REGION III SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
August 26, 2026

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson, at 6:16 pm. Roll call was as follows:

Present: Dr. Kevin Bowman, and Dr. Pat Anderson, Dr. Jill Griffin, Mrs. Kelli Decker, Mr. Rob Miller, Dr. Todd Dugan

Not Present:

Visitors: Mr. Todd Meiser, Bethalto Board Member, Mr. Logan Sims, East Alton Board Member, Mrs. Kristen Burns, East Alton Wood River High School Board Member, Mrs. Julie Fulton and Jennifer Daniel, Bunker Hill Board Member, Mrs. Donna Loy, Southwestern Board Member, and Mr. Steve Scroggins, Wood River Hartford Board Member.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There were no visitors with public comments.

FINANCIAL
Mrs. Lenger presented the FY27 budget and explained that the budget is divided into three areas: the tuition budget, the administrative budget, and the in-service budget funded through IDEA.

The total FY27 budget is $3,461,568.

The tuition budget includes salaries and benefits, purchased services, supplies, and materials. Mrs. Lenger reported that the tuition budget increased this year due to the addition of two classrooms and the hiring of teachers to staff those classrooms. The paraprofessionals increased from 17 in the previous year to 23 for the current school year.

Mrs. Lenger noted that enrollment increased from 55 students at the end of the previous school year to 61 students within the first eight days of the current school year. She expressed appreciation for the additional classroom space and staff available to support students from participating districts.

The district also added an interpreter to meet the needs of a student requiring interpreter services and added a speech therapist, bringing the total number of speech therapists to three. The total FY27 tuition budget is $3,056,029.

The administrative budget includes salaries for Mrs. Lenger, Katie Wieckhorst, Administrative Assistant, and Melinda Kroeger, Bookkeeper, as well as purchased services, supplies, and materials. The total administrative budget is $371,227.

Mrs. Lenger explained that the in-service budget represents 2% of the IDEA grants requested from each participating district. A breakdown by district was provided in the budget materials. The total FY27 in-service budget is $34,311.22.

Mrs. Lenger reviewed the budget comparison from the previous year. The tuition budget increased by approximately 22%, primarily due to the addition of classrooms and staff. The administrative budget decreased by slightly more than 3%, while the in-service budget decreased by less than 1%. Overall, the district's FY27 budget increased by approximately 19% from the previous year.

ADJOURNMENT
Dr. Todd Dugan moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm. Dr. Pat Anderson Seconded. Motion carried with Members Voting, Aye-6, Nay-0.

Respectfully submitted,
KWieckhorst
Katie Wieckhorst, Board Secretary

Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson