

**Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 23, 2020**  
 Generated by Raina George

**1. Meeting Opening:****A. Roll Call:**

Present were: Present were: Dr. Jane Blystone (NE); Dorothy Luckock (CN); Paula Jo Lynch (CC); Paul Mangione (WC); Fran New (FV); Rita Nicolussi (IR); Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB); Robert Snyder (GR); Leslie Soltis (NW); Gary Winschel (MC)

Absent were: Jeff Brooks (PC); Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR); Christine Mitchell (HC); Brad Pattullo (GM); Ms. Lori Pickens (EC); Larry Hanas (FL); George Trauner (UC)

Present from the Intermediate Unit Leadership Team: Dr. Dean Maynard, Executive Director; Brad Whitman, Assistant Executive Director; Christy Carucci, Mary Eckart, Sally Hards, Vince Humes, Lori Patton, and Kirk Shimshock

Also present: Pei Ling Cheng, Jill Lewis, T.J. Hesch, Donnette Porter, Nick Paolini

**B. Call Board Meeting to Order:** The Board meeting of the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board was called to order by Robert Snyder, President, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

**C. Moment of Silence:** Mr. Snyder asked those in attendance to stand for a moment of silence.

**D. Pledge to the Flag:** Mr. Snyder led everyone present in the Pledge to the Flag.

**E. Recognition of PSEA:** Mr. Snyder recognized Pei Ling Cheng and Jill Lewis, PSEA Representatives.

**F. Recognition of Visitors:** Mr. Snyder welcomed all visitors present.

**2. Reports:****A. Executive Director / Assistant Executive Director:****Dr. Dean Maynard**

As you are well aware, the challenges continue as we navigate the COVID-19 Pandemic

1. Legislative Update-there is a lot going on as the November 3rd presidential election nears.

SB 1216 Amendments from the floor include:

Delay of Keystone Exams, NOCTI, NIMS—federal role and input

Mandates notification of positive COVID-19 cases to staff in close contact within 24 hrs

Clarification of Non-public transportation

HB 703-school board member contact on website

HB 2788-additional year requested by parents---creates a lot of problems

HB 2787-Governor's veto of the 25/250 language-a veto override is likely

Legislative override failed 170-31 (required a 2/3 vote)

2. THE COVID-19 pandemic has taught us a lot.

a. We have been reminded of: staying at home has its perks, our appearance isn't really "all that", the cost of unnecessary travel, overstressed about professionalism and making an impression, looking down on certain professions, moderation works, patience and disruption, most importantly a hybrid learning model works for most of our **learners today**

3. The IU has been the best place I have ever worked. Together we have made a positive impact on teaching and learning in NWPA and beyond. We have a recognized and respected team of leaders on board and our teachers and staff are simply some of the very best I have ever worked with. I am very proud of the work and the people (including the board members, past and especially present of IU5. We have developed partnerships and kept the main thing the main thing.

**"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."** Helen Keller

**Bob Snyder, Board President recognized Dr. Maynard's retirement with comments on behalf of the IU Board.**

"As President of this IU5 Board, along with my 16 fellow board members, I want to thank you for your many years of service to our Intermediate Unit and to the educational communities of Erie, Crawford and Warren Counties. Your leadership has been steadfast, and laser focused. May your upcoming retirement bring you much joy and relaxation. From all of us, I say Kudos to you on your outstanding career in public education and congratulations on your retirement. You will surely be missed."

**Brad Whitman**

Over the past few weeks, the Capital Area Online Learning Association (CAOLA) program has experienced exponential growth, with a 1000% increase in statewide enrollments from the last school year. CAOLA now serves more than 28,000 students with more than half of that number being new elementary students.

The immediate and significant increase has put a strain on the responsive support that you have come to expect from CAOLA. Across the nation, every online learning provider has struggled with the immense interest and enrollment in virtual learning. CAOLA is happy to report that more than 85% of current enrollments are working as intended. For those partners still experiencing difficulty, CAOLA is focused on resolving your issues as quickly as possible. CAOLA can assure you, they are all working hard to assist and solve all issues. Ensuring the needs of your students are met with access to high-quality virtual options is our driving force.

With the increase in enrollment, CAOLA is currently experiencing a slower than usual turn-around resolving support tickets (200 a day being processed) and issues that have caused disruptions in service to students and districts. CAOLA understands the stress this is causing staff, administrators, and families. CAOLA takes pride in the quality of service that they have provided for more than eleven years. CAOLA and IU5 apologize to those whose experience, so far this school year, has been less than ideal. CAOLA asks for your patience as they work diligently to lower the turn-around time and return to the level of superior support that you are used to experiencing. For more rapid issue resolution, CAOLA has done or are in the process of the following:

- CAOLA has brought on additional staff, including internal reassignment of CAIU staff and contracted staff to accommodate the increase in enrollments and to enhance our level of support. CAOLA is also in the process of hiring additional full-time CAOLA employees (6 FTE's).
- CAOLA is working around-the-clock with content and technology vendors to address tickets and identify issues those vendors need to help resolve. Many of the persistent problems have required direct resolution by the vendor on their timeline.

#### Key talking points:

- The CAOLA program started last school year with 4,000 students enrolled (CAIU #15) ended the year with 10,000 students. To start the school year CAOLA had 28,000 students enrolled at the same time as last school year.
- Cost of IU consortium \$6,750 Large, \$5,750 Medium, and \$4,750 Small.
- Cyber is much different from traditional: pacing, on your own, very little teacher interaction (Asynchronous learning- not at the same time/ absent VS Synchronous learning- same time).
- Approximately \$3,000 a student for entire year of classes compared to the \$10,541 for regular education or \$23,557 for special education if student goes to cyber charter.
- Many students/ families returning to districts realizing cyber is not for them.
- Two of the six vendors (Accelerate Ed. and APEX) with teacher shortages across the nation.
- Depending on when your district decided to join consortium and returned required paper work determined their place in line in the enrollment process

Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) and Brad Pattullo (GM) joined the IU board meeting at 6:07 pm.

**B. Solicitor's Report:** Attorney Joseph reviewed all contracts prior to being presented to the Board for approval, Child Development Center agreement with the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit on COVID 19 symptoms timeline for return to work, presented policy updates for first reading, and created a waiver of liability form for Innovative Technology Solutions department.

**C. Executive Committee:** Mr. Snyder reported that the Executive Committee met on September 18, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom to review the Board Agenda. Present were Robert Snyder, Dr. Doris Gernovich and Dr. Andrew Pushchak.

**D. Personnel Committee:** Dr. Pushchak, reported that the Personnel Committee met via Zoom on September 23, 2020, at 5:15 p.m. Dr. Pushchak reported one item will come out of committee.

It was moved by Dr. Pushchak and seconded by Mrs. New to approve item 1F from Committee of the Whole agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) absent; Larry Hanas (FL) absent; Ms. Lori Pickens (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) yes; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paula Jo Lynch (CC) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Christine Mitchell (HC) absent; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) yes; Brad Pattullo (GM) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; Robert Snyder (GR) yes; Leslie Soltis (NW) yes; George Trauner (UC) absent; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

**E. Policy Committee:** Leslie Soltis, Chairperson, reported that the Policy Development Committee met via Zoom on September 23, 2020, at 5:15 pm. A discussion by the Policy Development Committee endorsed Policy 220, 222, 323, 335, and 704 for a First Reading as presented.

### 3. General Resolution:

Be it resolved, that the Northwest Tri-County Board of Directors approves and adopts the following items that are included in the agenda of this meeting and incorporated herein by reference thereto with the same force and as though separate resolutions on each item were considered and adopted. Items on the Agenda have been reviewed by the solicitor and are recommended by the administration.

It was moved by Dr. Blystone and seconded by Mrs. New to approve the General Resolution as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Christine Mitchell (HC) joined the IU board meeting at 6:09 pm.

### 4. Minutes:

It was moved by Mrs. New and seconded by Mrs. Mitchell to approve the Minutes from the August 26, 2020, IU Board of Directors Meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

### 5. Financial Items:

It was moved by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Mitchell to approve Financial Items 5A-5I as presented.

A. Final Treasurer's Report for June 30, 2020

B. Final Treasurer's Report for July 31, 2020

- C. Treasurer's Report for August 31, 2020
- D. Investment Report for August 31, 2020
- E. PNC Easy Procure Payments as of August 25, 2020
- F. August 2020 Monthly Revenue Board Report.
- G. August 2020 Monthly Expense Board Report.
- H. Approval of Bills.
- I. 2019-2020 Budget Revisions & Budgetary Transfers

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) absent; Larry Hanas (FL) absent; Ms. Lori Pickens (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) yes; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paula Jo Lynch (CC) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Christine Mitchell (HC) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) yes; Brad Pattullo (GM) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; Robert Snyder (GR) yes; Leslie Soltis (NW) yes; George Trauner (UC) absent; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

## 6. Personnel Items:

It was moved by Dr. Pushchak and seconded by Dr. Gernovich to approve Personnel Items 6A-6E as presented.

- A. Resignations
- B. Leave
- C. Substitute List
- D. Job Descriptions
- E. Employment of Personnel

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) absent; Larry Hanas (FL) absent; Ms. Lori Pickens (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) yes; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paula Jo Lynch (CC) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Christine Mitchell (HC) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) yes; Brad Pattullo (GM) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; Robert Snyder (GR) yes; Leslie Soltis (NW) yes; George Trauner (UC) absent; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

## 7. Transportation Items:

It was moved by Mrs. New and seconded by Dr. Blystone to approve Transportation items 7A-7B as presented.

- A. 2020-21 Special Needs Drivers
- B. 2020-21 Transportation Contracts

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) absent; Larry Hanas (FL) absent; Ms. Lori Pickens (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) yes; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paula Jo Lynch (CC) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Christine Mitchell (HC) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) yes; Brad Pattullo (GM) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; Robert Snyder (GR) yes; Leslie Soltis (NW) yes; George Trauner (UC) absent; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

## 8. Policy Committee - First Reading:

It was moved by Mrs. New and seconded by Mrs. Mitchell to approve the First Reading of the following policies as presented.

- A. Section 200 Pupils, Policy 220 - Student Expression/Distribution and Posting of Materials
- B. Section 200 Pupils, Policy 222 - Tobacco and Vaping Products
- C. Section 300 Employees, Policy 323 - Tobacco and Vaping Products
- D. Section 300 Employees, Policy 335 - Family and Medical Leave
- E. Section 700 Property, Policy 704 - Maintenance

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) absent; Larry Hanas (FL) absent; Ms. Lori Pickens (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) yes; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paula Jo Lynch (CC) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Christine Mitchell (HC) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) yes; Brad Pattullo (GM) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; Robert Snyder (GR) yes; Leslie Soltis (NW) yes; George Trauner (UC) absent; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

## 9. 2020-21 Organizational Chart:

It was moved by Dr. Pushchak and seconded by Mrs. New to approve the 2020-21 Organizational Chart as presented.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) absent; Larry Hanas (FL) absent; Ms. Lori Pickens (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) yes; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paula Jo Lynch (CC) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Christine Mitchell (HC) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) yes; Brad Pattullo (GM) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; Robert Snyder (GR) yes; Leslie Soltis (NW) yes; George Trauner (UC) absent; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

## 10. Health and Safety Plan:

It was moved by Dr. Blystone and seconded by Dr. Gernovich to approve the revisions to the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Health & Safety Plan as presented.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) absent; Larry Hanas (FL) absent; Ms. Lori Pickens (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) yes; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paula Jo Lynch (CC) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Christine Mitchell (HC) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) yes; Brad Pattullo (GM) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; Robert Snyder (GR) yes; Leslie Soltis (NW) yes; George Trauner (UC) absent; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

#### 11. Contracted Payroll:

It was moved by Dr. Pushchak and seconded by Mrs. New to approve Contracted Payroll Items 11A-11C as presented.

- A. Lynne Bach
- B. Susan Hedlund
- C. Margo Kralj

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) absent; Larry Hanas (FL) absent; Ms. Lori Pickens (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) yes; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paula Jo Lynch (CC) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Christine Mitchell (HC) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) yes; Brad Pattullo (GM) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; Robert Snyder (GR) yes; Leslie Soltis (NW) yes; George Trauner (UC) absent; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

#### 12. Service Purchase Contracts:

It was moved by Mrs. New and seconded by Mrs. Mitchell to approve Service Purchase Contracts 12A-12I as presented.

- A. Bethesda Lutheran Services SPC 70412
- B. Bethesda Lutheran Services SPC 70422 (Amended)
- C. Denning Landscape & Snow Removal SPC 70437
- D. Don Mills Achievement Center SPC 70439
- E. Hermitage House Youth Services SPC 70444
- F. Hermitage House Youth Services SPC 70445
- G. Professional Interpreters of Erie SPC 70395
- H. Professional Interpreters of Erie SPC 70396
- I. Sarah A. Reed Childrens Center SPC 70438

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) absent; Larry Hanas (FL) absent; Ms. Lori Pickens (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) yes; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paula Jo Lynch (CC) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Christine Mitchell (HC) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) yes; Brad Pattullo (GM) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; Robert Snyder (GR) yes; Leslie Soltis (NW) yes; George Trauner (UC) absent; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

#### 13. Agreement(s)/Contract(s)/Lease(s):

It was moved by Mrs. New and seconded by Mrs. Mitchell to approve Agreement(s)/Contracts(s) Items 13A-13E as presented.

- A. Asbury Woods
- B. Child Development Centers, Inc.
- C. Crawford County Human Services Department
- D. Girard School District Lease
- E. Wayside Presbyterian Church Lease

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) absent; Larry Hanas (FL) absent; Ms. Lori Pickens (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) yes; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paula Jo Lynch (CC) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Christine Mitchell (HC) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) yes; Brad Pattullo (GM) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; Robert Snyder (GR) yes; Leslie Soltis (NW) yes; George Trauner (UC) absent; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

#### 14. Other Business:

Mr. Snyder informed everyone the next Board meeting will be held on October 28, 2020.

#### 15. Adjournment:

It was moved by Mr. Winschel and seconded Mrs. Mitchell by to adjourn the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors at 6:19 pm.

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Raina George, Assistant Board Secretary