

**REGION III SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
EXECUTIVE MEETING
February 21, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kevin Bowman, Chairperson at 10:02 am. Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Dr. Jill Griffin, Mr. Rob Miller, Dr. Kevin Bowman, Dr. Pat Anderson

Not in attendance: Mrs. Nancy Werden, Dr. Todd Dugan

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: No visitors were present.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that the third parent night of the school year, postponed due to weather, has been rescheduled for March 5th at Bethalto East from 6:30-8:00 PM. The event will focus on using positive reinforcement at home, with Ashley Weant, Social Worker, and Genevieve Schuh, BCBA, presenting. She also noted that the next parent training session will take place in April at East Alton Wood River High School.

Mrs. Lenger shared the CPI Tidbits newsletter with the board and has shared it with the coordinators. She stated that this is the time of year when everyone needs a refresher on CPI, handling behaviors, and staying positive. She mentioned that Kim Hood presented a refresher to our staff in January. The training was focused on situations the staff has faced during this school year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Financial**

Mrs. Lenger provided the budget update, reporting the percentage of funds expended in each area of the budget. She told the board that the heat has been on and off at Journeys, but the classrooms have space heaters. She stated that Jen Mechanical has ordered the part for the boiler and hopes to have it fixed soon. No one had any questions.

Personnel

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that she is fully staffed but is still in need of substitutes. She mentioned she is moving staff around to cover positions. She stated that Jenna Massey has helped by flip-flopping days to offer support in classrooms while providing services. Dr. Griffin stated she has permanent substitutes on staff in each building, and that has helped in her district. Mrs. Lenger stated she has one permanent substitute on staff, but they are used daily to cover absences. Dr. Griffin asked the board if anyone has a CNA on staff. She mentioned that some of the other local districts are using them to help support the nurses, but also use them as paraprofessionals when needed. The board stated that they do not have a CNA on staff.

Current Programs

Mrs. Lenger provided the board with an update on the programs. She stated there are currently 51.5 students within all the programs. She mentioned there is a student from East Alton in Maggie Fitzgerald's room who is attending for reading and math instruction only. She stated there are 4 possible students who may have a need for placement in our programs.

She shared with the board the number of students projected for the next school year. She stated that the Bethalto East program would start with 4 students. The Lewis & Clark Elementary program classrooms would consist of 4 students in one classroom and 3 students in the other. The Lewis & Clark Jr. High program would start with 4 students. The East Alton Middle School program would start with 7 students, with the possibility of splitting this room. The transition classroom will start with 7 students, and the Journeys program will have a total of 13 students between the 3 classrooms to begin the school year. Dr. Griffin asked Mrs. Lenger when she finds out from the districts the number of students they plan on placing in Region programs for next school year. Mrs. Lenger stated she is currently working with the coordinators and stated this number includes new students and

anticipates moving 6 students back to districts and 2 to private facilities. She mentioned that one of those students moving to a private facility would be attending the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville. She stated she is pleased with the number of students moving back to the district for the next school year, which is 15-17%.

FOR DISCUSSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

FY 25 IDEA Excess Cost Application

Mrs. Lenger reminded the board that the FY 25 IDEA Excess Cost Application is due on March 15th, which was extended from its original due date. She informed the board she included the link to the website and let them know if they need any help to let her know.

Seniority List

Mrs. Lenger shared with the board the Region III Seniority List that was shared with the Union.

Director's Evaluation

Mrs. Lenger mentioned to the board that it was time to review her evaluation. The board decided to discuss the director's evaluation in a closed session.

CLOSED SESSION

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to enter into a closed session at 10:19 a.m. Mr. Rob Miller seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0. Motion carried. Mr. Rob Miller moved to come out of the closed session at 10:34 a.m. Dr. Jill Griffin seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the consent agenda, including the bills, closed session minutes, and regular board minutes. Mr. Rob Miller seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0.

Mrs. Lenger stated that McKenzie Dixon used to work for us, and she is happy to have her back. Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the hiring of McKenzie Dixon, COTA. Dr. Pat Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0.

Mrs. Lenger stated she is filling a position at Journeys and that she moved to a different program because their numbers were down. She mentioned she has placed several students at Journeys and is now in need of another paraprofessional. She informed the board that Isabel is the sister to Alyssa Montano, who is currently a paraprofessional with us. Dr. Pat Anderson moved to approve the hiring of Isabel Montano, Paraprofessional. Dr. Kevin Bowman seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0.

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that Kim Green is a former employee and will fill a position in the transition program. Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the hiring of Kim Green, Paraprofessional. Mr. Rob Miller seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Pat Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 am. Dr. Jill Griffin seconded. Motion carried with Members Voting, Aye-4, Nay-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Region III Executive Board will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Wieckhorst, Administrative Assistant

Dr. Kevin Bowman, Chairperson