

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5 Board Agenda
Wednesday, August 24, 2022
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 Dr. Andrew Pushchak, President, at 5:45 p.m.

B. Roll Call:

Present were: Dr. Jane Blystone (NE); Kristy Bolte (NW); Jeff Brooks (PC); Dorothy Luckock (CN); Paul Mangione (WC); Joseph Meka (GR); Fran New (FV); Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB); George Trauner (UC); David Vrenna (HC); Gary Winschel (MC)

Absent were: Gwendolyn Cooley (EC); Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR); Jeremy Markham (FLB); Bryan Miller (CC); Rita Nicolussi (IR); Brad Pattullo (GM)

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

Also present: Jill Lewis; Diane Pauli; Heather Martin-Raddock; Karen Renick; Donette Porter; Meghan Stefanucci

Dr. Pushchak welcomed New Board Member, Kristy Bolte, Northwestern School District.

C. Moment of Silence: Dr. Pushchak asked those in attendance to stand for a moment of silence.

D. Pledge to the Flag: Dr. Pushchak led everyone present in the Pledge to the Flag.

E. Recognition of PSEA: Dr. Pushchak recognized all PSEA Representatives.

F. Recognition of Visitors: Dr. Pushchak welcomed all visitors in attendance.

2. Presentation of the Annie Sullivan Award

Mr. Brad Whitman gave a brief overview of the Annie Sullivan award. "The award, named after Helen Keller's teacher and friend, is presented by each participating Intermediate Unit to an IU employee who facilitates acceptance of students with disabilities in schools and the community. This is the 34th year that our Intermediate Unit Board has presented the Annie Sullivan award to an outstanding IU professional."

Mr. Whitman recognized Debra Randinelli Giese, Speech Language Pathologist, the 2021-22 Annie Sullivan Award recipient.

3. Reports

A. Executive Director (Mr. Brad Whitman):

IU5

Here is the link for the August Board Presentation video:

<https://vimeo.com/585529586>

Finance

- The Finance office is busy closing the fiscal year and reconciling over 260 individual budgets.
- We are busy processing all of the new hires and those that are leaving the IU for payroll.
- We are gearing up for the start of the school year and the salary increases for teachers, aides, Psych and interpreters.

School Improvement Services

- The Summer Food Service Program has ended services for the 2022 year. 34 sites participated this year serving 67,113 meals throughout Erie and Crawford Counties.
- The Migrant Education Program wrapped up their summer programs servicing over 300 students throughout the Erie, Adams, York, and Franklin Counties.
- The Adult Education Program was awarded a competitive grant through PDE worth \$922,020 to service Erie, Warren, Crawford, Venango, Forest, and Clarion Counties.
- All districts, charter schools, and shelters who requested back to school supplies for the 22-23 school year have been delivered for students who are experiencing Homelessness.

Special Education

- Our EI department has process over 100 referrals from July 1 to now.
- Open Houses are happening with all 11 of the Early Intervention classrooms this week.

State:

HB 2771 [BERNSTINE](#) - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school security, providing for school safety certification.

HB 2780 [NEILSON](#) - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in certification of teachers, further providing for continuing professional development and for program of continuing professional education.

Ortitay Appointed to Basic Education Funding Commission— Speaker of the House Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) recently appointed Rep. Jason Ortity (R-Washington/Allegheny) to be one of two representatives from the House Republican Caucus on the Basic Education Funding Commission. Created by [Act 51 of 2014](#), the 15-member bipartisan commission developed and recommended to the General Assembly in 2015 a new formula for distributing state funding for basic education to Pennsylvania school districts. Every few years the commission is reconstituted to review the formula to make sure it is working properly and make recommendations for changes. Read the rest of the story: [“Ortitay Appointed to Basic Education Funding Commission”](#) (from Press Release 8/15/22)

I wanted to make sure you were aware of some important policy updates included in the [School Code](#) signed by Governor Wolf as part of this year’s budget in addition to the \$1.8 billion increased funding to education.

There are dozens of provisions, but these are the ones (in no particular order) I thought might be of most immediate interest to you:

Dual Enrollment

School districts, charter schools, cyber charter schools, regional charter schools, and CTCs must have at least one dual enrollment agreement with a Pennsylvania postsecondary institution.

Educator Workforce

Establishes a Committee on Education Talent Recruitment within PDE to develop programs of study for high school students interested in pursuing careers in education, requires PDE to collect and annually post information on the educator pipeline, waives the Basic Skills assessment for three years, and provides pathways to Pennsylvania certification for out-of-state teachers, including career and technical education teachers.

Student Meals

All schools must assist students and families with applying for free/reduced-price lunches, and staff are prohibited from throwing out a meal after it has been served to a student – even if that student has an outstanding balance – in order to end the practice of “lunch shaming.”

Industry Credentials

LEAs must include industry recognized credentials on student transcripts moving forward.

Graduation Requirements

Students in the class of 2023 can now meet the statewide graduation requirements through a two-test Keystone Exam composite pathway if they were impacted by the federal assessment waiver in 2020.

Keystone Diploma

Students who experienced educational instability during the 2021-22 school year may apply to PDE for a Keystone Diploma for the 2022-23 school year.

Continued Professional Education Requirements

Teachers, administrators, school professionals, and paraprofessionals have one additional year (until July 8, 2023) to complete their Act 45/48 continuing professional education requirements.

Services for Homeschooled Students

By the start of the 2023-24 school year, school districts must establish policies that allow homeschooled students to participate in courses, co-curricular activities, and career and technical education programs through the district.

School Safety

- LEAs must designate a school administrator to serve as a school safety coordinator with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD) and designated coordinators must complete training within one year of PCCD making the training available. Additionally, \$190 million in grants for new physical security and mental health initiatives are available, and applications for this funding are due to PCCD by August 31.
- Educator prep programs will be required to include at least 3 semester hours on trauma-informed approaches, suicide, bullying, and substance use awareness beginning July 2025.
- Lastly, all colleges, universities, and postsecondary private licensed schools must adopt a definition of consent as part of the school’s code of conduct or sexual misconduct/harassment policy.

Student Financial Aid

Public colleges may no longer reduce a student’s institutional financial aid unless that aid exceeds the cost of attendance or requirements related to athletics. In addition, the annual household income eligibility requirement for PHEAA’s Ready to Succeed

Scholarship has been increased to \$126,000.

Dance Certification

A PreK-12 standalone Dance Certificate has been established.

Cambridge Advanced Exams

Cambridge Advanced Exams now count as an eligible type of credit for prior learning that transfers among colleges participating in the statewide college credit transfer system.

Federal

Lacking Bus Drivers, Schools Make Tough Calls on Transportation— Short on bus drivers, school districts around the country have revised transportation plans in ways that have widely impacted families' daily lives. In some districts, students who once rode to school will now have to walk. Others must board buses earlier so that drivers can complete two routes each morning. *Read the rest of the story: "[Lacking Bus Drivers, Schools Make Tough Calls on Transportation](#)" (from EducationWeek, 8/19/22)*

CDC Ends Recommendations for Social Distancing and Quarantine for Covid-19 Control, No Longer Recommends Test-to-stay in Schools
August 11, CNN

In new guidelines released Thursday, the agency no longer recommends staying at least 6 feet away from other people to reduce the risk of exposure -- a shift from guidance that had been in place since the early days of the pandemic. [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com)

Late last week, President Biden released his plan to address mental health. Most notable are several upcoming grant opportunities for schools to address mental health

[FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Two New Actions to Address Youth Mental Health Crisis | The White House](#)

Office of Migrant Education News

The [Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program \(PA-MEP\)](#) strives to ensure that migratory children receive educational services aimed at developing students to their fullest potential. Since the 1960s, PA-MEP has been providing high-quality MEP-funded summer programs for children of migratory farmworkers. As part of their annual *Special Project Summer Programs*, the state will be hosting two-day regional camps for both middle and high school migratory students who are residing in their 27 counties. PA-MEP offers an interactive and customizable youth leadership and empowerment program designed for middle school migratory students and an interactive science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) program designed for Pennsylvania high school migratory students.

The Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit (IU5), a PA-MEP subgrantee, provides supplemental educational services to migratory children, families, and out-of-school youth throughout 30 Pennsylvania counties. They offer on-campus programs across the western part of Pennsylvania and in-home lessons in all counties where migratory children reside. One such program is the Lake Erie Summer Program in Erie, Pennsylvania, a partnership between the IU5 MEP and the Erie Public Schools Refugee Program. IU5 hires Pennsylvania-certified teachers and teacher aides to provide learning opportunities in three areas: 1) reading, 2) math, and 3) science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

PA-MEP works throughout the year to design and develop summer programs that target the academic development of the migratory children they serve. These MEP-funded offerings supplement the education their migratory students receive during the regular school year by creating high-quality value-added content for their students, incorporating various teaching methodologies to engage and challenge migratory children and enrich their learning experiences.

Nationwide teacher shortage impacts Pennsylvania, local schools

As Pennsylvania students prepare to get back to the classroom, school districts across the commonwealth are facing a teacher shortage. Pennsylvania will need thousands of new teachers by 2025, according to the state Department of Education, but fewer college students are entering the field and more teachers are leaving the profession. [Observer-Reporter](#), August 13, 2022

Finance Experts: School District Budgets 'Headed for a Wild Ride'

August 19, K-12 Dive

Due to an influx of federal pandemic relief funding, most school districts are currently experiencing an increase in spending that will last until approximately the 2023-24 school year. [k12dive.com](https://www.k12dive.com)

Fast Fact

Last year PDE issued an equal number of emergency teaching certificates to regular teaching certificates for the first time ever.

B. Solicitor (Mr. George Joseph): Attorney Joseph reported he reviewed many contracts on the agenda for approval, including agreements with Charter Schools, Title I agreement with Warren County School District, English Language Development Agreement with Iroquois School District, an addendum with Considine Biebel, revised Crawford County Human Services Agreement with their solicitor, and consulted on the COLI reclassification of funds.

C. Executive Committee (Dr. Andrew Pushchak): Dr. Pushchak reported that the Executive Committee met on August 17, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. via zoom to review the Board Agenda. Present were Mr. Paul Mangione and Dr. Andrew Pushchak.

D. Budget & Audit Committee (Mr. Paul Mangione): Mr. Paul Mangione, Chairperson, reported that the Budget & Audit Committee met on August 24, 2022, at 5:10 pm. Mr. Mangione reported that they received an update on the HVAC rooftop unit, reclassifying COLI fund, and next month there will be voting on a new board treasurer. Nothing will be coming out of committee.

E. Personnel Committee (Dr. Doris Gernovich): Dr. Pushchak, reported that the Personnel Committee met on August 24, 2022, at 5:10 p.m. Dr. Pushchak reported that there are several items on the agenda for approval, and nothing coming out of committee.

F. Policy Committee (Mrs. Fran New): Mrs. New reported that the Policy Development Committee met on August 24, 2022 at 5:10 p.m. There are 3 policies on the agenda for second reading for approval; policies 203, 904, and 913.

4. 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 Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mr. Vrenna to approve the General Resolution as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Minutes

It was moved by Mrs. Luckock and seconded by Mr. Trauner to approve the Minutes from June 22, 2022, IU Board of Directors Meeting, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. 2022-23 Organizational Chart

It was moved by Dr. Blystone and seconded by Mr. Winschel to approve the 2022-23 Organizational Chart, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. IU 5 Health & Safety Plan

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mrs. New to approve the IU 5 Health & Safety Plan, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Financial Items (Mr. Mangione):

It was moved by Mrs. Luckock and seconded by Dr. Blystone to approve the Financial Items 8A-8P as presented.

- A. PNC Easy Procure Payments as of June 27, 2022
- B. June 2022 Monthly Expense Board Report
- C. June 2022 Monthly Revenue Board Report
- D. Investment Report for June 30, 2022
- E. Approval of Bills
- F. Designate Morgan Stanley/Wealth Management as Investment Institution
- G. July 2022 Monthly Expense Board Report
- H. July 2022 Monthly Revenue Board Report
- I. PNC Easy Procure Payments as of July 27, 2022
- J. Preliminary Treasurer's Report for June 30, 2022
- K. Approval of Bills
- L. Approval to Reclassify Committed Fund Balance to Unassigned Fund Balance
- M. Investment Report for July 31, 2022
- N. Preliminary Treasurer's Report for July 31, 2022
- O. Transportation 2021-2022 Final Report
- P. 2021-2022 Budget Revisions & Budgetary Transfers

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) absent; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Jeremy Markham (FL) absent; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Bryan Miller (CC) absent; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) absent; Brad Pattullo (GM) absent; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; George Trauner (UC) abstained Voucher # 1005722; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

9. Personnel Items (Dr. Gernovich):

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mr. Vrenna to approve the Personnel Items 9A-9I as presented.

- A. Retirements
- B. ***Resignations
- C. Job Descriptions
- D. Tenure
- E. Substitutes
- F. Employment of Personnel
- G. Position Additions
- H. Substitute Teacher Rate
- I. 2022 Professional Growth Plan

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) absent; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Jeremy Markham (FL) absent; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Bryan Miller (CC) absent; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) absent; Brad Pattullo (GM) absent; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; George Trauner (UC) yes; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

10. Transportation Items:

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mrs. New to approve Transportation Items 10A - 10B as presented.

- A. 2022-2023 Transportation Contracts
- B. 2022-2023 Special Needs Drivers

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) absent; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Jeremy Markham (FL) absent; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Bryan Miller (CC) absent; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) absent; Brad Pattullo (GM) absent; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; George Trauner (UC) yes; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

11. Contracted Payroll:

It was moved by Dr. Blystone and seconded by Mr. Trauner to approve Contracted Payroll 11A-11H as presented.

- A. Sarah Becker
- B. Rachael Gdanetz
- C. Stacey Hammer
- D. Lisa Hauser
- E. Kathryn Jackula
- F. Lisa Schruers
- G. Natalie Sorge
- H. Stephanie Sherwood

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) absent; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Jeremy Markham (FL) absent; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Bryan Miller (CC) absent; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) absent; Brad Pattullo (GM) absent; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; George Trauner (UC) yes; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

12. Agreements/Contracts/Memorandum of Understandings:

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mr. Vrenna to approve the Services Purchase Contracts 12A-12M as presented.

- A. 2022 Summer School Program Partnership Agreement (Vida Charter School)
- B. Cisco Meraki Switching Agreement
- C. Commonwealth Charter Academy
- D. Forest Warren Human Services Early Intervention (EI) Agreement
- E. Learn Platform Agreement
- F. Erie County Pandemic Recovery Agreement
- G. PSEA/NEA Memorandum of Understandings (MOU)
- H. PA Virtual Charter School Agreement
- I. Pennsylvania Association of Federal Program Coordinators (PAFPC)
- J. Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership (PIL) Initiative
- K. Pennsylvania Western University Affiliation Agreement
- L. Premiere Speakers Bureau - Dr. Joe Sanfelippo
- M. Warren County Preliminary Third Party Agreement for Title I Services

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) absent; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Jeremy Markham (FL) absent; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Bryan Miller (CC) absent; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) absent; Brad Pattullo (GM) absent; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; George Trauner (UC) yes; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

13. Service Purchase Contracts:

It was moved by Mrs. Luckock and seconded by Mrs. New to approve the Services Purchase Contracts 13A-13Q as presented.

- A. Barber National Institute SPC 70758
- B. Bethesda Lutheran Services SPC 70774
- C. Bethesda Lutheran Services SPC 70775
- D. Bethesda Lutheran Services SPC 70776
- E. Considine Biebel and Company SPC 70749
- F. Don Mills Achievement Center SPC 70766
- G. Dr. Dean Maynard, Decisively Mindful, LLC SPC 70755
- H. EventSquid SPC 70760
- I. First Educational Resources, LLC SPC 70759
- J. Our Lady of Peace SPC 70764
- K. Perseus House SPC 70769
- L. Perseus House SPC 70770
- M. Perseus House SPC 70772
- N. Sarah Reed Children's Center SPC 70744
- O. Sarah Reed Children's Center SPC 70745
- P. Sarah Reed Children's Center SPC 70746
- Q. Sarah Reed Children's Center SPC 70777

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) absent; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes;

Jeremy Markham (FL) absent; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Bryan Miller (CC) absent; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) absent; Brad Pattullo (GM) absent; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; George Trauner (UC) abstained 13B-13D; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

14. Language Instructional Education Program and English Language Development:

It was moved by Dr. Blystone and seconded by Mr. Trauner to approve the Language Instructional Education Program Services 14A-14C as presented.

- A. Iroquois School District (ELD)
- B. Iroquois School District (LIEP)
- C. Commodore Perry School District (LIEP)

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) absent; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Jeremy Markham (FL) absent; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Bryan Miller (CC) absent; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) absent; Brad Pattullo (GM) absent; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; George Trauner (UC) yes; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

15. Policies - Second Reading (Mrs. New):

It was moved by Mrs. New and seconded by Mr. Trauner to approve the Policies - Second Reading 15A-15C as presented.

- A. Second Reading - Section 200 Pupils - Policy 203: Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
- B. Second Reading - Section 900 Community - Policy 904: Public Attendance at Intermediate Unit Events
- C. Second Reading - Section 900 Community - Policy 913: Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals Code

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) absent; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Jeremy Markham (FL) absent; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Bryan Miller (CC) absent; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) absent; Brad Pattullo (GM) absent; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; George Trauner (UC) yes; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

16. Request to Travel:

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Dr. Blystone to approve the Request to Travel 16A as presented.

- A. Interstate Migrant Education Council (IMEC)- Brad Whitman

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) yes; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) absent; Dorothy Luckock (CN) yes; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Jeremy Markham (FL) absent; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Bryan Miller (CC) absent; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) absent; Brad Pattullo (GM) absent; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; George Trauner (UC) yes; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

17. Other Business:

Dr. Pushchak informed everyone the next Board meeting will be held on September 28, 2022.

Dr. Pushchak reported that the board of directors will meet in Executive Session following the meeting for the purpose of discussing the Executive Director Annual Evaluation.

18. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mr. Winschel to adjourn the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors at 6:09 p.m.

Raina George, Board Secretary