

BLaST Intermediate Unit #17
33 Springbrook Drive
Canton, PA 17724
(570) 673-6001

The BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 Board of Directors held their regularly scheduled meeting on September 18, 2024 in the BLaST Administration Office, 33 Springbrook Drive, Canton, Pennsylvania. This meeting was conducted via video-conferencing between the I.U. #17 Office, Canton, Pennsylvania and Sullivan Room, I.U. #17 Office, Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

1. Call to Order.

- A.** The meeting was called to order by Lori Baer, President, at 7:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

Lori Baer, President (W)	Present
Arica Jennings, Vice President (Virtual)	Present
Debra Agnew, Treasurer (C)	Present
Cathy Bachman (W)	Present
Jerry Curreri	Absent
Jessie Edwards (W)	Present
Brady Finogle	Absent
Heather Hanna (C)	Present
Peggy Hughes	Absent
Scott Johnson	Absent
Lisa McClintock	Absent
Sharon Meyer (W)	Present
Duane Naugle (C)	Present
Julie Preston (C)	Present
Chad Riley (W)	Present
Ryan Schrader (C)	Present
Michael Zicoello (W)	Present
Montgomery	Vacant
Athens	Vacated

Others present were: Brooke Beiter, Tim Confer, Dan Coran, Jennifer Dean, Sandra Finnerty, Rebecca Gibboney, Sheena Hindman, Erica Hoyt, Mike Levin, Sara McNett, Jon Paulhamus, Aimee Pepper, Sherry Ploppert, Erin Powell, Jessica Saviano, Cheryl Starr, Christina Steinbacher-Reed, Rebecca Swinehart and Dana Vermilya.

3A. Introductions.

1. Dr. Beiter introduced Sandra Finnerty, Sherry Ploppert, and Jessica Saviano. She highlighted the work that Sheena Hindman and Rebecca Swinehart have done in their Early Intervention roles. Dr. Beiter gave some background on a new Early Intervention recruitment video before playing it for the Board.

A copy of the Agenda is attached as Pages 2822-1 through 2822-8.

3B. Public Comments.

None

Ms. Hanna moved and Mr. Naugle seconded to approve the following:

4. Minutes.

A. Board Meeting – August 21, 2024

Minutes of the meeting held August 21, 2024. The administration recommends that these minutes be approved as presented or as amended by the Board.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

Mr. Naugle moved and Ms. Hanna seconded to approve the following:

5. Finance.

A. Approval of Bills

Bills from August 17, 2024 through September 13, 2024, totaling \$4,134,223.99 for General Operations, Special Education, and Capital Project Fund are attached as Pages 2822-9 through 2822-15.

Ms. Agnew moved and Mr. Naugle seconded to accept an omnibus motion for the remaining agenda items.

6A. Personnel, Resignations.

None

6B. Personnel, Requests for Leave.

None

7A. Personnel, Establishment of New Positions, New Programs, and/or Program Revisions.

None

7B. Personnel, Employments.

1. The administration recommends Board approval of the following temporary professional and/or professional employee appointments:

- A. **Becca Baier**, Educational Consultant/Professional Development Personnel/TaC, effective November 18, 2024 or when released. Salary – Step 10 Master’s - \$71,055, TaC budget, 190 days prorated to the actual number of days worked. Professional Employee’s contract. To fill position created by the resignation of Andrea Schmucker. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.

2. The administration recommends the employment of the following personnel:

- A. **Teaka Wilcox**, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Management Services/Board Secretary, Canton office, effective October 7, 2024. Salary - \$50,000; 261 days prorated to the actual number of days worked; General Operations and Special Education Transportation Budgets. To fill vacancy created by the upcoming retirement of Jana Strong. Employment in accord with Board policy on office support. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.

7C. Personnel, Abolishment of Positions.

None

7D. Personnel, Change of Work Assignment.

1. **Ian Nevius – Interim Lead Programmer**

Due to the need for additional programming services, the administration recommends that the Board approve a change of work assignment for Ian Nevius to Interim Lead Programmer at a daily stipend of \$30 effective September 1, 2024 until the position of Lead Programmer is filled.

7E. Personnel, Extension of Work Year.

None

7F. Personnel, Substitute Teachers and Substitute Teacher Aides.

1. The administration recommends approval of the list of substitute teachers and substitute teacher aides for the 2024-2025 school term, attached as Page 2823-1.
2. The administration recommends approval of the list of Mission One employees for the 2024-2025 school term, attached as Pages 2823-2 through 2823-4.

7G. Personnel, Request for Internship, Observations or Student Teaching.

None

7H. Personnel, Mentor Teachers/Supervisors.

None

7I. Personnel, Salary Adjustments.

None

8. Items Requiring Routine Formal Action by the Board.**A. Approved Field Trips**

The Executive Director would like to inform the Board that the list of Field Trips, attached as Page 2824-1 has been approved for the current school year.

B. Transportation Drivers

The administration recommends that the Board approve the list of 2024-2025 drivers to transport eligible preschool children to specialized programs, attached as Page 2824-2.

C. First and Second Reading of Policies

Policies for first and second reading are attached as Pages 2824-3 through 2824-20.

Policy 234	Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students - Revised
Policy 336	Personal Necessity Leave – Revised
Policy 339	Uncompensated Leave - Revised
Policy 805.1	Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies – Revised
Policy 824	Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries – Revised

D. Contract Addendum for Tele-Practice Services – ProCare Therapy, LLC

The administration recommends that the Board authorize an addendum to the contract with ProCare Therapy, LLC for Speech Tele-practice services for school age students in Tioga County, at a rate of \$112.21 per hour all inclusive, effective October 1, 2024 through December 20, 2024.

E. PSBA Officers

The Board cast their votes for the following PSBA Leadership Positions:

Sabrina Backer	President-Elect
Matt Vannoy	Vice President
Nathan G. Mains	Trustee
Richard Frerichs	Trustee
William S. LaCoff	Trustee

F. Contract for Services - Staffing & Consulting Group, Inc.

The administration recommends that the Board approve a contract with Staffing and Consulting Group, Inc. for Dr. Polmueller, M.D. to provide onsite and tele-psychiatry services for the North Academy for Integrated Services, at a rate of \$248 per hour inclusive; on call (emergency) \$215 per hour, effective August 27, 2024 through December 18, 2024.

G. Contract for Services – Diane Coulter Consulting

The administration recommends that the Board approve an agreement with Diane Coulter Consulting to provide coaching and consulting services effective September 18, 2024 through November 5, 2024, at a rate of \$75 per hour for coaching services for a total of 15 hours, not to exceed \$1,125 and for two half-day sessions at a rate of \$400 per session, not to exceed \$800.

H. Contract for Services – Chester County Intermediate Unit

The administration recommends that the Board approve an agreement with Chester County Intermediate Unit to provide marketing and communication services in support of the launch of the BLaST IU 17's new private preschool program. Services are effective September 12, 2024 through January 31, 2025 at a cost of \$7,500 for the first 125 hours with additional charges for travel, print or digital media production and vendor placements. Hours above the 125 will be billed at the rate of \$75 per hour.

I. Contract for Services – Rockower, LLC

The administration recommends the Board approve a contract with Rockower, LLC to provide psychiatric consultation services at a rate of \$14,000 per month for September through May; \$7,000 per month for June through August; additional time for June through August will be billed at \$200 per hour, effective October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

J. Contract for Services - Brightwheel

The administration recommends that the Board approve an agreement with Brightwheel to provide childcare management software for the BLaST IU 17's new private preschool program. Services are effective September 17, 2024 for the term of one year at a cost of \$1,646.10.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote with Ms. Hanna abstaining from Item 8.F.

9. Administrative Reports.**A. Report of Investments**

The record of investments dated August 31, 2024 is presented as follows:

Year-to-Date Earnings on Investments is \$93,119.20 (5.37% Cash Management Account), First Citizens Community Bank, Canton.

Year-to-Date Earnings on Project Fund is \$18,431.25 (5.37% Capital Fund Account), First Citizens Community Bank, Canton.

B. Student Services – Dr. Beiter**C. Technology Update – Mr. Confer****D. Educational Planning Update – Ms. Gibboney**

- In-Service Feedback

E. Executive Director Update – Dr. Steinbacher-Reed

- Superintendent Institute – November 20-22, 2024

10. Other Items Raised by the Board and/or Staff.**11. Adjournment.**

At 7:38 p.m. Ms. Agnew moved and Mr. Naugle seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

From 7:38 p.m. until 8:10 p.m. the Board met in Executive Session for personnel and attorney advisement.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara McNett
Board Secretary