

**REGION III SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
EXECUTIVE MEETING
October 15, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson, at 10:11 pm. Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Dr. Kevin Bowman, Dr. Jill Griffin, Mrs. Nancy Werden, Mr. Rob Miller

Not in attendance: Dr. Patrick Anderson, Dr. Todd Dugan

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS****Administrators' Training/Institute Day**

Mrs. Lenger reported to the Board that the Administrators' Training held on Thursday, October 9th, at Julia's Banquet Center, and the Institute Day on Friday, October 10th, were both successful.

Dr. Jill Griffin inquired about attendance at the Administrators' Training. Mrs. Lenger noted that attendance was lower than anticipated and stated she is considering including Educational Support Personnel (ESPs) in future sessions to encourage broader participation. She also mentioned that differences in district calendars make it difficult to plan training dates that accommodate everyone. Mrs. Lenger suggested initiating a conversation with the Regional Offices of Education (ROE) for Jersey and Macoupin Counties to explore ways to align district calendars and institute days moving forward. Board members expressed skepticism that this issue could be fully resolved.

Mrs. Lenger also shared with Dr. Bowman that his district's new teacher for the Autism classroom had the opportunity to shadow in Klaudia Taul's classroom during a recent half-day, and that Klaudia plans to visit the new teacher's classroom during her next half-day.

Mrs. Lenger stated she received positive feedback from staff indicating that the Institute Day training was highly relevant to current challenges they are facing. She informed the Board that Angie Darden from Refuge 4 Kids presented on "*Brain Development and Exposure to Adversity*" and was an excellent speaker, particularly for topics related to trauma. In addition, Kim Green, LPC, from Koen Counseling presented on "*Self-Harm.*" The presenter emphasized the importance of discussing self-harm openly with students, identifying their triggers, and developing strategies to support them.

Mrs. Lenger concluded by expressing her hope that staff will feel more confident in assisting students experiencing these challenges.

Region Recognition

Mrs. Lenger reported that she presented a Region Recognition Award to Dr. Kara Williams, Occupational Therapist, for her exceptional understanding of the whole student, her innovative ideas and support, and for developing treatment plans that teachers can effectively implement in the classroom.

Mrs. Lenger also recognized two paraprofessionals, Amber Deford and Cathy Davidson, from East Alton-Wood River High School, upon the recommendation of their classroom teacher, Marcy Tegel. She commended them for their dedication and outstanding support of the nine students in their classroom.

In addition, Mrs. Lenger recognized Kim Colvin, paraprofessional at Journeys, for stepping into the teaching role during the teacher's absence due to a family bereavement. Mrs. Lenger noted that Ms. Colvin did an excellent job and went above and beyond to ensure continuity of instruction and support for the students.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Financial**

Mrs. Lenger provided a budget update, reporting the percentage of funds expended in each area of the budget. She informed the Board that the maintenance grant is scheduled to open tomorrow.

Mrs. Lenger also stated she is exploring options to replace the current Ring doorbell system in use at Journeys, noting that the system has not been functioning consistently and has been an ongoing issue.

Personnel

Mrs. Lenger informed the Board that she interviewed three paraprofessional candidates whom she will be recommending for approval to hire; however, she noted that the program remains short one paraprofessional. She stated that the greatest current concern is the lack of available substitutes, reporting that Andy Allen is the only substitute available and that she is frequently required to shuffle staff to cover absences.

Mrs. Lenger also informed the Board that Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) Jenna Massey will be out on maternity leave. She stated that the position has been posted for the entire year with no applicants, despite multiple outreach efforts and phone calls. Mrs. Lenger asked Board members how their districts are managing speech services. Board members responded that their SLP caseloads are full.

Mrs. Lenger shared that she and Ms. Massey had discussed possible solutions. Ms. Massey noted that during the Institute Day roundtable discussions, district SLPs also expressed that their caseloads were full. She suggested the possibility of hiring another full-time SLP to provide coverage during her leave and offer additional support to districts.

Mrs. Lenger also informed the Board that Bunker Hill is currently contracting with an outside agency for their SLP services. Board members agreed that hiring a full-time SLP would be beneficial and noted that it would be difficult to find a qualified candidate for a temporary or part-time position.

Current Programs

Mrs. Lenger reported that there are currently 54 students enrolled across all programs. She asked the Board if their districts are continuing to experience a large number of new student enrollments. Board members confirmed that they are, noting that they continue to see an influx of students moving into their districts.

FOR DISCUSSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**RBT Training Program**

Mrs. Lenger informed the Board to let her know if any district staff members are interested in completing the Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) program. She stated that the program is now up and running and that four of her staff members have committed to completing it.

Cyclical Monitoring Preparation

Mrs. Lenger shared with the Board that all districts are currently preparing for Cyclical Monitoring, focusing on the Behavior Intervention Policy and Procedures. She reported that she reviewed Bethalto's MTSS manual and informed Jen Weber that the recommended revisions need to be made. Mrs. Lenger also noted that work is underway on the Special Education Procedures Manual, which will now require Board approval once completed.

Resignation

Mrs. Lenger informed the Board that she received a resignation letter from paraprofessional Lily Kolesa via email over the weekend. The resignation was submitted due to unforeseen family circumstances.

LEA Determination Letters

Mrs. Lenger informed the Board that all Local Education Agency (LEA) Determination Letters have been sent out.

She reported that all districts met the required criteria except Bethalto, which did not meet due to its graduation rate.

Mrs. Lenger shared that the area that typically presents challenges for districts is Early Childhood Services, primarily due to students being pulled from the classroom for related services. She recommended that related service providers utilize a push-in model for treatment to better support students within the classroom environment.

Administrative Outreach Claims

Mrs. Lenger provided the Board with the amounts for their administrative outreach claims. She noted that Katie has been working closely with the districts on Medicaid billing to ensure that districts are receiving reimbursement for all eligible services.

CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the consent agenda, including the bills and regular board minutes. Mrs. Nancy Werden seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0.

Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to approve the employment of Rachael Randall, Paraprofessional. Mrs. Nancy Werden seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0. Motion carried.

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the employment of Sarah Stover, Paraprofessional. Mrs. Nancy Werden seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0. Motion carried.

Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to approve the employment of Brittany Wahl, Paraprofessional. Mrs. Nancy Werden seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 4-0. Motion carried.

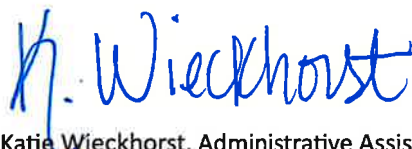
ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 am. Mrs. Nancy Werden 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, November 19, 2025, at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Katie Wieckhorst, Administrative Assistant



Dr. Rob Miller, Chairperson