

**Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5 Board Agenda**  
**Wednesday, August 23, 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.

Dr. Pushchak welcomed new Board Member, Mrs. Amanda Cox from Corry Area School District.

**B. Roll Call:**

Present were: Dr. Jane Blystone (NE); Amanda Cox (CR); Robert Johnston (PC); Dorothy Luckock (CN); Paul Mangione (WC); Fran New (FV); Brad Pattullo (GM); Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB); David Vrenna (HC)

Absent were: Kristy Bolte (NW); Gwendolyn Cooley (EC); Jeremy Markham (FLB); Joseph Meka (GR); Bryan Miller (CC); Rita Nicolussi (IR); George Trauner (UC); Gary Winschel (MC)

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

Also present: Solicitor George Joseph, Judy Baker; Kathy Broadbent: Jill Lewis; 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. 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.

Mr. Whitman recognized Mr. John Kitcho, the 2022-23 Annie Sullivan Award recipient.

**3. Reports:**

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

**IU5**

- We once again held our Summer Academy for Everyone (SAFE) program. We have had about 55 kids in attendance each day, representing three of our districts.
- As we start to get ready for the new school year, many of our staff have been working with the districts during their in-service days on such professional development topics as: Text Dependent Analysis (TDAs), Integration of a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support framework, structured literacy, among others.
- We hosted the I Love You Guys professional development program. During this training, individuals learned about the nationally recognized standard response protocol in a crisis situation as well as the standard reunification method. We had approximately 45 participants, representing several local districts, non-public schools, charter schools, as well as other IUs.
- Mark Perna, a national speaker on how we as educators can unleash the passion, purpose, and performance in younger generations and how that intersects education, careers, and workforce development come to our region this summer. Approximately 110 educators and administrators from the area were in attendance.
- We hosted a threat assessment team process training here at the IU on August 18th. The entire Erie admin staff and others attended to give us a total participation of 112 individuals from that district alone! We had an additional training in the afternoon for all other districts. 17 individuals, some from as far away as Punxsutawney, attended the afternoon session.
- August in-service week provided 15 different professional development sessions for the various staff members within the special education department.
- The Summer Food Service Program served a total of 43,800 meals across our tri-county area from June 12th through August 18th.
- TRiO's Talent Search program met 100% of their enrollment goal of recruiting 538 students for the 2022-23 school year. This milestone will provide experience points for the next time we submit a proposal for the next 5-year cycle of the grant.
- The state's allocation for the Act 89 Program was recently increased resulting in over 2,300 additional hours of service for our nonpublic schools.
- Over 60 paraprofessionals attended the 1<sup>st</sup> annual IU5 Paraprofessional Summer Academy this week. They participated in 6 sessions obtaining 18 out of the 20 required para hours for the school year.

## State

The Senate returned to Harrisburg and the state budget bill was signed and sent to Governor Shapiro who signed [House Bill 611](#) into law the same day. The Governor line-itemed funding for the Senate approved PASS voucher program.

Most of the state budget is done. There are a few significant line items remaining that will need implementing language in the School Code or the Fiscal Code which are not done.

[Budget Secretary Uri Monson's communication to the General Assembly](#) itemized ten programs that will need additional instructions, including the following education programs:

- Level Up Supplement
- Teacher Stipends
- Environmental School Facilities
- Any Increase in the Educational Improvement Tax Credit

When and how these programs will be authorized in law is unknown. While most of the budget drama is over, there is more to come surrounding these programs. What to know about the State Budget:

- On August 3, the state budget impasse ended as Governor Shapiro signed a \$45.5 billion budget (House Bill 611) into law.
- The adopted budget increases BEF by approximately \$567 million.
- The first BEF payments are being released at the end of August, as per the usual schedule.
- Approximately \$1.1 billion of the General Appropriations Budget requires code implementation language (fiscal code), therefore is on hold.
- The adopted budget increases Special Education Funding (SEF) by \$50 million, which is \$50 million less than what was proposed by the governor (\$100 million). The July SEF payments were released on Friday, August 11.
- The adopted budget increased Ready-to-Learn Block Grant funding by \$7.5 million. Ready-to-Learn payments will be the same dollar amount as received last year. The July Ready-to-Learn payments were released on August 11.
- The adopted budget increased Career and Technical Education funding by \$14 million. CTC payments will be released on schedule in August. While funds will flow, additional work is needed to implement the increased subsidy.
- Governor Shapiro's initiative for schools participating in the SchoolBreakfast Program provides for free breakfasts for all students during the 2023-2024 school year. Additionally, students identified as eligible for reduced-price lunches through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) will not be charged for their meals.

Without a Fiscal Code, the Governor stated that \$1.1 billion of the spending plan would sit untouched at this time. This includes:

- \$100 million for school mental health grants
- \$100 million in Level Up funds
- \$10 million in teacher stipends
- \$125 million for school environmental repair grants
- \$50 million for school safety and security grant transfers to PCCD

We are currently unsure if there will be a fiscal code or school code for this budget, as there is a lack of consensus on many of these programs.

The result of not having a fiscal code to allocate these funds is that the money allocated for each program would stay, undesignated, in the state's coffers and some of it would move to the Rainy-Day Fund.

**Lawmaker Proposes Giving School Boards Authority To Cut Property Taxes By Hiking Other Taxes**— A state lawmaker is proposing legislation that would allow school districts to decide whether to use other forms of tax to replace a portion of the revenue they generate with property tax. Gov. Josh Shapiro signed legislation expanding property tax rebates for seniors and those with disabilities earlier this month. Efforts to make broader reforms to alleviate the burden of property tax for more homeowners have repeatedly stalled in the Legislature over concerns about how to effectively replace the revenue. *Read the rest of the story:* ["Lawmaker Proposes Giving School Boards Authority To Cut Property Taxes By Hiking Other Taxes"](#) (from, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 8/15/23)

### **Pennsylvania students to receive free breakfast this school year.**

According to Governor Josh Shapiro's office, the budget includes a \$46.5 million increase to provide universal free breakfast for 1.7 million public school students. The budget also allocates funding for 22,000 students to receive free lunches if they qualify through the National School Lunch Program. [Read More.](#)

**PA Gov Shapiro Signs \$45.5B Budget But Lawmakers Have More Work To Do**— The Pennsylvania Senate ended a nearly monthlong impasse on Thursday by sending a partial budget to Gov. Josh Shapiro for his signature. The budget that Shapiro signed Thursday afternoon will release state money for public schools, county human services agencies and other programs that rely on state tax dollars... But several new bipartisan priorities would remain unfunded, Shapiro 11

Monson said money for the programs would not be available until the General Assembly passes fiscal code bills required to authorize the spending. Shapiro also said he had line-item vetoed \$100 million for taxpayer-funded private school tuition vouchers, which had been a [sticking point for House Democrats](#). *Read the rest of the story:* ["PA Gov Shapiro Signs \\$45.5B Budget But Lawmakers Have More Work To Do"](#) (from, Pennsylvania Capital-Star, 8/3/23)

**PA Department of Education Reduces Wait Time For New Teacher Certification**— The Pennsylvania Department of Education will be reducing the wait time for new teachers to receive their certification. An educator can now expect their certification to be processed in approximately 10 weeks. Certification for in-state Level I will be processed in two to four weeks and in-state Level II certification will be processed in four to six weeks. Educators seeking add-on certifications will be processed in one to three weeks and emergency certificates will be processed in two to four weeks. *Read the rest of the story:* ["PA Department Of Education Reduces Wait Time For New Teacher Certification"](#) (from NPR, 8/1/23)

## Federal

### House FY24 Appropriations Proposal Guts Education

Last Thursday, the House Appropriations Committee released its fiscal year 2024 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill that slashes funding for education programs to comply with the bill's 29% cut in funding below current levels. Most notable, the bill proposes a **\$14 billion cut from Title I**. Superintendents must weigh in with their members of Congress that these cuts are unacceptable. More details on [The Leading Edge blog](#) and read AASA's Executive Director, David Schuler's statement [here](#).

### FCC Announces Enhance the Cybersecurity Efforts of Public Schools and Libraries Nationwide

At last week's AASA/ASBO Legislative Advocacy Conference breakfast, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel announced a \$200 million pilot program to safeguard our nation's school cybersecurity efforts. Similar to E-Rate, the potential school resources will be transformative, allowing rural, suburban and urban districts to confront this growing threat to the safety, security, and privacy of 50 million public school students. More details [here](#).

### Teacher Well-Being and Intentions to Leave | Findings from the 2023 State of the American Teacher Survey

The RAND Corporation [analyzed survey results](#) which showed that teachers reported better well-being in January 2023 than in 2021 and 2022, and rates of job-related stress have returned to pre-pandemic levels.

### AASA Releases Guide for School Leaders on Artificial Intelligence

AASA partnered with the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) to develop a new guide for using artificial intelligence (AI) in education: [Bringing AI to School: Tips for School Leaders](#). Read the full guide [here](#).

### ED and DOL Announce Resources to Support Teacher Apprenticeship Programs

Last week, the Department of Education (ED) and Department of Labor (DOL) announced resources to support registered apprenticeships for K-12 teachers, including [National Guidelines for Apprenticeship Standards](#). More details on [The Leading Edge blog](#).

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**The Number of Students In Special Education Has Doubled In The Past 45 Years—** The number of students in special education in the United States has doubled over the past four decades, creating a rising share of public school kids who need special education services. That's according to the Pew Research Center, which collected data from the [National Center for Education Statistics](#) for a report on students in special education for Disability Pride Month, which is celebrated each year in July. The total number of students in special education went from 3.6 million in the 1976-77 school year, to almost 7.3 million in 2021-22. These students now make up 15 percent of the K-12 student population across the country, nearly double what it was in the late 1970s. *Read the rest of the story: ["The Number Of Students In Special Education Has Doubled In The Past 45 Years"](#) (from EducationWeek, 7/31/23)*

### Fast Fact

**69 percent** of public schools reported that the percentage of students who had sought mental health services from school had increased since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

**B. Solicitor (Mr. George Joseph):** Attorney Joseph reported he reviewed the contracts under agenda item 13 for approval. The Harborcreek Youth Services agreement was previously approved but the Pennsylvania Department of Education wanted new language added. There are three agreements for the SAS Institute to be held at the Hershey Lodge. There are two Memorandum of understandings for approval for Interpretex due to a need for interpreters and for flex time for TaC staff. There are 2 agreements with MDLogix for their platform and software for SAP programming. Worked on EANS spending timeline of September 30, 2023, consulted on COLI under agenda item 8B, and worked with Warren County School District on the addendum to the classroom lease because the classroom changed buildings. Have also been involved in a due process hearing with Early Intervention staff.

**C. Executive Committee (Dr. Andrew Pushchak):** Dr. Pushchak reported that the Executive Committee met on August 15, 2023, at 11:00 am to review the Board Agenda. Dr. Jane Blystone, Mr. Paul Mangione, and Dr. Andrew Pushchak were present. Reminded the Board of Directors that we designate chairpersons for each committee even though we meet as a Committee of the Whole.

**D. Budget & Audit Committee (Mr. Paul Mangione):** Mr. Paul Mangione, Chairperson, reported that the Budget & Audit Committee met on August 23, 2023, at 5:20 pm. Mr. Mangione reported that the Committee discussed the Reclassifying of COLI under agenda item 8B.

**E. Personnel Committee (Dr. Jane Blystone):** Dr. Blystone, Chairperson, reported that the Personnel Committee met on August 23, 2023, at 5:20 pm. Dr. Blystone reported that there are a number of new hires, retention stipend, position changes, and new contract rates on the agenda. 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 August 23, 2023, at 5:20 pm. There are no policies for review.

## 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 Mrs. Luckock and seconded by Mrs. New to approve the General Resolution as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **5. Minutes:**

It was moved by Mrs. Luckock and seconded by Mr. Pattullo to approve the Minutes from June 28, 2023, IU Board of Directors Meeting, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **6. 2023-24 Organizational Chart:**

It was moved by Dr. Blystone and seconded by Mrs. New to approve the 2023-24 Organizational Chart, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **7. IU 5 Health & Safety Plan:**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

## **8. Financial Items (Mr. Mangione):**

It was moved by Mr. Mangione and seconded by Mrs. New to approve the Financial Items 8A-8O as presented.

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Approval to Reclassify Unassigned Funds to Committed Fund Balance
- C. Investment Report for June 30, 2023
- D. Investment Report for July 31, 2023
- E. June 2023 Monthly Revenue Board Report
- F. June 2023 Monthly Expense Board Report
- G. PNC Easy Procure Payments as of June 26, 2023
- H. PNC Easy Procure Payments as of July 27, 2023
- I. Transportation 2022-2023 Final Report
- J. July 2023 Monthly Revenue Board Report
- K. July 2023 Monthly Expense Board Report
- L. 2022-2023 Budget Revisions & Budgetary Transfers
- M. Approval of Bills
- N. Preliminary Treasurer's Report for June 30, 2023
- O. Preliminary Treasurer's Report for July 31, 2023

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

## **9. Personnel Items (Dr. Jane Blystone):**

It was moved by Dr. Blystone and seconded by Mr. Pattullo to approve the Financial Items 9A-9F as presented.

- A. Resignations\*\*\*
- B. Employment of Personnel\*\*\*
- C. Substitutes
- D. Position Additions and Changes
- E. Retention Stipend

## F. Contract Rates 2023-2024

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

## 10. Transportation Items:

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

A. 2023-2024 Special Needs Drivers

B. 2023-2024 Transportation Contracts

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

## 11. Contracted Payroll:

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

A. Shahraban Al-Maleki

B. Ilona Burd

C. Nancy Mack

D. Minerva Medina

E. Krystle Paredes

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

## 12. Service Purchase Contracts:

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

A. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70933

B. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70934

C. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70935

D. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70936

E. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70937

F. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70938

G. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70939

H. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70940

I. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70941

J. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70942

K. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70943

L. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70944

M. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70945

N. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70946

O. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70949

- P. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70950
- Q. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70951
- R. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70952
- S. Bethesda Lutheran Services - SPC 70954
- T. Catapult Learning SPC 70953
- U. Dr. Dean Maynard, Decisively Mindful, LLC SPC 70947
- V. Provider Resources, Inc SPC 70920

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

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

It was moved by Mr. Vrenna and seconded by Mrs. Luckock to approve the Agreements/Contracts/Memorandum of Understandings 13A-13U as presented.

- A. Alert Media Agreement
- B. Allegheny Intermediate Unit Subrecipient Agreement
- C. Erie County Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities Contract
- D. Erie Mutli Systems Integration Pilot Program MOU
- E. EventSquid - Renewal Agreement
- F. FCCA Pre K Counts Agreement
- G. Forest Warren Human Services Early Intervention (EI) Agreement
- H. Harborcreek Youth Services Funding Flow-Through Agreement
- I. Hershey Lodge Agreement (SAS Institute)
- J. Interpretrek Agreement
- K. MDLogix Business Associate Agreement
- L. MDLogix Service Agreement
- M. Millcreek Township School District Professional Services Contract
- N. Moniteau School District
- O. Northwest Tri-County Intermediate IU5 Aides Education Support Professionals PSEA/NEA Memorandum of Understanding
- P. Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Education Association PSEA/NEA Memorandum of Understanding
- Q. PA Virtual Charter School Agreement
- R. Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership (PIL) Initiative
- S. Premiere Speakers Bureau (SAS Institute)
- T. TYS Speakers Agreement (SAS Institute)
- U. Warren County School District Lease Agreement Addendum

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

### **14. Field Trip:**

It was moved by Mr. Pattullo and seconded by Dr. Blystone to approve Request to Travel 14A as presented.

A. Pittsburgh, PA

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

**15. Other Business:**

Dr. Pushchak informed everyone the next Board meeting will be held on September 27, 2023.

Dr. Pushchak was invited to attended the IU5 staff in-service and welcome.

Dr. Pushchak reported that the Board of Directors met in Executive session prior to the board meeting to discuss the Executive Director 2022-23 evaluation and personnel matter involving a data breach.

**21. Adjournment:**

It was moved by Dr. Blystone and seconded by Mr. Pattullo to adjourn the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors at 6:10 p.m.

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Raina George, Board Secretary