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 October 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 (C)	Present
Jessie Edwards (W)	Present
Brady Finogle (C)	Present
Jan Nace	Present-Virtual
Peggy Hughes	Present-Virtual
Muncy SD	Absent
Craig Dudek	Absent
Sharon Meyer	Absent
Duane Naugle	Absent
Julie Preston	Absent
Chad Riley (W)	Present
Abramo Capece (C)	Present
Michael Zicolello (W)	Present
Paula Yeckley	Absent
Athens	Vacated-Board Approved 10/20/21

Others present were: Tim Confer, Amanda Fair, Jennifer Dean, Ashley Heckrote, Erica Hoyt, Nicole Klees, Sara McNett, Jon Paulhamus, Erin Powell, Elizabeth Seagraves, Cheryl Starr, Rebecca Swinehart, Michelle Williamson, Troy Eason, Amy Pepper, Sheena Hindman, Dana Vermilya, and Mike Levin.

3A. Introductions.

A copy of the Agenda is attached as Pages 2912-1 through 2912-6.

3B. Public Comments.

None

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

2B. Appointment, IU 17 Board Member.

1. <u>Mr. Jan Nace– Sullivan County School District</u>

The Sullivan County School District has taken formal action, in accord with Act 316 of 1982, to recommend that Mr. Jan Nace be appointed to a position on the BLaST Board to replace Ms. Heather Hanna. It would be appropriate for the Board to appoint Mr. Nace, effective October 15, 2025, until the time of next election (October 15, 2025 – June 30, 2028), in accordance with Act 30 of 1982. The term of the Sullivan County School District representative expires June 30, 2028.

2. <u>Ms. Debra Hicks– Northeast Bradford School District</u>

The Northeast Bradford School District has taken formal action, in accord with Act 316 of 1982, to recommend that Ms. Debra Hicks be appointed to a position on the BLaST Board to replace Ms. Peggy Hughes. It would be appropriate for the Board to appoint Ms. Hicks, effective November 1, 2025, until the time of next election (October 15, 2025 – June 30, 2028), in accordance with Act 30 of 1982. The term of the Northeast Bradford School District representative expires June 30, 2028.

2C. Resignation, IU Board Members.

1. <u>Ms. Peggy Hughes – Northeast Bradford School District</u>

Ms. Peggy Hughes has resigned as the Northeast Bradford School District representative on the IU 17 Board of Directors, effective October 31, 2025.

4. Minutes.

A. Board Meeting – September 17, 2025

Minutes of the meeting held September 17, 2025 are presented, attached as pages 2914-1 – 2914-7. The administration recommends that these minutes be approved as presented or as amended by the Board.

5. Finance.

A. Approval of Bills

Bills from September 11, 2025 through October 08, 2025, for General Operations, Special Education, and Capital Project Fund are enclosed.

The administration recommends approval of the bills as presented.

B. 2025-2026 Budgets

The 2025-2026 budgets can be viewed online at www.iu17.org, click on About BLaST, then click on the Board of Directors link and the new budgets are listed under Board Documents.

The administration recommends that the Board approve the 2025-2026 budgets.

6A. Personnel, Resignations/Retirements.

1. **Rachel Hunter,** School Nurse, resignation effective October 10, 2025.

2. **Jennifer Rossell,** Accounts Payable Specialist, resignation effective October 17, 2025.

3. **Jamie Luna,** Special Education Teacher, resignation effective October 10, 2025.

4. **Cheryl Starr,** Personnel Specialist, retirement effective April 3, 2026.

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 employee appointment:

A. **Caiden Delker,** Help Desk Intern, effective October 6, 2025, Hourly rate of $12/hour part-time. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.

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

A. **Allison Bobotas**, Special Education Teacher, effective November 1, 2025. Salary – Step 15 Master's plus 15 - $82,530, 190 days prorated to the actual number of days worked. To fill the position vacancy created by the resignation of Jamie Luna. This employment is contingent upon receipt of current clearances.

7C. Personnel, Abolishment of Positions.

N**one**

7D. Personnel, Change of Work Assignment.

None

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 2025-2026 school term, attached as page 2915-1.

2. The administration recommends approval of the list of Mission One employees for the 2025-2026 school term, attached as page 2915-2.

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

None

7H. Personnel, Mentor Teachers/Supervisors.

1. The administration recommends Board approval of the following mentors for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with the PDE-approved Induction Plan:

<u>First Year Inductees' Mentors</u>
Dr. Jessica Durn

7I. Personnel, Salary Adjustments.

1. <u>Tori Renard – Sign-on Bonus</u>

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the payment of a $2,000 sign-on bonus to Tori Renard, Treatment Team Leader - South Partial Hospitalization Program/Enhanced Partial Hospitalization Program, in accordance with the Lycoming Clinton Health Choices (LCHC) reinvestment grant.

8. Items Requiring Routine Formal Action by the Board.

A. <u>Approved Field Trips</u>

The Executive Director would like to inform the Board that the list of Field Trips, attached as page 2916-1, has been approved for the current school year.

B. <u>Transportation Drivers</u>

The administration recommends that the Board approve the list of 2025-2026 drivers to transport eligible preschool children to specialized programs, attached as page 2916-2.

C. <u>Professional Services Agreement – Dr. Jon R. Grigg</u>

The administration recommends the Board approve a professional services agreement with Dr. Jon R. Grigg to provide psychiatric evaluation, medication checks, and other appropriate services up to 8 hours on-site per week at a rate of $225 per hour, effective October 1, 2025 for 180 days.

D. <u>Professional Services Agreement – Aveanna Healthcare</u>

The administration recommends the Board approve a professional services agreement with Aveanna Healthcare to provide healthcare services according to the rate schedule attached as Schedule "A" of the contract, effective October 6, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

8. Items Requiring Routine Formal Action by the Board. (Continued)

E. <u>Contract for Services – All Around Maintenance Man, LLC.</u>

The administration recommends that the Board authorize a contract with All Around Maintenance Man, LLC. to provide inclement weather maintenance at the Williamsport Office, effective October 1, 2025 through May 30, 2026, at rates of $275 per plow, $215 per salting, $35 to salt sidewalks and $45 to clear sidewalks.

F. <u>Agreement for Services - Douglas McNett, Doug's Landscaping</u>

The administration recommends that the Board authorize entering into an agreement with Doug's Landscaping, for lawn, parking lot and property care at the Canton Office and Monroe Franklin Building. Effective October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, at a rate of $110 per plow at either building; $120 per salting at either building; $20 to shovel and $15 to salt sidewalks at Canton office; $10 to shovel and $15 to salt sidewalks at Monroe Franklin Building; $55 per mowing, weed control at $60/hour with a $25 minimum charge at Canton Office, and additional grounds maintenance at $60/hour plus cost of materials.

G. <u>Professional Services Agreement – FTF Behavioral Consulting</u>

The administration recommends the Board approve a professional services agreement with FTF Behavioral Consulting to provide "Train-the-Trainer" workshop and support training services according to the rate schedule enclosed in the contract, effective November 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

H. <u>Contract for Services – Saxton & Stump</u>

The administration recommends that the Board approve a contract with Saxton & Stump, to provide Special Education Consortium Counsel services, Intermediate Unit wide, effective for the 2025-2026 school year with an $8,000 annual retainer.

The motion passed with unanimous affirmative vote. Ms. McNett noted that Item 8F is a conflict of interest for her, but that she was not involved in the procurement and is not involved in the oversight of this agreement.

9. Administrative Reports.

A. Report of Investments

The record of investments dated September 30, 2025 is presented as follows:

Year-to-Date Earnings on Investments is $86,412.24 (4.32% Cash Management Account), First Citizens Community Bank, Canton.

Year-to-Date Earnings on Project Fund is $23,520.99 (4.32% Capital Fund Account), First Citizens Community Bank, Canton.

Ms. McNett presented the General Operations Budget quarterly update report.

B. Student Services – Ms. Swinehart

- Variety – The Children's Charity

C. Technology Update – Mr. Confer

D. Educational Planning Update – Dr. Segraves

- Student Competitions for the 2025-2026 School Year

E. Executive Director Update – Dr. Steinbacher-Reed

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

11. Adjournment.

At 7:18 p.m. Mr. Riley moved and Mr. Caprece seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

From 7:18 p.m. until 7:37 p.m. the Board met in Executive Session for personnel and attorney advisement.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara McNett
Board Secretary