

**REGION III SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE  
EXECUTIVE MEETING  
January 21, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

**Not in attendance:** Dr. Todd Dugan

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Low Vision Clinic**

Mrs. Lenger informed the Board that Region III is hosting a Low Vision Clinic that will be held at the Region III office on January 28 to improve accessibility for nine local students. The clinic is being organized by Kristy Duckles, Vision Itinerant Teacher, who typically travels to Jacksonville with students to attend the Low Vision Clinic. Hosting the clinic locally will significantly reduce travel time and burden for students and families while better supporting the needs of our local students.

**IAASE Winter Conference**

Mrs. Lenger shared with the Board that the IAASE Winter Conference is scheduled for February 26–27 in Champaign. She mentioned that she and the coordinators plan to stay in a rented house to reduce lodging expenses. Mrs. Lenger stated the conference is both a team-building experience as well as a professional development opportunity.

**Region Recognition**

Mrs. Lenger reported that she recently presented Region Recognition Awards for December. Mrs. Lenger praised Kim Hood for being a wonderful educator and providing exceptional support to staff, parents, and students. Her dedication and responsiveness are greatly appreciated.

Genevieve Schuh was recognized for effectively managing her professional responsibilities while navigating personal challenges resulting from a house fire. Her perseverance and professionalism were commended. Mrs. Lenger noted that Genevieve continues to uphold the principles of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), demonstrating flexibility, resilience, and value-driven action even during times of adversity.

Mrs. Lenger shared that she received an email from a former student, now a junior at East Alton–Wood River High School, reporting that they made the honor roll for the first time. Mrs. Lenger highlighted the student's continued progress, noting that they are now excelling both academically and socially. The student's growth was attributed to sustained support, consistency, and targeted interventions provided during their time in the program. Mrs. Lenger celebrated with the student with a lunch visit.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Financial**

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

**Personnel**

Mrs. Lenger informed the Board that she is continuing her efforts to hire a paraprofessional to have on staff as a permanent substitute.

### **Current Programs**

Mrs. Lenger reported that there are currently 56 students enrolled across all programs. She stated a new student was just placed in the elementary behavior classroom replacing a student who returned to their home district. Mrs. Lenger presented the board the proposed needs for next year after recently meeting with coordinators.

### **Expansion of Behavior and Autism Classrooms**

- The Bethalto East Autism classroom will open with five students, an increase from four students currently enrolled.
- The Lewis and Clark Autism classroom will begin the school year with five students, including returning students who are advancing grades and newly placed students.
- The Lewis and Clark elementary behavior classroom is projected to begin with eight students. To better support student needs, the program will be divided into two smaller classrooms, each staffed by one teacher.
- Due to space constraints at Lewis and Clark Elementary, Mrs. Lenger proposed the relocation of the autism classroom. Alternative locations under consideration include Bethalto and potentially Bunker Hill.
- Lewis and Clark Junior High behavior classroom would start with five students.
- The East Alton Middle School classroom will open with eight students, up from seven. Plans include splitting the classroom to improve management and provide more individualized support. Mrs. Lenger proposed moving the additional classroom to Lewis and Clark Junior High to support students with Autism. This would require hiring an additional teacher.
- The high school special education program will begin with six students, reflecting current enrollment and identified support needs.

### **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 new paraprofessionals in the program. Upon completion of the program, Region III will have a total of five RBTs. Mrs. Lenger stated that Genevieve is currently supervising certified RBTs which consists of 5% of their time working with students. Mrs. Lenger informed the board that the next step is working with coordinators to add the RBTs to student's IEPs as a service and bill Medicaid for the services they are providing.

#### **Cyclical Monitoring Preparation**

Mrs. Lenger shared with the Board that the cyclical monitoring process is focusing on the district's completion of their Behavior Intervention Policy and Procedures. Mrs. Lenger mentioned to Dr. Jill Griffin that she will consult with Jen Weber regarding the completion of their Behavior Intervention Policies and Procedures, which has to be approved by their board.

#### **Special Education Procedures Manual**

Mrs. Lenger informed the Board that she shared the Special Education Procedures Manual with the coordinators and it needs to be posted or linked to their website.

#### **Journeys School Building Update**

Mrs. Lenger provided the Board with an update on the Journeys School building. She reported that the church has hired Darr Roofing to replace the roof and they plan to start as soon as possible, weather permitting.

#### **FY 26 Maintenance Grant**

Mrs. Lenger informed the Board that the FY26 Maintenance Grant has been approved. She reported that she is

currently coordinating with contractors to schedule the work so that project activities can begin in a timely manner.

**FY 26 Excess Cost Application**

Mrs. Lenger informed the board that the FY 26 Excess Cost Application due date was extended to March 16, 2026.

**FY 25 Special Education Reimbursement Level**

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Rob Miller moved to enter into a closed session at 10:36 a.m. Dr. Pat Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried. Dr. Pat Anderson moved to come out of the closed session at 10:47 a.m. Mrs. Nancy Werden seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS**

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

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the employment of Autumn Greenberg, Paraprofessional. Mrs. Nancy Werden seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried.

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the employment of Kaylie Stahlhut, Paraprofessional. Mrs. Nancy Werden seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried.

Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to approve the closed board meeting minutes from July 2025 to December 2025 stay closed. Mrs. Nancy Werden seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried.

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve the additional certified teaching position for 2026-2027 school year. Mrs. Nancy Werden seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting, Yes, 5-0. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Pat Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 am. Mrs. Nancy Werden 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, February 18, 2026, at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Katie Wieckhorst, Administrative Assistant



Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson