

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board Agenda
Wednesday, May 27, 2026
Generated by Raina George

1. Meeting Opening:

A. Call Board Meeting to Order:

The Board meeting of the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board was called to order by Mr. Paul Mangione, Vice-President, at 5:45 p.m.

B. Roll Call:

Present were: Kristy Bolte (NW); Paul Mangione (WC); Joseph Meka (GR); Fran New (FV); George Roberts (GM); Tammy Silvis (CC); Randy Styborski (PC); Scott Taylor (FLB); David Vrenna (HC); Ed Williamson (CN); Gary Winschel (MC)

Absent were: Dr. Jane Blystone (NE); Gwendolyn Cooley (EC); Amanda Cox (CR); Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB); Jennifer Sheldon (IR); Kimberlee Thomas (UC)

Present from the Intermediate Unit Leadership Team: Brad Whitman, Executive Director; Sally Daehnke; Becca Kelley; Amanda Porter; Kirk Shimshock

Also present: Solicitor Pat Kennedy

C. Moment of Silence: Mr. Mangione asked those in attendance to stand for a moment of silence.

D. Pledge to the Flag: Mr. Mangione led everyone present in the Pledge to the Flag.

E. Recognition of PSEA: Mr. Mangione recognized all PSEA Representatives.

F. Recognition of Visitors: Mr. Mangione welcomed all visitors in attendance.

2. Reports:

A. Executive Director (Mr. Brad Whitman):

IU5

[teenTALK Report](#)

Early Intervention

- Continued collaboration with Infant Toddler EI to support transition of services between agencies when children turn three years old- working on annual transition plans.
- Coordinating office move and secure leased spaces (Rolling Ridge Elementary, Blessed Sacrament, Greene TWP, Emerson Gridley)- working with community/district partners, ITS, Finance and EI staff.
- Early Intervention Tri- County Day- collaboration with finance director to roll out new EI purchase order process- provided time to review, ask questions and collaborate with other EI staff.
- The 2025-2026 Early Intervention Family Survey will be available from January 5, 2026, and will close on May 31, 2026.

Federal and State Programs

- In 58 years, the first PAFPC PA Association of Federal Programs Coordinators Conference took place at the Erie Convention Center last week. Over 500 attendees participated from across the state to learn more about grant compliance and how to best utilize their federal funding within their districts.
- The SUN Meal Program will officially begin on Monday, June 8th and will run for 10 weeks ending August 14.
- The Adult Education Program will be celebrating an all-time record of 32 GED graduates on Thursday, June 18th at the Pogue Center on PennWest's Campus.

Financial Services

- Provide structured leadership in budgeting and financial oversight through recurring budget and office meetings.
- Actively engaged in system and process discussions (eFinance, operations) to improve efficiency and staff capacity.

Innovative Technology Solutions (ITS)

- Staff members created a mural for the PDE Mental Health Symposium. The project centered around the theme 'Everyone Deserves a Voice' and incorporated positive affirmations, inclusion, and student perspectives. It was an outstanding example of creativity, accessibility, and student-centered engagement.
- ITS finalized development of a new Assessment Dashboard that will soon be piloted with Superintendents. The dashboard is designed to help curriculum leaders and districts analyze historical assessment trends and make more informed instructional decisions to improve future student performance.

- The department continued significant infrastructure modernization efforts through the migration from VMware to Scale Computing. This project will improve long-term reliability, simplify infrastructure management, and support more cost-effective operations moving forward.

School Improvement Services

- 26 Area administrators received 59.75 Act 45 hours for the Area Collaborative initiative for the following meetings held in April: Superintendent Advisory Council, Charter School Council, Curriculum Directors Council, and School Improvement Networking.
- IU5 partnered with the Erie County Technical School on the first highly successful PDE Career Ready PA Regional Mega Event.
 - https://www.erienewsnow.com/news/local/learning-technical-skills-at-erie-county-technical-school/article_b09c6a11-603e-4aaa-bc86-511b7c03f2e7.html
- PoweredOn - 81.75 Act 48 hours were awarded to 25 different individuals for 45 courses taken in April 2026.
- Several local districts, along with IU 5, participated in the PennWest Educational Advisory Council.
- Sara Palec, from Conneaut Middle School, was awarded the Middle School Innovation Grant to support the Career Ready Liaisons for the 26-27 school year.
- The IU facilitated our 3rd session in a series for the Principal Leadership Network. The session focused on Root Cause Analysis for school improvement planning and provided school leaders with tools, resources, and collaborative planning time to continue working with their school leadership teams.
- The STEM Design Challenge 2026 was held on April 13 & 14
 - 10 schools with 139 total students participated in 4th - 8th grade
 - 8 judges from the NWP STEM Ecosystem and 6 judges from the IU5 CIA staff
 - Day 1: Grades 4 & 5 Winners
 - 1st - Mill Village Elem Table 27 (23.5 points)
 - 2nd - Eisenhower Elem Table 20 (23 points)
 - 3rd - Sheffield Elem Table 12 (22.5 points)
 - Most Creative - Youngsville Elementary Table 26 (22 points)
 - Day 2: Grades 6-8 Winners
 - 1st - Beaty-Warren MS Table 12 (24 points)
 - 2nd - Beaty-Warren MS Table 3 (23.5 points)
 - 3rd - Fairview MS Table 1 (23 points)
 - Most Creative - Eisenhower MS Table 9 (20.5 points)

Special Education

- One of our students in the transition classroom at the vo-tech took part in the Meadville Arbor Day activities. Our classroom works with Danuta Majschrowicz on beautification in the Meadville area. They took part in the Arbor Day activities and are on YouTube. If you are interested in checking it out, go to YouTube Meadville Arbor Day. Proud of our students! [Meadville Arbor Day Celebration 2026](#)
- PSSA and Keystone testing have officially concluded. The shift to online testing has made coordination much easier. Our staff tests students attending our institution.
- May 6th was our annual meeting for non-public schools. This is a joint meeting that includes Act 89 and Equitable Participation.
- In Elect, we have served 79 students this year. The number of students served has shown a steady decline over the past three years.
- The Elect program was awarded a grant. The funds will be used to purchase additional baby supplies for the families and family photos.
- We are servicing 241 students across our classrooms and institutions.

State

Hundreds Of Kids In Limbo, As PA's Largest Cyber Charter Sues To Challenge 'Habitually Truant' Student Law Six months have passed since the Pennsylvania legislature barred habitually truant students from being able to transfer to a cyber charter school. The change was one of several new requirements for cyber charter schools, which also saw a roughly 20% cut in annual funding. The change has prevented hundreds of students from enrolling in a cyber charter school and hundreds more are caught up in a legal battle over whether they should be admitted. The students who have been turned away represent tens of millions of dollars held by local schools and kept from cybers. State law defines students with six or more unexcused absences as being habitually truant.

Read the rest of the story: ["Hundreds Of Kids in Limbo, As PA's Largest Cyber Charter Sues To Challenge 'Habitually Truant Student Law" \(Pennlive, 5-14-26\)](#)

Shapiro signs Greg Moyer's Law to require CPR training, AEDs for scholastic athletics Pennsylvania schools are now required to offer CPR training to staff and have an automated external defibrillator at all PIAA events. These provisions are part of Senate Bill 375, signed into law Wednesday by Gov. Josh Shapiro (D) [Read More](#)

PA House Education Committee Advance School Cellphone Bill Ahead Of Budget Negotiations Lawmakers are inching toward finalizing a bell-to-bell cellphone ban in Pennsylvania schools. After the Republican-controlled Senate approved their version of the bill in February, members of the House Education Committee opted to pass an amended version of the legislation on Tuesday.

Read the rest of the story: ["PA House Education Committee Advance School Cellphone Bill Ahead Of Budget Negotiations" \(NPR, 4-29-26\)](#)

PA House Passes Bill To Set Social Media Literacy Standards For Pennsylvania Students House lawmakers in Pennsylvania on Monday passed legislation aimed at creating statewide standards for social media literacy, seeking to teach students about both the benefits and risks of using digital platforms and smartphones. The bill does not mandate a specific curriculum but directs the Pennsylvania State Board of Education to develop materials that help students better understand how they interact with technology and how it can affect their well-being, both positively and negatively.

Read the rest of the story: ["PA House Passes Bill To Set Social Media Literacy Standards For Pennsylvania Students" \(WGAL, 4-27-26\)](#)

PA House passes bill allowing PIAA to split public, private playoffs The bill, sponsored by Rep. Scott Conklin (D-Centre) amends the Public School Code of 1949 to add a section on playoffs and championships to include: "The association may establish separate playoffs and championships for athletics for boundary schools and nonboundary schools." [Read More](#)

These Parents Want Their Kids To Have Less Screen Time In School. Some Districts Around Pittsburgh Are Listening Pennsylvania school districts invested millions of dollars in laptops and iPads during the pandemic so students could continue their education remotely. But changes are coming to how those devices are used. Canon-McMillan School District next year will eliminate the use of Chromebooks for students from kindergarten through second grade. And a group of parents from Pennsylvania is advocating for statewide changes that would require students to put some of those computers away to limit the amount of screen time kids have in schools.

Read the rest of the story: ["These Parents Want Their Kids To Have Less Screen Time In School. Some Districts Around Pittsburgh Are Listening"](#) (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 5-6-26)

Federal

Feds Proceed With \$5.6M Special Education Spending Study A long anticipated national study of special education spending by the U.S. Department of Education is taking its first step by asking for clearance from the White House's Office of Management and Budget to begin its work, according to a notice planned for publication in the Federal Register on Monday. The \$5.6 million National Study of Special Education Spending, first announced three years ago by the Education Department under the Biden administration, seeks to give policymakers and special education administrators an updated picture of what influences special education spending under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Read the rest of the story: ["Feds Proceed With \\$5.6M Special Education Spending Study"](#) (K-12 Dive, 5-1-26)

National News: Schools have another year to make websites accessible. Why that matters The regulations under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act were set to take effect April 24 for public agencies, including school districts, serving communities with more than 50,000 people. The deadline for smaller agencies and districts was originally set for April 2027 and has been delayed to 2028. [Read more](#)

FCC Finalizes New E Rate Bidding Portal Last week, the FCC adopted a new, centralized bidding portal that will change how districts manage the E Rate application process beginning in Program Year 2028 (July 1, 2027). AASA took significant steps to engage with the FCC and push back on specific elements of the proposal, detailed on [The Leading Edge blog](#). While the portal as adopted reflects some of the changes we asked for, it still represents a redundant element of the application process that will only increase administrative burden for E-Rate applicants.

A Cyberattack on Canvas Could Cause Lasting Aftershocks for Schools A cyberattack on the company that owns the Canvas learning management system—used by K-12 schools and universities across the United States—has potentially put data from millions of students and teachers at risk. It's a substantial cyberattack that has echoes of the 2024 PowerSchool breach, said Doug Levin, the co-founder and director of K12 Security Information Exchange, a nonprofit focused on helping K-12 schools prevent cyberattacks.

Read the rest of the story: ["A Cyberattack on Canvas Could Cause Lasting Aftershocks for Schools"](#) (EducationWeek, 5-8-26)

Educators: Why are you thinking of leaving the field? School's (almost) out for summer. When it comes time to throw open campus doors for the new school year in the fall, research tells us one out of every seven teachers won't be returning — either because they moved schools or left the profession entirely. But when the going gets tough, teachers don't necessarily want to leave. Even when they're burned out, they still love what they do. So, the concerning data throughout the country tells a story about how stark the conditions of the teacher workforce are. In Wisconsin, for instance, teachers say they are exiting the profession at the highest rate in 25 years thanks to a range of issues, from poor leadership to safety concerns like students bringing guns to school.

Read the rest of the story: ["Educators: Why Are You Thinking Of Leaving The Field?"](#) (EdSurge, 5-3-26)

Why some schools are cutting back on the technology they spent billions on at least a dozen states have proposed or adopted policies to curb screen time, such as time limits and allowing families to opt out of virtual instruction. [Read More](#)

Quote:

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader." — John Quincy Adams

B. Solicitor (Mr. Timothy Wachter): Ms. Pat Kennedy had nothing formal to report.

Mr. Mangione reported that the Board of Directors met in Executive Session to discuss the Executive Director Evaluation.

C. Executive Committee (Dr. Andrew Pushchak): Mr. Mangione reported that the Executive Committee met on May 20, 2026, at 10:00 am to review the board agenda. Dr. Jane Blystone, Mr. Paul Mangione, and Dr. Andrew Pushchak were present.

D. Budget & Audit Committee (Mr. Paul Mangione): Mr. Mangione, Chairperson, reported that the Budget & Audit Committee met on May 27, 2026 at 5:325 pm. Mr. Mangione reported that all 3 items discussed are on the agenda for approval.

E. Personnel Committee (Dr. Jane Blystone): Mrs. Daehnke reported that the Personnel Committee met on May 27, 2026 at 5:25 pm. Mrs. Daehnke reported that all items discussed are on the agenda for approval.

F. Policy Committee (Mrs. Fran New): Mrs. New, Chairperson, reported that the Policy Development Committee met on May 27, 2026 at 5:25 pm. There are no policies for review.

G. Nominations Committee (Mrs. Kristy Bolte): Mrs. Bolte reported that the Nominations Committee met on May 27, 2026 at 5:25 pm. Mrs. Bolte reported that the consensus of the committee is to recommend Dr. Andrew Pushchak for

Board President and Mr. Paul Mangione for Board Vice-President. In accordance with policy, the nominated slate will be presented to the board for approval, and the board will vote in June.

It was moved by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Williamson to approve the slate of nominations for the 2026-27 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Minutes:

It was moved by Mr. Williamson and seconded by Mr. Roberts to approve Minutes from the April 22, 2026, IU Board of Directors Meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. IU5 Board Solicitor Appointment:

It was moved by Mr. Williamson and seconded by Mrs. Bolte to approve IU5 Board Solicitor Appointment as presented.

A. Appointment of Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) absent; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Amanda Cox (CR) absent; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) absent; George Roberts (GM) yes; Jennifer Sheldon (IR) absent; Tammy Silvis (CC) yes; Randy Styborski (PC) yes; Scott Taylor (FL) yes; Kimberlee Thomas UC) absent; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Ed Williamson (CN) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

5. Financial Items (Mr. Paul Mangione):

It was moved by Mr. Mangione and seconded by Mr. Williamson to approve Financial Items 5A-5G as presented.

A. Treasurer's Report for April 30, 2026

B. Investment Report for April 30, 2026

C. April 2026 Monthly Revenue Board Report

D. April 2026 Monthly Expense Board Report

E. PNC Easy Procure Payments as of April 25, 2026

F. Approval of Bills

G. Sidewalk Repair

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) absent; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Amanda Cox (CR) absent; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) absent; George Roberts (GM) yes; Jennifer Sheldon (IR) absent; Tammy Silvis (CC) yes; Randy Styborski (PC) yes; Scott Taylor (FL) yes; Kimberlee Thomas UC) absent; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Ed Williamson (CN) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

6. Personnel Items (Dr. Jane Blystone):

It was moved by Mr. Mangione and seconded by Mrs. Bolte to approve Personnel Items 6A-6D as presented.

A. Resignations

B. Job Descriptions

C. Employment of Personnel

D. Position Additions and Changes

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) absent; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Amanda Cox (CR) absent; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) absent; George Roberts (GM) yes; Jennifer Sheldon (IR) absent; Tammy Silvis (CC) yes; Randy Styborski (PC) yes; Scott Taylor (FL) yes; Kimberlee Thomas UC) absent; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Ed Williamson (CN) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

7. Contracted Payroll:

It was moved by Mrs. Bolte and seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve Personnel Items 7A-7AA as presented.

- A. Timothy J. Dobi
- B. Julie Breitfelder
- C. Kathryn Doubet
- D. Mary Drapcho
- E. Sarah Dwyer
- F. Annette Hotchkiss
- G. Kelly Jaworski
- H. Kelly Jaworski (Clarion County)
- I. Kelly Jaworski (Redbank Valley)
- J. Sara Kilburn
- K. Toni Mazanowski
- L. Toni Mazanowski (St. Benedict Center)
- M. Brittany Nowacki
- N. Janene Pfohl (Franklin Public Library)
- O. Janene Pfohl (Venango County Prison)
- P. Janene Pfohl
- Q. Amahirani Zavala Polina
- R. Amahirani Zavala Polina
- S. Virginia Pollard
- T. Lila Preston
- U. Timothy Scott
- V. Timothy Smith
- W. Christina Skelly
- X. Karen Swager
- Y. Jeffrey Tillich
- Z. Blaine Walp
- AA. Carol Wlodarczyk

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) absent; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Amanda Cox (CR) absent; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) absent; George Roberts (GM) yes; Jennifer Sheldon (IR) absent; Tammy Silvis (CC) yes; Randy Styborski (PC) yes; Scott Taylor (FL) yes; Kimberlee Thomas UC) absent; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Ed Williamson (CN) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

8. Agreements/ Contracts / MOUs:

It was moved by Mrs. Bolte and seconded by Mrs. New to approve Agreements/ Contracts / MOUs 8A-8EE as presented.

- A. Bayfront Convention Center (N&D Symposium)
- B. Central PA Digital Learning Foundation LIEP Contract
- C. Charleroi Area School District MOU
- D. Corry Area School District LIEP Contract
- E. Crawford County Human Services Amendment

- F. Crawford Central School District LIEP Contract
- G. Damian T. Horner, DO
- H. Digital Trust Hub Membership Agreement
- I. Diligent Agreement (BoardDocs)
- J. Erie County Human Services Amendment
- K. First Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding with Law Enforcement (Act 47)
- L. Franklin County Library System MOU
- M. Forest Warren Human Services Early Intervention (EI) Amendment
- N. Gettysburg College 21 Century Community Learning Center MOU
- O. Harborcreek Youth Services Funding Flow-Through Agreement
- P. Hershey Lodge Agreement (SAS Institute)
- Q. Leader Services Agreement
- R. Matthew David Wasielewski, DO
- S. Mercer Area School District LIEP Contract
- T. Nathan M. Moore, DO
- U. Northwestern School District LIEP Contract
- V. PENNCREST School District LIEP Contract
- W. PowerSchool Agreement (eFinance)
- X. PowerSchool Agreement (eFinance Hosting)
- Y. PowerSchool Agreement (Cognos BI Analytics)
- Z. SentinelOne AI SIEM Program
- AA. St. Bonaventure Affiliation Agreement
- BB. Scale Computing, Inc Agreement
- CC. Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel (N&D Symposium)
- DD. The Center for Public Service at Gettysburg College MOU
- EE. Weber Murphy Fox Proposal (Elevator Upgrade)

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) absent; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Amanda Cox (CR) absent; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) absent; George Roberts (GM) yes; Jennifer Sheldon (IR) absent; Tammy Silvis (CC) yes; Randy Styborski (PC) yes; Scott Taylor (FL) yes; Kimberlee Thomas UC) absent; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Ed Williamson (CN) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

9. Service Purchase Contract:

It was moved by Mr. Winschel and seconded by Mrs. Bolte to approve Service Purchase Contracts 9A-9C presented.

- A. Jacoby Transportation SPC 71357
- B. Perseus House SPC 71352
- C. Photographs by DeAnna SPC 71358

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) absent; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Amanda Cox (CR) absent; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) absent; George Roberts (GM) yes; Jennifer Sheldon (IR) absent; Tammy Silvis (CC) yes; Randy Styborski

(PC) yes; Scott Taylor (FL) yes; Kimberlee Thomas UC) absent; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Ed Williamson (CN) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

10. Leases:

It was moved by Mr. Meka and seconded by Mrs. New to approve Leases 10A-10C presented.

- A. Blessed Sacrament Parish Charitable Trust
- B. Erie's Public Schools
- C. Northwestern School District (Amended)

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) absent; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Amanda Cox (CR) absent; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) absent; George Roberts (GM) yes; Jennifer Sheldon (IR) absent; Tammy Silvis (CC) yes; Randy Styborski (PC) yes; Scott Taylor (FL) yes; Kimberlee Thomas UC) absent; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Ed Williamson (CN) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

11. Special Education Plan Assurance:

It was moved by Mrs. Bolte and seconded by Mrs. New to approve Special Education Plan Assurance 11A as presented.

- A. Special Education Plan Assurances 2026-27

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote Dr. Jane Blystone (NE) absent; Kristy Bolte (NW) yes; Gwendolyn Cooley (EC) absent; Amanda Cox (CR) absent; Paul Mangione (WC) yes; Joseph Meka (GR) yes; Fran New (FV) yes; Dr. Andrew Pushchak (WB) absent; George Roberts (GM) yes; Jennifer Sheldon (IR) absent; Tammy Silvis (CC) yes; Randy Styborski (PC) yes; Scott Taylor (FL) yes; Kimberlee Thomas UC) absent; David Vrenna (HC) yes; Ed Williamson (CN) yes; Gary Winschel (MC) yes

12. Other Business:

Mr. Mangione informed everyone the next Board meeting will be held on June 24, 2026.

13. Adjournment:

It was moved by Mrs. Bolte and seconded by Mrs. New to adjourn the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors at 5:58 p.m.



Raina George, Board Secretary