REGION III SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
EXECUTIVE MEETING
September 16, 2026

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Dr. Patrick Anderson at 10:09 am. Roll Call was as follows:

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

Not in attendance: Mrs. Kelli Decker, Mr. Rob Miller

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
Marcy Tegel's Classroom Project, Sensory Bags for Local First Responders
Mrs. Lenger shared with the board that Marcy Tegel, a Region III teacher at East Alton-Wood River High School, is putting together sensory bags for the East Alton and Wood River Police Departments to use when responding to individuals with autism or other disabilities. Most of the supplies have been donated, and she is working with a student leadership group to help with the project. They are also looking into expanding the project to police departments in our other member districts. There has also been some discussion about providing training to police officers on working with individuals with disabilities.

Region Recognition
Mrs. Lenger stated that there are several new staff members this year, things are going well, and staff is working together as a team. The training and focus on teamwork and communication at the beginning of the school year have made a positive difference.

This month's Region Recognition included paraprofessionals Amanda DeFord, Cathy Davidson, Tiffany Hubbard, and Timpani Treat-Puckett at East Alton-Wood River High School for their hard work and dedication to students. Ty Suhre, Sarah Stover, and Kim Colvin at Lewis and Clark Junior High were also recognized for their teamwork. In addition, bus driver Jerry Brim and bus rider Megan McCann with the Bethalto School District were recognized for their patience, kindness, and support when working with a student with challenging needs.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Financial
Mrs. Lenger reported that the expenses are going as expected, with some additional supply costs due to the new classrooms.

Personnel
Mrs. Lenger shared that staff are working very hard with full classrooms and ongoing transportation challenges. Transportation schedules have made it difficult for teachers and paraprofessionals to have planning and meeting time during the school day. Staff are doing their best to keep up with their responsibilities, often working through breaks or staying after school.

Transportation continues to be a concern despite ongoing discussions with district transportation departments. Dr. Griffin discussed transportation funding shortages and the impact on district budgets. Dr. Dugan also shared concerns regarding potential state and federal funding cuts and their impact on schools.

Mrs. Lenger noted that additional support is being provided to classrooms as needed, including some paraprofessionals working extra time to help teachers catch up on paperwork and other responsibilities.

Current Programs
Mrs. Lenger reported that Region III programs currently have 63 students, compared to 55 at the end of last school year. Discussions have begun with district coordinators regarding the possibility of transitioning some students back to their home districts mid-year. Coordinators have been observing students and considering possible transitions.

Legal Update
Mrs. Lenger provided the Board with a legal update from the Cooperative's attorney's office for review. She briefly discussed the new parent notification requirement before administratively withdrawing truant students. She will also be attending a Lunch and Learn presentation covering the legal updates and will share any additional information with the Board as needed.

FOR DISCUSSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
FY 27 Cyclical Monitoring
Mrs. Lenger reported that cyclical monitoring is underway. All member districts have submitted their team members, and some have already scheduled team meetings. She has also met with district staff to review the required documentation and prepare for the monitoring process.

Press Policy Update 122, Second Reading
Mrs. Lenger presented PRESS Policy 122 for a second reading and recommended keeping the time limit at five minutes under Policy 2:230, as discussed at the previous meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS
Dr. Todd Dugan moved to approve the consent agenda, including the bills, regular board minutes, public hearing meeting minutes, and the governing board meeting minutes. Dr. Jill Griffin seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting: Yes, 4-0. Motion carried.

Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to approve the updated classroom lease agreement with East Alton School District. Dr. Todd Dugan seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting: Yes, 4-0.

Dr. Jill Griffin moved to approve Press Policy 122 as presented, with the time limit to remain at 5 minutes during public comment. Dr. Kevin Bowman seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting: Yes, 4-0.

Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to approve the employment of non-certified staff Ashton Peacock, paraprofessional, at Parkside School. Dr. Jill Griffin seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with Members Voting: Yes, 4-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT
Dr. Kevin Bowman moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 am. Dr. Patrick Anderson seconded. Motion carried Members Voting: Aye-4, Nay-0.

NEXT MEETING
The next meeting for the Region III Executive Board will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wieckhorst

Katie Wieckhorst, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Rob Miller, Chairperson