

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 March 20, 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 7:03 p.m.

2A. Roll Call.

Lori Baer, President (W)	Present
Scott Johnson, Vice President	Absent
Debra Agnew, Treasurer (C)	Present
Cathy Bachman (W)	Present
Jerry Curreri	Absent
Jessie Edwards	Absent
Brady Finogle	Absent
Heather Hanna (C)	Present
Peggy Hughes (Virtual)	Present
Arica Jennings (C)	Present
Lisa McClintock (W)	Present
Sharon Meyer (W)	Present
Duane Naugle (Virtual)	Present
Julie Preston	Absent
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, Pat Crossley, Rebecca Gibboney, Ashley Heckrote, Sheena Hindman, Robin Holmes, Erica Hoyt, Mike Levin, Sara McNett, Jon Paulhamus, Aimee Pepper, Cheryl Starr, Christina Steinbacher-Reed, Rebecca Swinehart, Dana Vermilya.

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

2B. Appointment, IU 17 Board Members.

1. **Mr. Jerry Curreri – Wellsboro Area School District**

The Wellsboro Area School District has taken formal action, in accord with Act 316 of 1982, to recommend that Mr. Jerry Curreri be appointed to a position on the BLaST Board to replace Ms. Rebecca Charles. It would be appropriate for the Board to appoint Mr. Curreri, effective March 20, 2024, until the time of next election (March 20, 2024 – June 30, 2024), in accordance with Act 30 of 1982. The term of the Wellsboro Area School District representative expires June 30, 2025.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

3A. Introductions.

Dr. Steinbacher-Reed welcomed Pat Crossley from the Williamsport Sun-Gazette.

A copy of the Agenda is attached as Pages 2775-1 through 2775-8.

3B. Public Comments.

None

Ms. Agnew moved and Mr. Zicolello seconded to approve the following:

4. Minutes.

A. Board Meeting – February 21, 2024

Minutes of the meeting held February 21, 2024 as presented.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

Ms. Bachman moved and Ms. Jennings seconded to approve the following:

5. Finance.

A. Approval of Bills

Bills from February 17, 2024 through March 15, 2024, for General Operations, Special Education, and Capital Project Fund totaling \$2,073,261.11 are attached as Pages 2775-9 through 2775-15.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

At 7:07 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session for personnel and attorney advisement. The regular meeting resumed at 7:39 p.m.

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

6A. Personnel, Resignations.

1. **Scott Ringkamp**, Coordinator of Operational and Online Services, effective March 5, 2024.

6B. Personnel, Requests for Leave.

None

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

1. **Establishment of Additional Positions – Teacher Apprentice**

The administration recommends that the Board authorize the establishment of four additional Teacher Apprentice positions.

7B. Personnel, Employments.

1. The administration recommends Board approval of the following temporary professional and/or professional employee appointments:
 - A. **Natalie Hoffman**, Speech Therapist, effective May 20, 2024. Salary – Step 4 Master’s - \$59,735, districts’ contracts, 190 days prorated to the actual number of days worked. Temporary Professional Employee’s contract. To fill position created by the resignation of Lindsey Callado. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
 - B. **Christie Robinson**, Speech Therapist, effective April 8, 2024. Salary – Step 15 Bachelor’s - \$77,300, Early Intervention Budget, 190 days prorated to the actual number of days worked. Professional Employee’s contract. To fill position created by the resignation of McKayla Bodine. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
2. The administration recommends the employment of the following personnel:
 - A. **Brittany Zelewicz**, Teacher Apprentice, effective April 8, 2024, or upon receipt of current clearances. Salary \$23,000, districts’ contracts, 190 days, prorated to actual number of days worked, Paraprofessional Handbook. To fill new position created by the Board.
 - B. **Schwanna Kutt**, Teacher Apprentice, effective April 8, 2024, or upon receipt of current clearances. Salary \$23,000, districts’ contracts, 190 days, prorated to actual number of days worked, Paraprofessional Handbook. To fill new position created by the Board.

7C. Personnel, Abolishment of Positions.

None

7D. Personnel, Change of Work Assignment.**1. Sheena Hindman – Special Education Supervisor**

The Administration recommends the Board approve a change in workdays for Sheena Hindman from 215 days to 261 days and a salary increase to \$98,000, prorated to the actual number of days worked, effective July 1, 2024.

2. Ashley Heckrote – Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA)/Special Education Supervisor

The administration recommends the Board approve the internal transfer of Ashley Heckrote to the position of Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA)/Special Education Supervisor, with a salary of \$80,556, 215 days prorated to the actual number of days worked, effective July 1, 2024. To fill new position created by the Board at the December 6, 2023 meeting.

3. Erica Hoyt – Supervisor – South Academy for Integrated Services

The administration recommends the Board approve the internal transfer of Erica Hoyt to the position of Supervisor – South Academy for Integrated Services, with a salary of \$96,000, 261 days prorated to the actual number of days worked, effective July 1, 2024. To fill vacancy created by the internal transfer of Ashley Heckrote.

4. Ethan Smith - Information Technology Network Specialist – Level II

The administration recommends that the Board authorize an internal transfer for Ethan Smith to the position of Information Technology Network Specialist Level II, effective March 21, 2024, with a change in salary to \$62,000, prorated to actual number of days worked.

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

1. The administration recommends approval of the list of substitute teachers and substitute teacher aides for the 2023-2024 school term, attached as Page 2777-1.
2. The administration recommends approval of the list of Mission One employees for the 2023-2024 school term, attached as Page 2777-2.

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

None

7G. Personnel, Mentor Teachers/Supervisors.

None

7H. 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 2778-1 has been approved for the current school year.

B. Contract for Services – Benergy1

The administration recommends that the Board approve a contract with Benergy1 to provide the Keynote at the Paraprofessional Conference, effective August 8, 2024. Total cost not to exceed \$1,100.

C. First and Second Reading of Policies

Policies for first and second reading are attached as Pages 2778-2 through 2778-11.

Policy 810 Transportation - Revised
Policy 903 Public Comment in Board Meetings – Revised

D. 2024-2025 Early Intervention Yearly Calendar

The administration recommends that the Board approve the 2024-2025 yearly calendar for the Early Intervention Program. It is attached as Page 2778-12.

E. Contract for Services – Zito Business

The administration recommends that the Board authorize a contract with Zito Business to provide internet service to the IU 17 Regional Wide-Area Network (RWAN), under a 3-year contract from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027 at a cost of \$2,135 per month plus applicable taxes/fees.

F. Contract for Services – Zito Business

The administration recommends that the Board authorize a contract with Zito Business to provide a Wide Area Network E-line at 10,000 Mbps under a three year contract, with a One-time installation fee of \$2,000 and a monthly fee of \$1,900 plus applicable taxes/fees.

G. Agreement for Services – MAC Builders & Design, Inc.

The administration recommends that the Board accept a quote and enter into an agreement with MAC Builders & Design, Inc. to paint at the North Academy for Integrated Services, total cost not to exceed \$17,151.80.

H. Contract for Services - InEvent

The administration recommends that the Board authorize a 3 year contract with InEvent to provide an online professional learning platform, effective April 15, 2024 to April 15, 2027, \$15,862.50 per year with a total cost of \$47,587.50.

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

The administration recommends that the Board authorize a contract with ProCare Therapy, LLC for Speech Tele-practice services for school age students in Tioga County, at a rate of \$125/hour all inclusive, effective March 25, 2024 through July 19, 2024.

J. Contract for Services – Tyler June Painting, LLC

The administration recommends the Board authorize a contract with Tyler June Painting, LLC to paint at the BLAST Canton office, total cost not to exceed \$10,672.70.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

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

The record of investments dated February 29, 2024 is presented as follows:

Year-to-Date Earnings on Investments is \$356,262.03 (5.44% Cash Management Account), First Citizens Community Bank, Canton.

Year-to-Date Earnings on Project Fund is \$65,290.69 (5.44% Capital Fund Account), First Citizens Community Bank, Canton.

C. Technology Update – Mr. Confer

- 22nd Annual Regional Media and Design Competition

D. Educational Planning Update – Ms. Gibboney

- Global Partnership with Wales

E. Executive Director Update – Dr. Steinbacher-Reed

- PA Department of Education (PDE) Regional tour
- Partnering with Variety the Children’s Charity

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

At 7:55 p.m. Ms. Agnew moved and Ms. Hanna seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara McNett
Board Secretary