning opportunities.

On that day, Dr. Koons attended the Rooted in Wellness staff development program at Camp Fowler, as well as the Specialists Conference held at Lehigh Carbon Community College. The conference featured sessions for educators in specialized content areas, including art, music, STEM, and other instructional disciplines. Dr. Koons noted that representatives from the CLIU's member districts attended and had opportunities to collaborate and network with colleagues from across the region.

Additionally, the Science of Reading online course launched on October 12, 2026. Mr. Lech reported that approximately 120 educators participated in the inaugural session.

Dr. Koons advised Board members of the Classroom Monitor Certification Program offered through the CLIU. He explained that the CLIU provides comprehensive support for the program, including coursework and training through the Curriculum & Instruction and Special Programs & Services departments, as well as assistance from the Human Resources Department with the paperwork and certification process. Dr. Koons noted that the Pennsylvania Department of Education established the Classroom Monitor position to provide student supervision in situations where a certified teacher is not present. He further reported that the CLIU certified 15 Classroom Monitors during the past week.

Dr. Koons reported that the CLIU hosted a legislative visit at Carbon Learning Achievement School (CLAS) on October 14, 2026. Legislators in attendance included Senator David Argall, Representative Doyle Heffley, Representative Zach Mako, Representative Ana Tiburcio, and a staff member from Representative Gary Day's office.

During the visit, Dr. Cathy Nelson and members of her staff highlighted the programs and services available to students in grades 3 through 12. Board members were informed about the school's emotional support, behavioral health, partial hospitalization, and work-based learning programs. Work-based learning opportunities highlighted during the visit included the forklift driving simulator and 3D printer. The school's positive behavior support system, which utilizes a schoolwide points-based incentive program, was also highlighted.

VISION SERVICES PRESENTATION

Special Programs and Services Supervisor Mr. Matt Martucci presented an overview of the CLIU Vision Services Program. He introduced Ms. Gretchen Titmas, a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, and Gemma Skye, one of the CLIU's three therapy dogs.

Mr. Martucci reviewed the specialized services provided to students who are blind, have low vision, or have cortical/cerebral visual impairments. He highlighted the roles of Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments and Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialists, noting that O&M services are provided in both school and community settings to help students develop safe travel skills, independence, and access to their environments.

Mr. Martucci reported that during the 2025-2026 school year, the CLIU Vision Services

to determine student needs, the Expanded Core Curriculum for students with visual impairments, and the assistive technology and instructional supports available to help students access their educational programs and increase independence.

Ms. Titmas demonstrated a variety of equipment used by students with visual impairments, including a Perkins Brailler. Board members received instruction on reading braille and were provided with cards displaying their names in braille. She also demonstrated a randomizer device loaded with prerecorded questions and explained how Gemma Skye participates in activities by engaging students as the questions are presented.

Mr. Martucci additionally noted that the white cane serves as a universal symbol indicating that an individual has a visual impairment. He concluded the presentation by

VISION SERVICES PRESENTATION (continued)

highlighting the importance of providing students with the skills, tools, and supports necessary to access their educational environments and become independent learners.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Mr. Eric Lech, Director of Curriculum & Instruction/Educational Technologies, presented an overview of the department's programs, services, and strategic priorities. He explained that the department provides leadership and support to member districts through professional learning, curriculum development, educational technology integration, school climate initiatives, student leadership opportunities, and instructional services designed to improve student outcomes.

Mr. Lech highlighted a variety of district services, including Educator Networkshops, Rooted in Wellness, the Future Ready Leadership Network, the Chief Science Officers Program, STEM initiatives, student competitions, and the STEM Lending Library. He also reviewed the department's support for guest teacher and classroom monitor training, educator certification programs, eLearn21 Virtual Learning, and customized professional development opportunities tailored to district needs.

Board members were informed of the department's extensive outreach and impact throughout the CLIU region. Mr. Lech shared performance data reflecting continued growth in participation across professional learning programs and educational initiatives. He noted the success of recent offerings, including the Science of Reading training, student leadership programs, wellness initiatives, and regional conferences that provide opportunities for educators to collaborate and share best practices.

Mr. Lech also discussed the integration of Training and Consulting Services into the Curriculum & Instruction/Educational Technologies Department beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. He explained that the organizational change will strengthen collaboration among teams, improve communication, and create a more streamlined approach to supporting districts through aligned professional learning, consultation, and educational services.

The presentation concluded with an overview of the department's commitment to innovation, leadership development, and partnerships with member districts to address emerging educational needs and support continuous improvement across the region.

FISCAL MATTERS

- MOTION: The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors approves the following fiscal matters as presented:

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for the month ended September 30, 2026 as presented.

Bills to be Ratified—September 14, 2026 through October 11, 2026

Ratification of bills paid from September 14, 2026 through October 11, 2026 in the amount of $5,086,673.23.

Bills to be Approved

Payment of bills for October 19, 2026 as listed: Bills for Approval – 10/19/2026 - $2,980,100.20.

Moved: Anthony DeMarco; Seconded: Chris Pirrotta; Vote: Yes - 10; No - 0; Abstentions - 0; Absent – 4.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

- MOTION: The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors approves the following personnel matters as presented:

Resignations

Resignation of the following person(s):

Larry Allen, Vehicle Driver/Vehicle Assistant, effective the close of business September 24, 2026.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (continued)

Resignations (continued)

Emily Highland, Instructional Associate and Summer Employment Pool Support Staff, effective the close of business October 13, 2026.

Deborah Frutchey, Vehicle Assistant, effective the close of business September 23, 2026.

Sandra Collier, Vehicle Assistant, effective the close of business September 23, 2026.

Janet Levine, Vehicle Driver/Vehicle Assistant, effective the close of business October 5, 2026.

Ryan Leindecker, Substitute Vehicle Assistant, effective the close of business October 19, 2026.

Christine Shive, Autism Support Interventionist, effective the close of business October 12, 2026.

Melisa Thompson, Instructional Assistant, effective the close of business October 19, 2026.

Jennifer Lax, Administrative Assistant, effective the close of business October 19, 2026.

Suzanne Kleckner, Administrative Assistant, effective the close of business October 19, 2026.

Renee Ferguson, Vehicle Driver/Vehicle Assistant and Substitute Utility Staff, effective the close of business October 21, 2026.

Jennifer Miller, Instructional Assistant, effective the close of business October 19, 2026.

Kimberly Townsend, Contracted Outpatient Therapist (Master's), effective the close of business October 19, 2026.

Retirement

Resignation, due to retirement, of the following person(s):

Michele Kulp, Vehicle Driver/Vehicle Assistant, effective the close of business December 18, 2026 (18 Years of Service).

Joyce Erlandsen, Outpatient Clinic Coordinator and Behavioral Consultant (ABA) (LIC), effective the close of business January 4, 2027 (18 Years of Service).

Lisa Schumacher, Assistant Director of Special Programs and Services, effective the close of business February 9, 2027 (25 Years of Service).

Full-Time Employment

Full-Time Employment of the following person(s):

Kamett Benner, Vehicle Driver/Vehicle Assistant, at the hourly rate of $17.82/Vehicle Driver and $15.00/Vehicle Assistant, effective October 5, 2026 (Transportation Pool; Transportation Budget).

Deborah Frutchey, Vehicle Driver/Vehicle Assistant, at the hourly rate of $17.82/Vehicle Driver and $15.65/Vehicle Assistant, effective September 24, 2026 (Transportation Pool; Transportation Budget).

Sandra Collier, Vehicle Driver/Vehicle Assistant, at the hourly rate of $17.82/Vehicle Driver and $16.95/Vehicle Assistant, effective September 24, 2026 (Transportation Pool; Transportation Budget).

Theresa Faenza, Instructional Assistant, Lehighton Elementary Center, at an annual salary of $29,000, prorated for the 191-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 or upon receipt of final paperwork, but no later than January 19, 2027 (Instructional Assistant Pool; Special Programs and Services Budget).

PERSONNEL MATTERS (continued)

Full-Time Employment (continued)

Juan Acosta, Jr., Computer Technician, CLIU Central Office, at an annual salary of $49,000, prorated for the 242-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 or upon receipt of final paperwork, but no later than January 19, 2027 (Replacement for William Barrell, Resigned; Management Information Systems Budget).

Brianna Kuhns, Teacher, Special Education, Itinerant, at an annual salary of $59,000, Step 1, Column B, prorated for the 194-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 or upon receipt of final paperwork, but no later than January 19, 2027 (Replacement for Sheena Crone, Resigned; Special Programs and Services Budget; Non-Tenured).

Nadia Soto, Teacher, Special Education, Itinerant, at an annual salary of $59,861, Step 1, Column B12, prorated for the 194-day work year, effective October 9, 2026 (Replacement for Sharon Thourot, Resigned; Special Programs and Services Budget; Non-Tenured).

Isabella Barberis, Professional Interpreter, Itinerant, at an annual salary of $40,000, prorated for the 194-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 or upon receipt of final paperwork, but no later than January 19, 2027 (Replacement for Jordan DeMasi, Resigned; Special Programs and Services Budget).

Jennifer Reynolds, Instructional Assistant, L.B. Morris Elementary School, at an annual salary of $33,000, prorated for the 191-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 (Instructional Assistant Pool; Special Programs and Services Budget).

Ryan Leindecker, Vehicle Assistant, at the hourly rate of $15.00, effective October 20, 2026 (Transportation Pool; Transportation Budget).

Calnisha Thomas, Emotional Support Interventionist, Lehigh Learning Achievement School, at an annual salary of $37,000, prorated for the 194-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 (Replacement for Aaron Fritz, Resigned; Special Programs and Services Budget).

Christine Shive, Teacher, Special Education, Panther Valley Elementary School, at an annual salary of $60,782, Step 1, Column M, prorated for the 194-day work year, effective October 13, 2026 (Replacement for Erin Kisselbach, Resigned; Special Programs and Services Budget; Non-Tenured).

Selene Polaha, Teacher, Special Education, Liberty Lane Early Childhood Center, at an annual salary of $87,092, Step 17, Column M, prorated for the 194-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 or upon receipt of final paperwork, but no later than January 19, 2027 (Replacement for Philip Haines, Retired; Early Intervention Budget; Tenured).

Emily Pfeiffenberger, Human Resources Manager, CLIU Central Office, at an annual salary of $95,000, prorated for the 242-day work year, effective November 2, 2026 (Replacement for Jocelyn McCollum, Resigned; Human Resources Budget).

Melisa Thompson, Instructional Associate, Veteran's Memorial Elementary School, at an annual salary of $36,500, prorated for the 191-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 (New Position; Special Programs and Services Budget).

Carly Johnston, Vehicle Driver/Vehicle Assistant, at an hourly rate of $17.82/Vehicle Driver and $15.00/Vehicle Assistant, effective October 26, 2026 (Transportation Pool; Transportation Budget).

Jennifer Lax, Administrative Assistant (Assistant Executive Director Level), CLIU Central Office, at an annual salary of $56,000, prorated for the 242-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 (Replacement for Stephanie Freeh, Resigned; Executive Office Budget).

PERSONNEL MATTERS (continued)

Full-Time Employment (continued)

Lisa Blaukowitch, Instructional Assistant, Veterans Memorial Elementary School, at an annual salary of $27,500, prorated for the 191-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 or upon receipt of final paperwork, but no later than January 19, 2027 (Instructional Assistant Pool; Special Programs and Services Budget).

Jennifer Miller, Instructional Associate, Parkland High School, at an annual salary of $30,000, prorated for the 191-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 (New Position; Special Programs and Services Budget).

Kimberly Townsend, Emotional Support Interventionist, Itinerant, at an annual salary of $40,000, prorated for the 194-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 (Replacement for Ian Noll, Transferred; Special Programs and Services Budget).

Sandra Rehrig, Vehicle Assistant, at an hourly rate of $15.00, effective October 20, 2026 or upon receipt of final paperwork, but no later than January 19, 2027 (Transportation Pool; Transportation Budget).

Suzanne Kleckner, Administrative Assistant (Assistant Director Level), CLIU Central Office, at an annual salary of $47,500, prorated for the 242-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 (Replacement for Lori Hawk, Resigned; Special Programs and Services Budget).

Andrea Brenneman, Occupational Therapist, Itinerant, at an annual salary of $80,000, prorated for the 191-day work year, effective October 20, 2026 (Replacement for Allison Giannone, Resigned; Special Programs and Services Budget).

Unpaid Leave

Grant an Unpaid Leave to the following person(s):

#4589, Instructional Assistant, Unpaid Leave, without precedent, not provided for under the federal Family Medical Leave Act, beginning October 20, 2026 PM and ending on November 11, 2026 with a return to work date of November 12, 2026.

Mentors

Payment per the CLEA contract, to the following Mentor(s) after the end of the mentoring period, for serving in the Mentor role for Year 1 of the CLIU Induction program:

Mentor(s)	Inductee(s)
a. Kelly Howatt	Mickatelyn Gildner
b. Adria Geiger	Kaylee Dorn
c. Elizabeth Kressin	Marissa Lazar
d. Maia Geiger	Kathleen Michaud

Payment per the CLEA contract, to the following Resource Mentor(s) after the end of the mentoring period, for serving in the Resource Mentor role for CLIU Orientation:

Resource Mentor(s)	PDE Certified Staff Member(s)
a. Janine Lusch	Amber Bieling
b. Lori Puliti	Amy Gomez

Contracted Services

Contract with the following person for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, up to 29 hours per week:

Jessica Ionescu, Occupational Therapist, at the hourly rate of $70.00, effective October 20, 2026 or upon completion of final paperwork and onboarding requirements, but no later than January 19, 2027.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (continued)

Substitutes

Approve the following substitutes for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, up to 29 hours per week, at the board approved rates:

Substitute Teacher and Instructional Assistant

Seraa Alhadeethi, effective October 20, 2026.

Substitute Instructional Assistants

Teresa Goida, effective October 20, 2026 or upon completion of final paperwork and onboarding requirements, but no later than January 19, 2027.

Aleesha Gordon, effective October 20, 2026 or upon completion of final paperwork and onboarding requirements, but no later than January 19, 2027.

Gwendolyn Smull, effective October 20, 2026 or upon completion of onboarding requirements, but no later than January 19, 2027.

Substitute Vehicle Driver and Vehicle Assistant

Janet Levine, effective October 6, 2026

Moved: Jeremy Glaush; Seconded: Gale Husack; Vote: Yes - 10; No - 0; Abstentions - 0; Absent - 4.

APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED 2027-2028 EARLY INTERVENTION CALENDAR

Board member Chris Pirrotta inquired about the Early Intervention calendar and the inclusion of snow days. Dr. Koons explained that the use of traditional snow days varies by school district, with some districts building snow days into their calendars while others do not.

Moved: Jennifer Senavaitis; Seconded: Sherry Haas; Vote: Yes - 10; No - 0; Abstentions - 0; Absent - 4.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PSBA 2026 Elections for 2027

After a brief discussion, the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors elects the following for the PSBA Governing Board and PSBA Insurance Trust. Dana Davies, Board Secretary, will record these votes in the Simply Voting system as follows:

Governing Board

President Elect (one-year term) – Matt Vannoy, Sharon City School District

Vice President (one-year term) – Kristy Bolte, Northwestern School District

Treasurer (three-year term) – David Hein, Parkland School District

Eastern Zone Representative (one-year term) – Jason Mell, Exeter Township School District

E-2 Sectional Advisor (two-year term) – Sarah Nemitz, Salisbury Township School District

PSBA Insurance Trust (three-year term)

Marianne L. Neel

Dr. Michael Faccinetto

NEW BUSINESS

Carbon Lehigh Special Needs Children's Foundation Annual Fiscal Report for Year Ending June 30,2026

Per the by-laws of the Carbon Lehigh Special Needs Children's Foundation, the Board is to receive an annual Fiscal Report which has been provided by Jocelyn McCollum, Director of Business Services.

Board President George Williams stated that an Executive Session would be held following the adjournment of the CLIU Board Meeting for personnel matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public offered no comments at this meeting.

BOARD SHARING

Board member Sherry Haas reminded Board members that she is collecting donations for the holiday raffle basket benefiting the Carbon Lehigh Special Needs Children's Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT

- MOTION: The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. Moved: Jennifer Senavaitis; Seconded: Sherry Haas. President Williams declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Davies
Board Secretary

NEXT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2026
6:30 P.M.
Via Zoom or at the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit
4210 Independence Drive
Schnecksville, PA 18078