

**Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5 Board Agenda**  
**Wednesday, January 27, 2021**  
Generated by Raina George

**1. Meeting Opening:****A. 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 5:49 p.m. via Zoom.

**B. Roll Call:**

Present were: Dr. Jane Blystone (NE); Jeff Brooks (PC); Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR); Dorothy Luckock (CN); Paula Jo Lynch (CC); Paul Mangione (WC); Christine Mitchell (HC); Fran New (FV); Rita Nicolussi (IR); Brad Pattullo (GM); Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB); Robert Snyder (GR); Leslie Soltis (NW); George Trauner (UC); Gary Winschel (MC)

Absent were: Larry Hanas (FB); Lori Pickens (EC)

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

Also present: Donette Porter; Yvonne Teed; Karen Renick

**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 Jill Lewis and Pei-Lang Chang, PSEA Representatives.

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

**2. Board Recognition Month:**

Brad Whitman recognized the IU5 Board of Directors. Each board member was sent a certificate and a message was posted on the IU5 website.

**3. Reports:****A. Executive Director:**

Brad Whitman reported the following to the Board of Directors:

**State News:****State Budget...**

There likely will be changes in the usual schedule of House and Senate appropriations committee meetings following the Governor's release of his proposed state budget (Feb. 2). At this point, the House is still planning to conduct those hearings, although that could change. Senate leaders have indicated they will defer budget hearings until later in the spring in hopes that conditions improve for in-person hearings. The Senate already has added some regular session days to their calendar in February and canceled some in April.

**This Week...**

\* What likely will be the primary focus this week will be consideration of **HB 55**, a Joint Resolution that would amend the Constitution to curtail the governor's authority in declaring a statewide emergency. Specifically, the bill would limit a governor's declaration to 21 days, after which the General Assembly would have the authority to review the declaration and determine whether it should continue (would require a 2/3 vote). An identical bill passed in the last session. Constitutional amendments are not subject to a governor's approval or veto and require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum. This has been a "hot" political issue since last March. If passed this week or next, the measure could be placed on the May ballot.

**Federal News:**

As you have seen in the news, Congress has reached an agreement on a \$900 billion emergency Covid relief package. K-12 education is set to receive **\$54.3 billion** allocated to states via existing formula. States are required to maintain their funding at 2019 levels at a minimum. Institutions of higher education will receive **\$22 billion**, with **\$1.7 billion** of that set-aside for HBCUs, tribal colleges, and minority-serving institutions.

In addition, governors will have **\$4 billion** to distribute among early education, K-12 and higher education, with **\$2.5 billion** of those funds dedicated to private schools.

Unfortunately, there are no funds – **0** – for the E-rate to increase student and family access to the Internet.

**IU News:**

Brought in HOPE therapy dogs for staff to take a 5-10 minute mental health break during the day on 1/20/21.  
Working on a coordinated Erie County vaccination plan with 4 hospitals and Erie County DOH.

Continuing to meet with superintendents, pandemic coordinators and DOH on a weekly basis.  
Coming Soon! Program presentations by staff (5 minutes) recorded for you to share.

### **Public Schools Face Funding 'Death Spiral' as Enrollment Drops**

Congress is sending more relief money to schools, but coronavirus-related costs and declining state funding tied to student enrollment are driving districts toward a financial crisis.

Even with a promised lifeline of billions of federal dollars, public schools in many parts of the country are headed for a financial cliff, as the coronavirus drives up the costs of education while tax revenue and student enrollment continue to fall.

The school boards association estimated that [as many as three million students](#) — about 6 percent of the public school population — are not taking classes right now, and that number could grow.

At the same time, pandemic job losses, business closures and depressed property values have just begun to show up in state and local tax receipts and revenue pipelines, even as most states begin drafting their budget plans for passage by the end of the fiscal year in June.

### **Class Disrupted**

The latest on how the pandemic is reshaping education.

- Congress is sending more money to schools, but Covid-related costs and declining state funding are driving districts toward a financial "death spiral."
- Remote learning is difficult enough — now add a language barrier.
- The pandemic has already led to one "lost class" of college freshmen. The low rate of completing the financial aid form may signal another.
- Some 15 million American schoolchildren lack reliable internet. One solution: [Wi-Fi buses that bring school to students](#).

### **COVID Relief Funding Bill**

#### **Major Education Funding and Policy Provisions**

- \$82 billion for education
  - \$54 billion for K-12 education
  - \$4 billion to governors for education (early, K-12, or higher education)
    - \$2.75 billion for private schools – equitable services
      - Private schools not eligible for this funding if they receive PPP funding
      - Funding prohibited from being used for vouchers or tax credit scholarships
  - \$22 billion for higher education
    - \$1.7 billion set-aside for HBCUs, tribal colleges, and minority-serving institutions
- K-12 funding allocated to states and districts via Title I formula. States must send at least 90% of funds to districts.
- States must maintain financial support for schools at 2019 levels (maintenance of effort) but can apply for a waiver if they experience a precipitous decline in revenue.
- Allowable uses of funds:
  - Any activity under ESEA, IDEA, Perkins Act, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, or subtitle B of Title VII of McKinney-Vento.
    - **This allows funds to be used for all professional development programs/activities under ESEA Title II.**
  - Improving coordination among education agencies and health departments to improve coordinated responses to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.
  - **Providing principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their schools.**
  - Activities to address the unique needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth.
  - Improving the preparedness/response efforts of LEAs.
  - Training and professional development for staff on sanitation and minimizing the infections transmissions.
  - Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean facilities.
  - Planning, coordinating, and implementing activities during long-term closures, including meals, providing technology for online learning, and guidance on carrying out IDEA and other services.
  - Purchasing education technology—including hardware, software, and connectivity, and including assistive or adaptive equipment.
  - Providing mental health services and supports.
  - Summer learning and after-school programs.
  - Addressing learning loss for special-needs students, including high-quality assessments, evidence-based activities, and information to parents about distance learning.
  - Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.
  - School facility repairs and improvements to reduce risk of virus transmission, environmental hazards, and support student health needs.
  - Inspect, test, maintain, repair, replace, upgrade projects to improve indoor air quality in schools.

### **Fast Facts:**

27% of teachers thinking of quitting, retiring early, leave of absence: survey - Business Insider 27% of the 3.5 million teachers in the US translates into 945,000 teachers. This year the US Department of Labor estimates nationwide the shortage will be 500-600,000 teachers nationwide.

According to research from [Learning Heroes](#), "9 out of 10 parents of public school students, regardless of race, income, and education level, believe their child is at or above grade level in reading and math." [However](#), scores on

the 8th grade **National Assessment of Educational Progress** (NAEP) in 2019, found that barely 3 in 10 students are proficient in both math and reading.

**B. Solicitor's Report:** Attorney Joseph reviewed all contracts prior to being presented to the Board for approval, consulted on COVID-19 vaccine distribution, reviewed Right-to-know request, and insurance coverage on IU5 vehicles.

**C. Executive Committee:** Mr. Snyder reported that the Executive Committee met on January 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom to review the Board Agenda. Present were Robert Snyder, Dr. Doris Gernovich and Dr. Andrew Pushchak.

**D. Budget & Audit Committee:** Mr. Mangione, Chairperson, reported that the Budget & Audit Committee met via Zoom on January 27, 2021, at 5:25 p.m. Mr. Mangione asked the board to review the upcoming dates for the budget presentations. There was nothing to come out of committee.

**E. Personnel Committee:** Dr. Gernovich, Chairperson, reported that the Personnel Committee met via Zoom on January 27, 2021, at 5:25 p.m. Dr. Gernovich reported there was nothing to come out of committee.

**F. Policy Committee:** Mrs. Soltis, Chairperson, reported that the Policy Development Committee met via Zoom on January 27, 2021, at 5:25 p.m. A discussion by the Policy Development Committee endorsed Policy 246, 610, 611, 707 Vol I, and 810.1 Vol I for a First Reading as presented.

#### 4. Board Member Resignation:

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Dr. Blystone to approve the resignation of Lori Pickens, Erie's Public School effective immediately.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 5. 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 there to 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. Pushchak and seconded by Dr. Gernovich to approve the General Resolution as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 6. Minutes:

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mrs. Mitchell to approve the Minutes from the December 16, 2020 IU5 Board of Directors Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 7. Proposed 2021-2022 Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Calendar:

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Dr. Gernovich to approve the Proposed 2021-2022 Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Calendar.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 8. Financial Items:

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Dr. Blystone to approve Financial Items 8A-8G as presented.

- A. Investment Report for December 31, 2020
- B. Treasurer's Report for December 31, 2020
- C. December 2020 Monthly Revenue Board Report
- D. December 2020 Monthly Expense Board Report
- E. PNC Easy Procure Payments as of December 28, 2020
- F. Approval of Bills
- G. 20-21 Budget Revisions and Budgetary Transfers

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; 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) - abstain voucher # V1004161; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

**9. Personnel Items:**

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mr. Brooks to approve Personnel Items 9A-9H as presented.

- A. Retirement
- B. Unpaid Leave
- C. Recall from Furlough
- D. Tenure List
- E. Substitute List
- F. Job Description
- G. Employment of Personnel
- H. Special Sick Pay for Emergency Sick Days

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; 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) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

**10. Policy Readings - First Reading:**

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

- A. Section 200 Pupils - Policy 246: Student Wellness
- B. Section 600 Finances - Policy 610: Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
- C. Section 600 Finances - Policy 611: Purchases Budgeted
- D. Section 700 Property - Policy 707 Vol I: Use of Intermediate Unit Facilities
- E. Section 800 Operations - Policy 810.1 Vol I: School Bus Drivers and School Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; 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) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

**11. Service Purchase Contract(s):**

It was moved by Dr. Pushchak and seconded by Dr. Gernovich to approve Service Purchase Contracts 11A-11D as presented.

- A. Bethesda Lutheran Services SPC# 70461
- B. Gentile Consulting LLC SPC# 70462
- C. Penn State Behrend - Talent Search SPC# 70463
- D. Penn State Behrend - Upward Bound Math and Science Program SPC# 70465

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; 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) - abstain item 11A; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

**12. Contracted Payroll:**

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mrs. Mitchell to approve Contracted Payroll 12A-12B as presented.

- A. Timothy J. Dobi
- B. Patrick R. Menanno

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; 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) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

### **13. Agreements/Contracts/Memorandum of Understanding:**

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Dr. Gernovich to approve Agreement(s) /Contracts(s) Items 13A-13B as presented.

A. PA Career Readiness State Training Plan Agreement

B. Ithaca College School of Health Sciences & Human Performance Affiliation Agreement

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; 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) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

### **14. E-Rate Discount Program:**

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Dr. Blystone to approve E-Rate Discount Program Items 14A as presented.

A. 2021-2022 E-Rate Discount Program

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; 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) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

### **15. Virtual Field Trips:**

It was moved by Dr. Pushchak and seconded by Mr. Trauner to approve Virtual Field Trips 15A-15B as presented.

A. TRIO Program - Talent Search, Upward Bound Math and Science - High School Students

B. TRIO Program - Talent Search - Middle School Students

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; 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) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

### **16. Other Business:**

Mr. Snyder informed everyone the next Board meeting will be held on February 24, 2021.

### **17. Adjournment:**

It was moved by Dr. Blystone and seconded Mrs. Mitchell by to adjourn the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors at 6:15 pm.

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Raina George, Board Secretary