

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 February 19, 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 7:00 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
Abramo Capece (C)	Present
Sharon Meyer(W)	Present
Duane Naugle (C)	Present
Julie Preston	Absent
Chad Riley	Absent
Craig Dudek(W)	Present
Michael Zicolello	Absent
Paula Yeckley(W)	Present
Athens	Vacated

Others present were: Simon Anderson, Brooke Beiter, Tim Confer, Dan Coran, Jennifer Dean, Rebecca Gibboney, Ashley Heckrote, Sheena Hindman, Erica Hoyt, Nicole Klees, Mike Levin, Kae Little, Sara McNett, Anwen Orrells, Jon Paulhamus, Aimee Pepper, Sarah Perdue, Erin Powell, Corrie Roadarmel, Mikaela Spalding, Christina Steinbacher-Reed, Rebecca Swinehart, Dana Vermilya, and Teaka Wilcox.

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

2B. Resignation, IU Board Members

None

2C. Appointment, IU17 Board Members

1. Ms. Paula Yeckley – Montgomery Area School District

The Montgomery Area School District has taken formal action, in accord with Act 316 of 19820, to recommend that Ms. Paula Yeckley be appointed to a position on the BLAST Board to replace the current vacancy. It would be appropriate for the Board to appoint Ms. Yeckley, effective February 19, 2025 until the time of next election (January 15, 2025 – June 30, 2025), in accordance with Act 30 of 1982. The terms of Montgomery Area School District representative expire June 30, 2028.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

3A. Introductions.

1. Ms. Klees introduced Kae Little.
2. Ms. McNett introduced Teaka Wilcox.
3. Dr. Steinbacher-Reed introduced Anwen Orrells, Sarah Perdue, and Simon Anderson visiting from Wales and notified the Board of Directors of Dr. Beiter's last Board meeting and her last day of work being February 20th 2025.
4. Ms. Hoyt and Ms. Spalding gave a presentation on the BRIDGE program presented as Pages 2851-1 through 2851-12.

3B. Public Comments.

None

A copy of the agenda is attached as Pages 2851-13 through 2851-19.

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

4. Minutes.

A. Board Meeting – January 15, 2025

Minutes of the meeting held January 15, 2025 are presented.

The minutes passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

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

5. Finance.

A. Approval of Bills

Bills from January 11, 2025 through February 14, 2025, for General

Operations, Special Education, and Capital Project Fund totaling \$2,494,474.50 are attached as Pages 2852-1 through 2851-6.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

Mr. Duane moved and Ms. Hanna seconded to accept an omnibus motion to approve the following:

6A. Personnel, Resignations.

1. **Rebecca Gibboney**, Director of Educational Planning, resignation effective April 17, 2025.
2. **Amy Boatman**, Paraprofessional, retirement effective September 21, 2025.
3. **Amanda Karaffa**, Coordinator of Professional Learning, resignation effective April 11, 2025.

6B. Personnel, Requests for Leave.

None

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

1. **Establishment of Additional Positions – Special Education Teacher**

The administration recommends that the Board approve the establishment of four (4) additional Special Education Teacher positions.

2. **Establishment of New Position – Human Resources Intern**

The administration recommends that the Board authorize the establishment of a new position of Human Resources Intern. Job description enclosed as Pages 2852-7 through 2852-8.

7B. Personnel, Employments.

None

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 2853-1.
2. The list of Mission One employees for the 2024-2025 school term are attached as Page 2853-2.

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

1. The administration requests that the Board approve Anne Marie Stalbird, a student at Bloomsburg University in the Speech Language Pathology Graduate Program, to complete an internship effective January 6, 2025 through March 15, 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 Jaime Wilson, a Master Level Social Work student at Grand Canyon University, to complete her internship from March 2, 2025 through October 31, 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.

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 2853-3.

B. Approved Field Trips

The Executive Director would like to inform the Board that the list of Field Trips, attached as Page 2853-4, has been approved for the current school year

C. School Age Vision Screening Agreement –North Central Sight Services, Inc.

The administration recommends that the Board approve an agreement with North Central Sight Services, Inc., to provide school age vision screenings for the Academy of Integrated Services - South; effective February 12, 2025 at a rate of \$2.50 per student screened.

D. School Age Vision Screening Agreement –North Central Sight Services, Inc.

The administration recommends that the Board approve an agreement with North Central Sight Services, Inc., to provide school age vision screenings for the Academy of Integrated Studies - North; effective March 19, 2025 at a rate of \$1.50 per student screened.

E. Contract for Services – Zito Media

The administration recommends that the Board authorize a contract with Zito Media to provide internet service to LaSaQuik, effective from July 1, 2025 commencing for 36 months at a cost of \$220.95 per month plus applicable taxes/fees.

F. Event Contract – Pennsylvania College of Technology

The administration recommends that the Board approve a contract with the Pennsylvania College of Technology to use certain facilities and services provided by the college for the Annual IU Inservice on August 4, 2025 and August 5, 2025. Total Cost of Services not to exceed cost of \$13,519.00.

G. Contract for Services – Dr. Matthew Reitz

The administration recommends that the Board approve a contract with Dr. Matthew Reitz for interim administrative support to BLAST IU17 effective February 7, 2025 through September, 30, 2025 at a rate of \$400 per day, up to 100 days, total contract not to exceed \$40,000.

H. 2025-2026 Early Intervention Yearly Calendar

The administration recommends that the Board approve the 2025-2026 yearly calendar for the Early Intervention Program attached as Page 2854-1.

I. Approval of Pay Dates and Holidays – 2025-2026

The administration recommends that the Board approve the schedule of pay dates and holidays for the fiscal year and school year 2025-2026 is attached as Page 2854-2.

J. First and Second Reading of Policies

Policies for first and second reading are attached as Pages 2855-1 through 2855-4

Policy 800 Intermediate Unit Social Media

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

9. Administrative Reports.

A. Report of Investments

The record of investments dated January 31, 2025 is presented as follows:

Year-to-Date Earnings on Investments is \$260,330.38 (4.53% Cash Management Account), First Citizens Community Bank, Canton.

Year-to-Date Earnings on Project Fund is \$58,541.27 (4.53% Capital Fund Account), First Citizens Community Bank, Canton.

B. Student Services – Ms. Swinehart

- BRIDGE Presentation

C. Technology Update – Mr. Confer

- Time Yielded

D. Educational Planning Update – Ms. Gibboney

- Equip

E. Executive Director Update – Dr. Steinbacher-Reed

- State Budget Update

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

- Outlook calendar invitations will be sent out for upcoming meetings (2025-2026 year)
- Dr. Steinbacher-Reed and Ms. McNett are monitoring Federal Funding closely.

Dr. Steinbacher-Reed announced the Executive Session for personnel and attorney advisement will begin after adjournment.

11. Adjournment.

At 7:50pm Ms. Hanna moved, and Mr. Naugle seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The Board met in Executive Session for personnel and attorney advisement from 7:50pm until 8:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sara McNett
Board Secretary