

**Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5 Board Agenda**  
**Wednesday, February 22, 2023**  
*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: Kristy Bolte (NW); Jeff Brooks (PC); Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR); Paul Mangione (WC); Jeremy Markham (FLB); Rita Nicolussi (IR); Fran New (FV); Brad Pattullo (GM); Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB); George Trauner (UC); David Vrenna (HC); Gary Winschel (MC)

Absent were: Dr. Jane Blystone (NE); Gwendolyn Cooley (EC); Dorothy Luckock (CN); Joseph Meka (GR); Bryan Miller (CC)

Present from the Intermediate Unit Leadership Team: Brad Whitman, Executive Director; Christy Carucci, Mary Eckart, Vince Humes, Kirk Shimshock, Yvonne Teed

Also present: Solicitor George Joseph, Jill Lewis; Tracy Moore; Donette Porter; Karen Renick

**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. Reports:**

**A. Executive Director (Mr. Brad Whitman):**

Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Board Video- <https://vimeo.com/795367796>

IUS

State

**New bill would allow school board members in PA to get paid**

Only Texas and Pennsylvania prohibit school board members from earning salaries, based on this analysis before the change in Colorado. Most other states allow, but do not require, districts to pay their members. That could change if a proposal by Rep. Joe Webster (D-Montgomery) becomes law.

**SB 415**

Kearney - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in construction and renovation of buildings by school.

Memo: Restarting PlanCon

Referred to [EDUCATION](#), Feb. 21, 2023

[PN 0363](#)

[View Memo](#)

Federal

**USDA Proposal Would Shift School Nutrition Standards Through 2029**

February 3, K-12 Dive

School nutrition standards could see a significant update to requirements on whole grains, sugar and sodium, made gradually between fall 2024 and fall 2029, under a proposal announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. [k12dive.com](#)

**This Just In: USDA Releases Proposed Nutrition Standards**

This afternoon, USDA [released a proposed rule](#) to update the school nutrition standards. Initial highlights of the rule are 1) implementation begins in SY24-25 with full implementation by SY29-30 and 2) for the first time ever the rule includes a standard for added sugar. The comment period closes on April 10, 2023. Stay tuned for our detailed analysis of the rule on The Leading Edge blog.

**Schools Are Heading Into a Perfect Financial Storm**

**February 2, Education Week**

Federal COVID relief funds will start to expire this fall, and the deadline for spending all those funds will arrive a year later. Inflation is driving up the costs of compensating employees, keeping buildings running, and renovating facilities. [edweek.org](#)

**Schools' New Normal: Teacher Shortages, Repeat Meals, Late Buses, Canceled Classes**

**January 31, The 74 Million**

From recruiting staff at the grocery store to launching onsite aftercare, schools are trying to adapt in their third pandemic year. [the74million.org](#)

**DHS Releases New Report**

On January 24, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) [released a report](#) that assessed and made recommendations to strengthen cybersecurity systems in K-12 education. The report, titled, "Protecting Our Future: Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats," showed that K-12 entities have limited resources to invest in cybersecurity, but small investments like multi-factor authentication and exercising incident response plans can be impactful. CISA also recommended that cybersecurity risk management should be elevated as a top priority for administrators and superintendents, and that leaders should work with technology providers to find low-cost solutions.

**Biden Administration Will Release New Title IX Rules in May. What to Expect.**

February 9, USA Today

President Joe Biden pledged to change the Title IX rules during his presidential campaign, but his administration didn't propose a rule until last June. For the last five months, the Education Department has been reviewing more than 238,000 public comments on the proposal. [usatoday.com](#)

Quote

**"You're never too important to be nice to people."**

**B. Solicitor (Mr. George Joseph):** Attorney Joseph reported he reviewed all agreements and contracts under agenda item 10 for approval, continued to review the PRRI agreement with Harborecreek Youth Services, reviewed the IU13 agreement renewal for voice services and an Affiliation Agreement for ESL certification, had a meeting regarding bidding issues with Executive Director, and revised the thresholds in policies 610 and 611. Working with the teacher negotiation committee team on upcoming contract. The Board Negotiating Committee will meet with the teachers' association on February 28, 2023 and March 7, 2023 for the purposes of negotiations.

**C. Executive Committee (Dr. Andrew Pushchak):** Dr. Pushchak reported that the Executive Committee met on February 15, 2023, at 3:00 pm 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 February 22 2023, at 5:25 pm. Mr. Mangione reported everything is on the agenda for approval and nothing will be coming out of committee.

**E. Personnel Committee (Dr. Doris Gernovich):** Dr. Pushchak, reported that the Personnel Committee met on February 22 2023, at 5:25 pm. Dr. Pushchak reported that all items are on the agenda for approval.

**F. Policy Committee (Mrs. Fran New):** Mrs. New, Chairperson, reported that the Policy Development Committee met on February 22 2023, at 5:25 pm. There are 2 policies on the agenda for approval; Policies 610 and 611 for First Reading.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. Minutes:**

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mrs. Bolte to approve the Minutes from January 25, 2023, IU Board of Directors Meeting, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **5. 2023-2024 Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Preliminary Budget:**

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mrs. New that the Intermediate Unit Board of Directors acknowledge receipt of and accept the preliminary 2023-2024 Intermediate Unit Budget in the total amount of \$66,989,275, including the General Operating Budget, Fund 010, Fund 020, School Improvement Services Budget, and Support Services Budget, requiring member district contributions in the aggregate amount of \$1,012,663; and Further, that the Intermediate Unit Board of Directors recommend the adoption of the complete 2023-2024 Intermediate Unit Budget, as presented, by the local member districts, with the member districts to provide a certificate of the vote of the local member district Board and each of its individual Board members to the Board Secretary of the Intermediate Unit no later than April 7, 2023; and Finally, that the completed 2023-2024 Intermediate Unit Budget, if the same shall be approved by at least a majority of the member school districts and at least a majority of the proportionate votes of all school directors, be considered for approval by the Intermediate Unit Board of Directors at its meeting on April 26, 2023 so that the 2023-2024 Intermediate Unit Budget may be filed with the Secretary of Education on or before May 1, 2023.

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

Dr. Pushchak thanked Mary Eckart and the Finance office for preparing the 2023-24 Preliminary Budget. We appreciate all the work that you do.

#### **6. Financial Items (Mr. Paul Mangione):**

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mr. Pattullo to approve the Financial Items 6A-6I as presented.

- A. January 2023 Monthly Revenue Board Report
- B. January 2023 Monthly Expense Board Report
- C. Investment Report for January 31, 2023
- D. PNC Easy Procure Payments as of January 25, 2023
- E. Program Fees & IU Rates 23-24
- F. Treasurer's Report for January 31, 2023
- G. 2022-2023 Budget Revisions
- H. Approval of Bills
- I. Approval of Bills # 2

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) absent; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) yes; Dorothy Luckock (CN) absent; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Jeremy Markham (FL) yes; Joseph Meka (GR) absent; Bryan Miller (CC) absent; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) yes; Brad Pattullo (GM) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; George Trauner (UC) abstained Voucher #1006410 and #1006503; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

#### **7. Personnel Items (Dr. Doris Gernovich):**

It was moved by Mr. Pattullo and seconded by Mr. Trauner to approve Personnel Items 7A-7E as presented.

- A. \*\*Resignations
- B. Job Descriptions
- C. Substitute List
- D. Employment of Personnel
- E. Position Changes

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

Dr. Pushchak welcomed Nancy Keeling who was approved as the Assistant Director of School Improvement Services - Federal and State Programs.

#### **8. Transportation Items:**

It was moved by Mrs. Bolte and seconded by Mr. Vrenna to approve Transportation Items 8A - 8C as presented.

- A. 2022-23 Transportation Contracts
- B. 2022-23 Special Needs Drivers
- C. Transportation Rate Increase

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

#### **9. Contracted Payroll:**

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mrs. New to approve Contracted Payroll 9A-9B as presented.

- A. Annette Hotchkiss
- B. Loretta McCammon

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

#### **10. Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding:**

It was moved by Mr. Pattullo and seconded by Mr. Trauner to approve the Agreements and Contracts 10A-10E as presented.

- A. Erie County Prison MOU
- B. Erie's Public Schools LIEP
- C. IU 3 STEM in PA Agreement
- D. IU 13 Agreement
- E. IU 19 eSports Agreement

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

#### **11. Service Purchase Contracts:**

It was moved by Mrs. New and seconded by Mrs. Bolte to approve the Services Purchase Contracts 11A-11D as presented.

- A. Bethesda Lutheran Services SPC 70859
- B. Bethesda Lutheran Services SPC 70861
- C. Bethesda Lutheran Services SPC 70862
- D. Bethesda Lutheran Services SPC 70863

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) absent; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Jeff Brooks (PC) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Dr. Doris Gernovich (CR) yes; Dorothy Luckock (CN) absent; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Jeremy Markham (FL) yes; Joseph Meka (GR) absent; Bryan Miller (CC) absent; Fran New (FV) yes; Rita Nicolussi (IR) yes; Brad Pattullo (GM) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) yes; George Trauner (UC) abstained 11A-11D; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

#### **12. Policies - First Reading (Mrs. Fran New):**

It was moved by Mrs. Bolte and seconded by Mr. Trauner to approve Policies 12A-12B as presented.

- A. First Reading - Policy 610: Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
- B. First Reading - Policy 611: Purchases Budgeted

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

#### **13. Other Business:**

Dr. Pushchak informed everyone the next Board meeting will be held on March 22, 2023 and thanked everyone for attending.

#### **14. Adjournment:**

It was moved by Mr. Trauner and seconded by Mr. Pattullo to adjourn the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors at 6:01 p.m.

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Raina George, Board Secretary