

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 June 18, 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.

9. Administrative Reports.

A. Report of Investments

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

Year-to-Date Earnings on Investments is \$413,103.91 (4.33% Cash Management Account), First Citizens Community Bank, Canton.

Year-to-Date Earnings on Project Fund is \$87,087.22 (4.33% Capital Fund Account), First Citizens Community Bank, Canton.

B. Student Services – Ms. Swinehart

C. Technology Update – Mr. Confer

D. Educational Planning Update – Dr. Segraves

E. Executive Director Update – Dr. Steinbacher-Reed

F. List of 2025-2026 IU 17 Board Meeting Dates - Attached as Page 2882-1

1. Call to Order.

A. The meeting was called to order by Lori Baer, President, at 7:09 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

Lori Baer, President(W)	Present
Arica Jennings, Virtual	Present
Debra Agnew, Treasurer	Absent
Cathy Bachman(W)	Present
Jerry Curreri	Absent
Jessie Edwards(W)	Present

Brady Finogle(C)	Present
Peggy Hughes(C)	Present
Abramo Capece(C)	Present
Sharon Meyer(W)	Present
Duane Naugle (C)	Present
Julie Preston	Absent
Chad Riley(Virtual)	Present
Craig Dudek	Absent
Michael Zicolello(W)	Present
Paula Yeckley	Absent
Athens	Vacated

Others present were: Tim Confer, Dan Coran, Amanda Fair, Sheena Hindman, Nicole Klees, Mike Levin, Sara McNett, Ed Ploy, Erin Powell, Corrie Roadarmel, Elizabeth Segraves, Mikaela Spalding, Cheryl Starr, Christina Steinbacher-Reed, Rebecca Swinehart and Dana Vermilya.

2A. Election of Officers.

On behalf of the nominating committee, Ms. Bachman reported the following have agreed to serve as officers for the 2025-2026 school year:

President	- Lori Baer
Vice-President	- Arica Jennings
Secretary	- Sara McNett
Assistant Secretary	- Teaka Wilcox
Treasurer	- Debra Agnew

Ms. Meyer moved and Mr. Naugle seconded to approve the slate of officers as presented.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

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

2B. Resignation, IU Board Members.

1. Ms. Heather Hanna – Sullivan County School District

Ms. Heather Hanna has resigned as the Sullivan County School District representative on the IU 17 Board of Directors.

It is recommended that the Board accept Ms. Hanna's resignation, effective June 17, 2025.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

3A. Introductions.

3B. Public Comments.

A copy of the Agenda is attached Pages 2884-1 through 2884-12.

Mr. Naugle moved, and Mr. Capece seconded to approve the following:

4. Minutes.

A. Board Meeting – May 21, 2025

Minutes of the meeting held May 21, 2025 are presented.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

Mr. Capace moved, and Mr. Naugle seconded to approve the following:

5. Finance.

A. Approval of Bills

Bills from May 15, 2025 through June 11, 2025, for General
Operations, Special Education, and Capital Project Fund totaling \$2,026,367.88.

The Bills are attached as Pages 2884-1 through 2884-8.

6A. Personnel, Resignations.

1. **Emily Ludwikowski**, School Psychologist, resignation effective August 1, 2025.
2. **Ashley Russo**, Autistic Support Teacher, resignation effective July 1, 2025.
3. **Monique Heffner**, Speech Therapist, retirement effective September 12, 2025.
4. **Sarah Thompson**, Speech and Language Therapist, resignation effective June 17, 2025.

5. **Jason Pipher**, Post Secondary Transition & Community Classroom Teacher, resignation effective June 17, 2025.

6B. Personnel, Requests for Leave.

None

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

The Board met in Executive Session for personnel and attorney advisement from 7:19 pm until 7:58pm.

Mr. Naugle moved and Mr. Capece seconded to approve the following omnibus motion:

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. **Haley Lepley**, Special Education Teacher, effective August 1, 2025. Salary will be based on the 2025-2026 Teacher's Salary Schedule when adopted: 2024-2025 Step 6 Bachelor's is \$63,375; 190 days portrayed to actual number of days worked. Temporary professional contract. To fill position created by the Board at the February 19, 2025 Board meeting. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
 - B. **Danielle Vitella**, Special Education Teacher, effective August 1, 2025. Salary will be based on the 2025-2026 Teacher's Salary Schedule when adopted: 2024-2025 Step 2, M+30 \$60,033. 190 days prorated to actual number of days worked. Temporary professional contract. To fill a new position created by the Board at the February 19, 2025 Board meeting. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
 - C. **Sarah Huck**, School Psychologist, effective August 1, 2025. Salary will be based on the 2025-2026 Teacher's Salary Schedule when adopted: 2024-2025, Step 5, M+30, \$64,833, 190 days prorated to actual number of days worked. Temporary professional contract. To fill the vacancy created by the

resignation of Emily Ludwikowski. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.

- D. **Tammy Stilts**, Itinerant Speech Therapist, effective August 1, 2025, Salary will be based on the 2025-2026 Teacher's Salary Schedule when adopted: 2024-2025 Salary B Step 15 is \$78,300; 190 days prorated to actual number of days worked. Professional contract. To fill vacant position due to the resignation of Trevor Solis. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
- E. **Cecilia Vavreck**, Special Education Teacher, effective August 1, 2025, Salary will be based on the 2025-2026 Teacher's Salary Schedule when adopted: 2024-2025 Salary B Step 1 is \$55,375; 190 days prorated to actual number of days worked. Temporary Professional contract. To fill vacant position due to internal transfer of Rose Hibbler. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.

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

- A. **Kyle Roberts**, IT Systems Specialist, effective June 16, 2025. Salary \$75,000 - General Operations Budget, 261 days, prorated to actual number of days worked, Support Staff Handbook, to fill the new position created by the Board at the February 19th 2025 Board meeting. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
- B. **Hayden Lester**, Assistant to Personnel Specialist, effective July 7, 2025. Salary \$55,000 - General Operations Budget, 261 days, prorated to actual number of days worked, Support Staff Handbook, to fill the new position created by the Board at the January 15th 2025 Board meeting. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
- C. **Rachel Hunter**, School nurse, effective August 1, 2025. Salary \$50,000 - Districts' contracts, 210 days, prorated to actual number of days worked, Support Staff Handbook, to fill the vacant position due to the resignation of Melissa Boob. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.
- D. **Troy Eason**, Special Education Supervisor, effective July 7, 2025. Salary \$92,000 - Funds to support this will be from the CORE Budget. 261 days prorated to actual number of days worked. Act 93 Agreement. To fill vacant position due to the transfer of Mikaela Spalding.

7C. **Personnel, Abolishment of Positions.**

None

7D. Personnel, Change of Work Assignment.

None

7E. Personnel, Extension of Work Year.

1. Michele Williamson – Supervisor

Due to the transition of supervisory roles, the administration recommends that the Board *approve an extension of work year for Michele Williamson to an additional two (2) days at her 2024-2025 per diem rate.*

2. Heather Stanton – Autistic Support Teacher

Due to an internal request that she attend additional training; the administration recommends that the Board *approve an extension of work year for Heather Stanton up to an additional five (5) days at their 2024-2025 per diem rate.*

7F. 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 2887-1.
2. The list of Mission One employees for the 2024-2025 school term is attached as Page 2887-2.

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

None

7H. Personnel, Mentor Teachers/Supervisors.

1. The administration recommends that the Board *approve the following as mentors for the 2024-2025 school year in accordance with the PDE-approved Induction Plan.*

First Year Inductees' Mentors

Amber Hilderbrand

Danielle Pardoe

Second Year Inductees' Mentors

Rhonda Bieber

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 2888-1.

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 2888-2.

C. Approval – Cooperative Purchasing Program

The administration requests the Board's *permission to continue participation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of General Services, Cooperative Purchasing Program.*

D. PSBA Delegate

The administration recommends that the Board *consider appointing Arica Jennings as a voting delegate to represent the IU at the PSBA meeting on October 21, 2025.*

E. Board Authorization

The administration recommends that the Board *authorize the Executive Director and/or the Director of Management Services to enter into contracts for budgeted items for the 2025-2026 school year.*

F. Appointment of Special Counsel - Levin Legal Group

The administration recommends that the Board *approve the appointment of Levin Legal Group as BLaST IU 17 special counsel for the 2025-2026 school year at the rate of \$210 per hour.*

G. Appointment of Solicitor - McNerney, Page, Vanderlin & Hall

The administration recommends that the Board *approve the appointment of McNerney, Page, Vanderlin & Hall as BLaST IU 17 solicitor for the 2025-2026 school year at the rate of \$195 per hour.*

H. Appointment of Special Counsel - McNeese, Wallace, & Nurick, LLC

The administration recommends that the Board *approve the appointment of McNeese, Wallace, and Nurick, LLC, as BLaST IU 17 special counsel for the 2025-2026 school year at the rate of \$515 per hour.*

I. Consideration of Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits for Special Education Paraprofessionals, Support Staff, Technology Staff, and Other Employees for 2025-2026

The Board authorizes salary increases of 3% or flat as presented as Page 2889-1 for the following classifications of employees for 2025-2026: Paraprofessional/Job Coaches, Business/Support Staff, Technology Staff, Interpreters/Social Workers, Grants/Wellness Staff, and Instructional Staff.

J. Consideration of Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits for PaTTAN Employees for 2025-2026

The Board authorizes 2025-2026 salary increases of 3% or flat as presented as Page 2889-1 for employees of the PaTTAN program, Harrisburg.

K. Ratification of Agreement Between BLaST IU 17 and BLaST Education

Association (BLaSTEA)

The administration recommends that the Board consider *approving the collective bargaining agreement between BLaST IU 17 and the BLaST Education Association (BLaSTEA) effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028* attached as Pages 2890-1 through 2890-8.

L. Affiliation Agreement – Hanover College Affiliation Agreement

The administration recommends that the Board *authorize an affiliation agreement with Hanover College to utilize BLaST IU 17 facilities as a center for field study, internship, practicum, or student teaching placement.*

M. Contract for Services – Rockower, LLC

The administration recommends the Board *authorize an addendum to the contract with Rockower, LLC to provide psychiatric consultation services at a rate of \$15,000 per month for September through May; \$7500 per month for June through August; additional time for June through August will be billed at \$300 per hour.*

N. Contract for Services – Bayada Home Health Care, Inc.

The administration recommends the Board *authorize a contract with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. to provide substitute nursing services at South Academy for Integrated Services, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, at a rate of \$60 per hour.*

O. Contract for Services – Bayada Home Health Care, Inc.

The administration recommends the Board *authorize a contract with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. to provide substitute nursing services at BLaST Intermediate Unit 17 classrooms, effective June 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026, at a rate of \$55 per hour.*

P. Contract for Services – Studio 57

The administration recommends the Board *authorize a contract with Studio 57 to provide video services. Cost not to exceed \$4,825.00.*

Q. IDEA – Part B Use of Component 2 Funds

The administration recommends that the Board *approve to withhold up to 11% of its Individuals with Disabilities Act – Part B allocation to provide Component 2 services to the constituent Local Education Agencies (LEAs) within its jurisdiction.*

R. 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 July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, \$650 per day of service, not to exceed 133 days of services; total cost of services not to exceed \$86,450.00.*

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote.

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

11. Adjournment.

At 8:06 p.m. Mr. Naugle moved and Mr. Capece seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara McNett

Board Secretary