

**REGION III SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
EXECUTIVE MEETING
December 17, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson, at 10:06 am. Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Dr. Kevin Bowman, Dr. Patrick Anderson, Dr. Jill Griffin, Mr. Rob Miller, Dr. Todd Dugan

Not in attendance: Mrs. Nancy Werden

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Adopt-A-Family

Mrs. Lenger shared with the Board that the Adopt-A-Family program this year served 28 families, totaling 48 children within those families.

Art Gallery and Pictures with Santa

Mrs. Lenger informed the Board that the Art Gallery event was held again this year on December 11, 2025, at the East Alton Wood River High School Student Success Center. Mrs. Lenger thanked Mr. Miller for hosting the event. She reported that the event was well attended, with two former students in attendance as well. She also noted that Santa and the Grinch were present at the event.

Region Recognition

Mrs. Lenger reported that she recently presented Region Recognition Awards to several individuals. She recognized Mary Beth Paul for spearheading the Boost Groceries Project, which provided families with groceries and other essential supplies. Mrs. Lenger also recognized Leah Crook, paraprofessional at Bethalto East, for her growth and dedication in her role. Mrs. Lenger shared that she initially hired Ms. Crook when she first became director, but Ms. Crook did not complete her probationary period at that time. Ms. Crook reapplied three years ago and has since worked diligently to become one of the Region's top paraprofessionals.

Mrs. Lenger also recognized Kristy Duckels, Vision Itinerant, for her dedication to students. Mrs. Duckels supports a student from the O'Fallon School District who needed to attend a free vision clinic in Jacksonville. Due to the student's mother being disabled and unable to drive, Mrs. Duckels, who resides in Carlinville, traveled to O'Fallon to pick up the student and parent, transported them to the clinic for a 9:00 a.m. appointment, and then returned them home. Mrs. Lenger noted that Mrs. Duckels is currently in the process of organizing a vision clinic for local students at the Region office in January.

Mrs. Lenger also recognized Alyssa Montano, a former paraprofessional who recently earned her teaching credentials and now serves as the teacher in the Journey to Success classroom. Mrs. Lenger reported that Ms. Montano is doing an excellent job, along with her paraprofessional, Kim Green.

Journeys School Graduate

Mrs. Lenger informed the Board that a Southwestern student graduated in December and became the program's 56th graduate.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Financial

Mrs. Lenger provided a budget update, reporting the percentage of funds expended in each area of the budget.

Personnel

Mrs. Lenger informed the Board that she is continuing efforts to hire several paraprofessionals. She also shared that Nicky Clowers, a teacher at Lewis and Clark Elementary, worked last Friday and delivered her twin babies this past Monday. Mrs. Lenger reported that she was unsuccessful in filling Ms. Clowers' maternity leave position and is continuing to work on securing coverage, as it is a high-needs classroom.

Current Programs

Mrs. Lenger reported that there are currently 56 students enrolled across all programs. She noted a possible incoming student from Wood River–Hartford and one new student scheduled to begin in the Journey to Success program in January from East Alton–Wood River High School. Mrs. Lenger stated that she recently met with coordinators to discuss program needs for the upcoming school year. She reported higher enrollment at the elementary level, specifically in grades 2–5, for both the Autism and Behavioral Disorder (BD) classrooms. Mrs. Lenger shared that she is planning to split the BD classroom and teaching staff for next year and is currently working to identify a location for the second classroom.

FOR DISCUSSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

RBT Training Program

Mrs. Lenger informed the Board that the Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) program is fully operational and progressing well. She reported that Region III currently has three paraprofessionals, and Bethalto has two paraprofessionals enrolled in the RBT training program. Mrs. Lenger also stated that Genevieve is currently supervising certified RBTs, including two from Region III—one assigned to Journeys School and one to Bethalto East—three from Bethalto, one from Bunker Hill, and one from East Alton–Wood River High School.

Cyclical Monitoring Preparation

Mrs. Lenger shared with the Board that the cyclical monitoring process is ongoing. She informed Dr. Todd Dugan and Dr. Jill Griffin that she will consult with their special education coordinators regarding their Behavior Intervention Policies and Procedures.

Behavior Intervention Policy and Procedures, Second Reading

Mrs. Lenger asked the Board if there were any questions regarding her Behavior Intervention Policy and Procedures and informed the Board that approval of Region III's policy would be requested during the action items portion of the meeting.

Special Education Procedures, Second Reading

Mrs. Lenger stated that she will be requesting Board approval of the Special Education Procedures Manual during the action items portion of the meeting and that all districts will utilize the manual.

Journeys School Building Update

Mrs. Lenger provided the Board with an update on the building. She reported ongoing roof leaks that have persisted for approximately one year. The repair work was originally scheduled to begin on August 1, 2025; however, the project was delayed due to an issue involving an Ameren utility line attached to the building that must be relocated. Mrs. Lenger explained that the church and Ameren are currently disputing responsibility for moving the line. In the interim, additional snowfall and subsequent melting have caused further leaking, resulting in a portion of the hallway ceiling collapsing onto the floor last week. Kim initially cleaned up the affected area. Mrs. Lenger noted that the church has been responsive and has selected a new company to complete the school-side roof repairs, which are expected to begin as soon as possible.

FY 26 Maintenance Grant

Mrs. Lenger informed the Board that she will be seeking approval to complete an application for a maintenance grant. She reported that two companies inspected the roof, which is over 25 years old and has venting issues. Darr Roofing provided an estimate of \$19,880, and Eagle Home Improvement's estimate was \$21,864. Mrs. Lenger stated that Darr Roofing appears to be a highly reputable company and is the company the church plans to use to replace the roof at Journeys School.

Mrs. Lenger also noted that Journeys School requires an updated door access system to replace the current Ring system, with a cost of \$5,602. Additionally, she shared that a company provided a bid of \$12,180 to replace ceiling tiles, which are sagging, stained, and in poor condition. Using the Darr Roofing bid, the total estimated cost for these improvements is \$37,762. Mrs. Lenger provided the Board with a breakdown of the total costs by district.

FY 26 Excess Cost Application

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that the FY 26 Excess Cost Application is due January 15, 2026.

Alternate Assessment-Justification and Assurances Survey

Mrs. Lenger shared with the Board that all districts, regardless of whether they use the DLM, are required to complete a survey opening on February 13, 2026, and submit a Justification and Assurance form. She stated that she will provide reminders to ensure all necessary steps are completed.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Rob Miller moved to enter into a closed session at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Kevin Bowman seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried. Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to come out of the closed session at 10:39 a.m. Dr. Jill Griffin seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Todd Dugan moved to approve the consent agenda, including the bills, regular board minutes, and closed session minutes. Dr. Pat Anderson seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0.

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the Maintenance Grant FY26 application completion. Dr. Todd Dugan seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried.

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the Behavior Interventions Policies and Procedures Manual. Dr. Kevin Bowman seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried.

Dr. Todd Dugan moved to approve the Region III Cooperative Special Education Procedures Manual. Dr. Kevin Bowman seconded. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 am. Dr. Kevin Bowman seconded. Motion carried with Members Voting, Aye-5, Nay-0.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Region III Executive Board will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Katie Wieckhorst, Administrative Assistant



Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson