

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 January 15, 2025 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 (C)	Present
Debra Agnew, Treasurer (C)	Present
Cathy Bachman	Absent
Jerry Curreri	Absent
Jessie Edwards	Absent
Brady Finogle(C)	Present
Heather Hanna (W)	Present
Peggy Hughes (Virtual)	Present
Scott Johnson (W)	Present
Abramo Capece (C)	Present
Sharon Meyer(W)	Present
Duane Naugle (C)	Present
Julie Preston(Virtual)	Present
Chad Riley (W)7:12pm arrived	Present
Craig Dudek(W)	Present
Michael Zicolello	Absent
Montgomery	Vacant
Athens	Vacated

Others present were: Brooke Beiter, Dan Coran, Jennifer Dean, Rebecca Gibboney, Ashley Heckrote, Sheena Hindman, Erica Hoyt, Nicole Klees, Mike Levin, Sara McNett, Jon Paulhamus, Aimee Pepper, Ed Ploy, Erin Powell, Corrie Roadarmel, Cheryl Starr, Christina Steinbacher-Reed, Rebecca Swinehart, and Dana Vermilya.

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

2B. Resignations, IU Board Members.

1. **Mr. Ryan Schrader – Troy Area School District**

Mr. Ryan Schrader has resigned as the Troy Area School District representative on the IU 17 Board of Directors.

It is recommended that the Board accept Mr. Schrader's resignation, effective December 4, 2024.

2. **Ms. Lisa McClintock – East Lycoming School District**

Ms. Lisa McClintock has resigned as the East Lycoming School District representative on the IU 17 Board of Directors.

It is recommended that the Board accept Ms. McClintock's resignation, effective December 4, 2024.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

Mr. Naugle moved and Mr. Johnson seconded to approve the following:

2C. **Appointment, IU 17 Board Members.**

1. **Mr. Abramo Capece – Troy Area School District**

The Troy Area School District has taken formal action, in accord with Act 316 of 1982, to recommend that Mr. Abramo Capece be appointed to a position on the BLaST Board to replace Mr. Ryan Schrader. It would be appropriate for the Board to appoint Mr. Capece, effective January 15, 2025, until the time of next election (January 15, 2025 – June 30, 2025), in accordance with Act 30 of 1982. The term of the Troy Area School District representative expires June 30, 2026.

2. **Mr. Craig Dudek – East Lycoming School District**

The East Lycoming County School District has taken formal action, in accord with Act 316 of 1982, to recommend that Mr. Craig Dudek be appointed to a position on the BLaST Board to replace Ms. Lisa McClintock. It would be appropriate for the Board to appoint Mr. Dudek, effective January 15, 2025, until the time of next election (January 15, 2025 – June 30, 2025), in accordance with Act 30 of 1982. The term of the East Lycoming School District representative expires June 30, 2025.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

3A. **Introductions.**

1. Dr. Steinbacher-Reed recognized the Board members in honor of Board Recognition Month with a certificate, The Alphabet War a Story about Dyslexia written by Diane Burton Tobb, and candle.

2. Ms. McNett gave a presentation of the Proposed 2025-2026 General Operations Budget.

A copy of the Agenda is attached as Pages 2843-1 through 2843-10.

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

5. Finance.

B. Proposed General Operations Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

The proposed 2025-2026 IU 17 General Operations budget was distributed to the IU 17 Advisory Council of Superintendents. A copy of the Budget is attached as Pages 2843-11 through 2843-41.

C. 2024-2025 Budgets

The 2024-2025 budgets are attached as Page 2843-42.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

3B. Public Comments.

None

Mr. Riley moved and Ms. Meyer seconded to accept an omnibus motion to approve the following:

4. Minutes.

A. Board Meeting – November 13, 2024

Minutes of the meeting held November 13, 2024 as presented.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

5. Finance.

A. Approval of Bills

Bills from November 9th, 2024 through January 10, 2025, for General Operations, Special Education, and Capital Project Fund totaling \$4,230,042.06 are attached as Pages 2843-43 through 2843-58.

6A. Personnel, Resignations.

1. **Brooke Beiter**, Assistant Executive Director, resignation effective March 4, 2025 or when released.
2. **Noah Johnson**, Teacher Apprentice, resignation effective November 26, 2024.
3. **Tara Michaels**, Post Secondary Transition & Community Classroom Teacher, resignation effective December 31, 2024.
4. **Jeffrey Pelly**, Training and Consulting, resignation effective February 3, 2025 or when released.
5. **Rebecca Weber**, Accessibility Specialist, resignation effective January 17, 2025.
6. **Morgan Whitteker**, Communications Specialist/Executive Assistant, resignation effective December 6, 2024.
7. **Lauren Groff**, Social Worker, resignation effective January 10, 2025.
8. **Emily Cipolla-DeSanto**, Speech Therapist, resignation effective March 8, 2025.

6B. Personnel, Requests for Leave.

None

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

1. **Establishment of Position – Licensed Social Worker**

The administration recommends that the Board authorize the establishment of position – Licensed Social Worker. Job description attached as Pages 2844-1 and 2844-2.

2. **Establishment of Position – Web Developer II**

The administration recommends that the Board authorize the establishment of position – Web Developer II. Job description attached as Pages 2844-3 through 2844-5.

3. **Establishment of Position – Assistant to the Personnel Specialist**

The administration recommends that the Board authorize the establishment of an Assistant to the Personnel Specialist. Job description attached as Pages 2844-6 through 2844-8.

4. **Revised Job Description – Assistant Director of Student Services**

The administration recommends that the Board approve a revision to the job description for Assistant Director of Student Services. Job description attached as Pages 2845-1 through 2845-4.

7B. Personnel, Employments.

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

- A. **Bailee Connors**, Elementary Teacher/ESL Teacher, effective January 20, 2025. Salary- Step 1 Bachelor's - \$55,375; districts' contracts, 190 days prorated to actual number of days worked. Temporary Professional Employee's contract. To fill the position created by the resignation of Lynette Clements. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
- B. **Mia Shuler**, Early Intervention Classroom teacher, effective January 20, 2025. Salary - Step 1 Bachelor's - \$55,375; Early Intervention Budget, 190 days prorated to actual number of days worked. Temporary Professional Employee's contract. To fill the vacancy created by the internal transfer of Amelia Smith. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
- C. **Emily Ludwikowski**, School Psychologist, effective January 20, 2025. Salary- Step 10 Master's + 15 - \$72,280; Early Intervention Budget and districts' contracts, 190 days prorated to actual number of days worked. Temporary Professional Employee's contract. To fill the position created by the resignation of Sarah Lehman. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
- D. **Sarah Kosakowski**, Special Education Teacher, effective January 3, 2025. Salary – Step 2 Bachelor's - \$56,975; districts' contracts, 190 days prorated to actual number of days worked. Temporary Professional Employee's contract. To fill the position created by the resignation of Tasey Baggerly. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.

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

- A. **Kiara Crossen**, Executive Director Administrative Assistant/Communications Specialist, effective January 27, 2025. Salary – \$55,000; General Operations Budget, 261 days prorated to actual number of days worked. Employment in accord with Board policy on office support. To fill the position created by the resignation of Morgan Whitteker. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.

7C. Personnel, Abolishment of Positions.

None

7D. Personnel, Change of Work Assignment.

None

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

1. The list of substitute teachers and substitute teacher aides for the 2024-2025 school term are attached as Page 2846-1.
2. The list of Mission One employees for the 2024-2025 school term are attached as Page 2846-2.

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

1. The administration requests that the Board approve Kelle Steinbacher, a Psychiatric Mental Nurse Practitioner student at Walden University, to complete an internship with an effective date of February 2025 through October 2025. They will be under the total direction of one of the IU's fully certified professionals. This internship is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
2. The administration requests that the Board approve Krystal Kellum, a student at Lycoming College in the Psychology Program, to complete her internship from January 13, 2025 through May 2, 2025. They will be under the total direction of one of the IU's fully certified professionals. This is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
3. The administration requests that the Board approve Brittany Route, a student at Lycoming College in the Psychology Program, to complete an internship with an effective date of January, 21 2025 through April 24, 2025. They will be under the total direction of one of the IU's fully certified professionals. This internship is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.

7G. Personnel, Mentor Teachers/Supervisors.

None

7H. Personnel, Salary Adjustments.

None

8. Items Requiring Routine Formal Action by the Board.

A. 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 2847-1.

B. Approved Field Trips

The Executive Director would like to inform the Board that the list of Field Trips, attached as Page 2847-2, has been approved for the current school year.

C. Affiliation Agreement – Walden University Affiliation Agreement

The administration recommends that the Board authorize an affiliation agreement with Walden University to utilize BLaST IU 17 facilities as a center for field study, internship, practicum, or student teaching placement, effective September 20, 2024 through September 20, 2029.

D. Contract for Services - TSW Corp, County Pest Control

The administration recommends that the Board authorize a contract with TSW Corp - County Pest Control, to provide pest control services to the Canton and Williamsport BLaST offices, for 1 year starting February 1, 2025. Services will be provided at a rate of \$2,275.00 annually.

E. Contract for Services - TSW Corp, County Pest Control

The administration recommends that the Board authorize a contract with TSW Corp - County Pest Control, provide pest control services to Catawissa Ave location, for 1 year starting January 1, 2025. Services will be provided at a rate of \$1,625.00 annually.

F. Contract for Services – Dr. Lisa Feil, Inner Compass, LLC.

The administration recommends that the Board approve a contract with Dr. Lisa Feil, Inner Compass, LLC, to provide psychological evaluations for the Early Intervention Clinic, effective January 6, 2025 through June 30, 2025, \$600 per day of service, not to exceed 22 days of services: Total Cost of Services not to exceed \$10,200.

G. Contract for Services – Ellie’s Cleaning

The administration recommends that the Board authorize a contract with Ellie’s Cleaning to provide cleaning services at the Academy of Integrated Services - North, effective from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, at a rate of \$2,825 per month. The total cost is not to exceed \$33,900

H. Contract for Services – Ellie’s Cleaning

The administration recommends that the Board authorize a contract with Ellie’s Cleaning to provide cleaning services for the BLaST IU 17 Canton office, effective

from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 at a rate of \$1,475 per month. The total cost is not to exceed \$17,700.

I. First and Second Reading of Policies

Policies for first and second reading are attached as Pages 2848-1 through 2848-11.

Policy 005	Organization – Revised
Policy 224	Care of Intermediate Unit Property - Revised
Policy 233	Suspension and Expulsion – Revised
Policy 823	Opioid Antagonist - Revised

J. Resolution to Rescind Amendments to Policies

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2024, the Intermediate Unit Board amended policies 103, 103.1 and 104 in order to comply with the requirements of the 2024 version of the Title IX regulations at 34 Pa. Code, Part 106 (“the 2024 Regulations”); and

WHEREAS, the Court in the case of *State of Tennessee v. Cardona*, No. 2:24-cv-072 (E.D. Kentucky, January 9, 2025) ruled that the 2024 Regulations are invalid and of no effect;

NOW, THEREFORE, *be it resolved*, that:

The policy amendments made on November 13, 2024 regarding policies 103, 103.1 and 104 to comply with the 2024 Regulations are hereby rescinding in their entirety. The versions of policies 103, 103.1 and 104 that were in effect before the 2024 amendments shall be and are hereby reinstated; and the administration shall in all instances comply with all applicable law.

K. Contract for Services – Marcia Joyce Davis, Barton Associates, Inc.

The administration recommends that the Board approve a contract with Barton Associates, Inc. for Marcia Joyce Davis to provide onsite and tele-psychiatry services for the North Academy for Integrated Services, at a rate of \$235 per hour inclusive; effective February 21, 2025 through August 8, 2025.

L. Lease - Central Bradford Progress Authority- Early Intervention

The administration recommends that the Board approve an addendum to the lease with Central Bradford Progress Authority effective January 1, 2025; at a rate of \$34,500.10 per year.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

9. Administrative Reports.

A. Report of Investments

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

Year-to-Date Earnings on Investments is \$226,161.95 (4.64% Cash Management Account), First Citizens Community Bank, Canton.

Year-to-Date Earnings on Project Fund is \$50,413.20 (4.64% Capital Fund Account), First Citizens Community Bank, Canton.

B. Business Management Services – Ms. McNett

- General Operations Budget Process

C. 2025 Election of Directors to BLaST Intermediate Unit 17 Board-Sample Ballot attached as Page 2849-1.

D. Student Services – Ms. Swinehart

E. Technology Update – Mr. Paulhamus

F. Educational Planning Update – Ms. Gibboney

G. Executive Director Update – Dr. Steinbacher-Reed

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

- Ms. Baer thanked the current Board Members for their dedicated service.

11. Adjournment.

At 8:04pm Mr. Riley moved, and Ms. Meyer seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The Board met in Executive Session for personnel and attorney advisement from 8:04pm until 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sara McNett
Board Secretary