

MINUTES
CARBON LEHIGH INTERMEDIATE UNIT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**CARBON LEHIGH INTERMEDIATE UNIT #21
4210 INDEPENDENCE DRIVE
SCHNECKSVILLE, PA**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023

6:30 P.M.—REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Meeting No. 636

CALL TO ORDER

President George Williams called the six hundredth and thirty sixth meeting of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance followed the Call to Order.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members in Attendance/In-person: Duane Deitrich, Richard Flacco, Jeremy Glaush, Gale Husack, Jennifer Senavaitis, Sherry Haas, Lisa Roth, Emily Gehman, and George Williams. Board Members Absent: Andrene Brown-Nowell, Dr. William Whitney, Anthony DeMarco, Laura McKelvey, and Kenneth Jacoby. Staff: Dr. Gregory Koons, Jeanne Coy, George Husack, Eric Lech, Sean LeDonne, Randy Parry, Jennifer Roselli, Dr. Lisa Schumacher, Dr. Mark Scott, and Kim Talipan. Also in attendance: Sheila Parnell, Supervisor, Special Programs and Services for the Life Skills Presentation; Lea McEllroy, current Life Skills student, and parent, Tammy McEllroy, brother Mason; teacher at Emmaus, Dana Stenroos; School Psychologist, Kelly Theophile; CLIU Life Skills teacher, Corrine Durange; CLIU Life Skills teacher, Trish Lorkowski; Social worker, Jessica Baker; Jonathan Walter, Supervisor, Special Programs and Services; Mark Crenshaw, IT Support; and John Audi, Esq., Solicitor.

President Williams took a moment to note there was an executive session on September 18th beginning at 6 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

AUDIENCE INPUT ON AGENDA

There was no audience input on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 CLIU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

- MOTION: The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors approves the minutes of the September 18, 2023 meeting, as presented.

Moved: Duane Deitrich; Seconded: Lisa Roth; Roll Call Vote: Yes – 9; No – 0; Abstentions – 0; Absent – 5.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Williams shared with the Board that the Carbon Lehigh Special Needs Children’s Foundation basket raffle will begin soon. He also asked that Board members come together to put together a basket and he will be sending out communication on that within the next few days. Dr. Mark Scott told the Board that they will have prefilled tickets available for their convenience.

President Williams also announced that there may be a new facility dog coming to the CLIU!

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

He then noted that the Whitehall-Coplay School District is currently building a new elementary school building. He went on to say that the old elementary school building will then be used for Whitehall-Coplay school district administration in one half and the CLIU will be utilizing the rest of the building. President Williams said he is thrilled with the collaboration with his home Board and the IU.

Lastly, President Williams said CLEA negotiations are underway.

CLIU UPDATE

Dr. Gregory Koons took a moment to recognize all school principals as it is National Principals month; saying he wanted to share his appreciation for all of their leadership. He then also noted that it is National School Bus Safety week, and he thanked Randy Parry, CLIU Director of Transportation, and the transportation staff for all they do to keep students safe on the buses and vans. Dr. Koons told the Board that he shadowed a bus run with Nadine Schmidt and Cheryl Schuler and said he was so happy to be able to participate in the experience.

Dr. Koons told the Board that he and Kim Talipan joined the IU20 for a Joint SAC meeting at IU20 this past Thursday. He said it is nice to take a regional look at all of the innovation happening in our schools.

Lastly, Dr. Koons concluded the meeting by recognizing Dr. Cathy Nelson, CLIU SPS Supervisor, on completing a triathlon. He continued to say that Dr. Nelson had a fear of deep water, and by using her personal motto of "what if I can?", overcame her fears completing the rigorous Ironman 70.3 in Poreč, Croatia.

LIFE SKILLS PRESENTATION

Sheila Parnell, Special Programs and Services Supervisor, presented on the CLIU Life Skills program. The Life Skills program is attended by students grades K through 12+, aging from 5 to 22, that demonstrate difficulty in acquiring academic and functional daily living skills due to cognitive and/or physical disabilities.

Alburtis Elementary, Lower Macungie Middle School, Emmaus High School, LB Morris, and CCTI all house the Life Skills program's classrooms. There are approximately 54 students enrolled from both Carbon and Lehigh Counties. Classrooms have around twelve to fifteen students to one teacher and up to two instructional assistants or paraprofessionals.

The students participate with the general student population, to their greatest extent, and abilities. The students participate in diverse special area classes including art and gym and class, and work on independence as much as possible with the students. The curriculum focuses on functional academics and workplace learning therefore many students participate in the CLIU VIP and Workplace Learning Program. In that program, students are assigned job coaches in the last few years of their schooling and go out into rural community work sites to practice their skills. Independence is also promoted within the classroom, teacher Robert Kirby, has a store set up in his classroom. This allows students to do some shopping, calculate prices, and learn to order items. Mr. Kirby's set up allows for interaction for the students and a lot of practice in a familiar setting. The Life Skills program also provides direct instruction in the areas of reading, math, and science.

The Board then had the pleasure of being introduced to Lea McEllroy, a current Life Skills student, and her amazing entourage of support: her mom, Tammy McEllroy, brother Mason, her teacher at Emmaus, Dana Stenroos, School Psychologist Kelly Theophille, CLIU Life Skills teacher Corrine Durange, CLIU Life Skills teacher Trish Lorkowski, and Social worker Jessica Baker. Lea, a Southern Lehigh student enrolled in the CLIU Life Skills program at Emmaus High School, is in her junior year of school and has been with the IU since she was in 6th grade.

Lea has a strong desire to succeed and participates in many clubs and activities, including Special Olympics, the Unified Sports competition held at Kutztown and attending Camp Moseywood. Ms. McEllroy even took part and won the Miss Amazing pageant! Ms. McEllroy said her current goals include learning about money, math, and reading. Her future goals include learning how to pay bills and getting employed.

LIFE SKILLS PRESENTATION (continued)

Ms. Parnell said Ms. McEllroy is a prime candidate for the VIP/Work Based Learning Program with the ultimate goal being supported employment when she graduates. Thank you to Lea, her mom Tammy, and her support team for attending the meeting.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION/EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES OVERVIEW

Eric Lech, Director of C&I/Ed. Tech, gave an in depth over view of the Curriculum and Instruction/Educational Technologies Department. The department, along with Mr. Lech, consists of ten team members and provides services in nine areas of teaching and learning including: academics, positive learning environments, system conditions, scaffolded supports, Career Ready PA, educational technologies, student programming, professional certifications, and media and communications at CLIU.

In academics, Eric said, learning never stops. The best way that CLIU supports content that is being delivered to classrooms is through content area networking groups. Teachers are brought together from across our districts to talk about their content areas which in turn allows those teachers to dive into sharing strategies that are working within their respective districts. Another level of support is in text dependent analysis. A big portion of the PSSA's is the writing component, and the writing is specifically called the text dependent analysis. The CLIU has a specialized trainer here that provides teachers with support in helping their students become better analyzers. Also relevant to academics, Pennsylvania is implementing new science standards called S.T.E.E.L.S and C&I will be helping implement throughout Carbon and Lehigh counties as well as some STEM teaching and learning workshops. Many districts utilize an assessment tool called the CDT where students will take an assessment that is very similar to a PSSA or Keystone exam, so that they can understand how their students are performing; C&I helps districts analyze and understand the data to better support their students. 46 CPE courses, continuing professional education courses, are offered and approved by PDE to be run through IU's. During the Covid-19 pandemic, CLIU Ready PD, which was an asynchronous, online learning option that is still being built upon for teachers to be able to engage students at any time. Mr. Lech noted that CLIU 21 and CIU 20 were awarded the PA Smart Grant and that has led to being able to provide project-based learning and inquiry learning partnering with the DaVinci Science Center, and the Buck Institute, which is a nationally known evidence-based Institute.

Mr. Lech piggybacked on academics with positive learning environments, saying academics cannot be received if the environment that students are in is not a positive one for them to receive it. The CLIU C&I team has two members that are National School Climate improvement coaches and received that certification through the National School Climate Center. This allows us to help districts really examine their school climate and make improvements that often come from social emotional wellness needs and supporting educator wellness so that they can better help their students. Topics related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are focused on through partnerships. Penn State - Lehigh Valley campus provided one of their directors of equity inclusion and belonging at Penn State Abington wrote a curriculum and offered a series related to those needs for districts.

Mr. Lech noted that he is well versed in system conditions, or looking at the system as a whole and how to support planning and conditions that lead the way to support academics and learning environments. He noted this often comes by way of continuous school improvement. There is a network to support school improvement and the focus of that network is developing data teams and how those data teams support learning in schools. Districts that are identified for school improvement are also supported by creating an evidence-based plan for their school specifically and help in the implementation of that plan by monitoring the progress. Other subsystem condition areas that we support include educator effectiveness. Pennsylvania enacted a new regulation around education induction, so the IU provides support and a professional learning that meets all the requirements required by PA. Leadership networks for curriculum for principals are also offered. C&I works closely with the HR office to support guest teacher programs. The department also offers 45 PIL courses, due to leadership members needing credentials from specific types of professional learning.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION/EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES OVERVIEW
(continued)

Curriculum and Instruction serve as a liaison for the Department of Education in gifted education and in English language development services, both of which have been growing tremendously over the last few years. Within those areas support has been provided to not only gifted teachers and English language development teachers, but also to the regular classroom teacher of these students. Two types of newsletters are offered that outline strategies to help on a regular basis. A Title III consortium is also offered by the CLIU to help school districts that receive less than \$10,000 as a Title III grant from the state.

The CLIU serves as a regional liaison for Career Ready PA for both IU 20 and IU 21. The career education and work standards are where our students are learning about and discovering careers from as early as kindergarten all the way up through high school. The CLIU also supports remake learning events, which takes learning outside the classroom and into our communities. The districts have had to undertake new pathways to graduation, which are very closely related to those career education and work standards. Therefore, by consulting with high school principals and high school counselors the CLIU aids to support those pathways to students' graduation. The Manufacturing Resource Center in the Lehigh Valley has a dream team of young professionals that are able to come out into classrooms and talk about their career experiences and what led them to their careers. The MRC has partnered with the CLIU and has asked to work to help develop dream teams in both Carbon and Schuylkill counties as well.

Mr. Lech then talked about Educational Technologies beginning with Elearn. 21 which is a virtual learning program. The CLIU has offered the virtual learning program for the last thirteen years and it serves the needs of both students that need a full time online program within their own school district, as well as students that might have part time needs. Currently, just over 300 of the 600 students that are enrolled are full time. The STEM lending library developed out of a large arts and education grant, and working with both the business office and the DaVinci Science Center is now able to provide STEM understanding to arts teachers. This grant allowed for purchases like 3D printers and laser engravers, which began the STEM lending library. This has now increased due to some additional efforts around grant funding, to over 30 different tools, which include different types of robots, newer printing technologies, electronic devices, ESports equipment, as well as iPads and laptops, to share and deliver out to districts if they need them. Educational technologies support different types of software consortium as well, including the Overdrive Library Consortium. This consortium brings together 13 of our school districts and allows them to work together to select digital titles to put into a library system that all students can take out. The titles are sorted by age groups and selected by representatives of all the participating districts. Currently, \$20,000 per year is invested into that library program and there are just over 11,000 different types of titles, audio books, regular digital books, as well as some printed multimedia materials. The Overdrive Library consortium has a very specific review policy in place so if a question comes up about any of the titles in it, all districts have access to see what titles are included. If a question comes up regarding a publication, it is addressed first with the district policy regarding questions related to titles in the library. The consortium committee then discusses whether they will either put it into a reserve collection or remove it from the library system. Mr. Lech said the CLIU offered a new consortium around a tool called Kami and five of the fourteen districts participated. Of those five districts that participated, there was about \$15,000 in savings total for those districts. The CLIU also partners with other IU's relating to grants; one for 21st Century Learning hubs and bringing STEM into communities and into public libraries, as well as the PA Esports ecosystem.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION/EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES OVERVIEW

(continued)

The CLIU offers student programming often in the form of competitions, like the PA Governor STEM competition, the K'Nex STEM design challenge for middle school and elementary students, high school academic competitions, and math 24 challenges that allow students to showcase their STEM talents. Other offerings are STEM Saturdays and STEM camp where students can just come and learn something new about STEM. The Esports League has now grown to the second largest in Pennsylvania, which is an awesome feat. Another offering for students is the student driver education program that serves about 300 to 350 students per year and leads to a certification for students. One of the newest events for students, completely led by our facilitators and teachers, was the Saving Journalism Summit which brought students together from their high school and middle school newspapers and yearbooks to learn from professionals in the journalism community. Mr. Lech noted the Washington Post, the Morning Call, Blue Ridge Cable TV, and local TV 69 in the Lehigh Valley, all had representation, and were talking to students about what journalism means and how it has evolved over time. Over 200 students attended that event, which was a tremendous turnout.

The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit has been approved for three different certification programs: speech and language impairment teacher, principal k-12 school leadership, and a superintendent course that is run in collaboration with King's College. Since the programs began in 2013, there have been 123 participants, and 74 recommendations for certifications. The CLIU continuously surveys that field and is hoping to grow the certification programs in the near future with some other key areas of need for districts.

A piece of educational technologies is media and communications and many of the videos produced on a regular basis are made by the media and communications specialist. Mr. Lech said it is important to note that the CLIU has been working with media and communications since 2015 to spotlight the great things that are happening in all the programs. That media and communications specialist helps to manage the CLIU website, YouTube, Facebook, X, and engages social media to support communication. The CLIU has recently relaunched the Helping Children Learn Podcast which also supports our HR departments recruitment efforts, along with targeted marketing through some of the CLIU social media channels. The specialist works with local TV stations and sends press kits to local media where some of the stories told locally have made it to regional news, as seen in the "Gabe the Weatherman" piece from last year.

Mr. Lech highlighted some of the work from 2022-2023 saying the department hosted professional learning engagements: 66 free workshops, over 100 individual district engagements, and over 1,500 teacher touchpoints. Also in 2022-2023, the CLIU C&I/Ed. Tech. Dept. hosted 22 student events, served 712 students in camps and competitions, and provided 399 students with Student Driver Education.

After a brief discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Lech for his presentation.

FISCAL MATTERS

- MOTION: The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors approves the following fiscal matters as presented:

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for the month ended September 30, 2023 as presented.

Bills to be Ratified—September 11, 2023 through October 8, 2023

Ratification of bills paid from September 11, 2023 through October 8, 2023 in the amount of \$6,032,847.11.

Bills to be Approved

Payment of bills for October 16, 2023 as listed: Bills for Approval – 10/16/23 - \$2,533,792.88.

FISCAL MATTERS (continued)

Permission to Sell Spare Vehicles

Permission to sell the following two (2) vehicles from the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 spare vehicle fleet to the Northwestern Lehigh School District. Vehicles recommended to sell are two (2), 7-Passenger Minivans, for a total purchase price of \$4,193.46.

Vehicle	Year	Make/Model	Mileage	VIN #	Purchase Price
J08	2012	Dodge, Caravan	69,395	2C4RDGBGXCR327983	\$2,096.73
J13	2012	Dodge, Caravan	54314	2C4RDGBG1CR386131	\$2,096.73
Total					\$4,193.46

Moved: Jeremy Glaush; Seconded: Duane Deitrich; Roll Call Vote: Yes – 9; No – 0; Abstentions – 0; Absent – 5.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

- MOTION: The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors approves the following personnel matters as presented removing Item B; Retirements:

Resignations

Resignation of the following person(s):

Kayla Durham, Teacher, Special Education and Summer Employment Pool Professional Staff, effective the close of business November 10, 2023.

DonnaMarie Dima, Instructional Assistant, effective the close of business September 20, 2023.

Cooper Hallman, Instructional Assistant, Part-Time, effective the close of business September 7, 2023.

Kerriann Quinnan, Administrative Assistant, effective the close of business September 13, 2023.

Jessica Fantasia, Speech Therapist, effective the close of business November 21, 2023.

Lori Sauerzopf, Emergency Employment, Teacher, Vision, effective the close of business October 3, 2023.

Brian Skrapits, Substitute Teacher and Instructional Assistant, effective the close of business October 6, 2023.

Cera Bowman, Instructional Assistant, effective the close of business October 13, 2023.

Retirement

Resignation, due to retirement, of the following person(s):

Mary DiMattia, Teacher, Special Education and Contracted Special Education Teacher, effective the close of business January 10, 2024 (18 Years of Service).

Joan Thomas, Mental Health Specialist and Contracted Mental Health Specialist, effective the close of business December 31, 2023 (29 Years of Service).

New Position(s)

Approve the following new position(s):

Full-time Assistant Director of Special Programs and Services.

Full-Time Employment

Full-Time Employment of the following person(s):

Jamie Incorvaia, Vehicle Driver/Vehicle Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$17.82/Vehicle Driver/\$15.00/Vehicle Assistant, effective October 2, 2023 (Transportation Pool; Transportation Budget).

PERSONNEL MATTERS (continued)

Full-Time Employment (continued)

Natacha Ruiz, Behavioral Health Technician (ABA), Itinerant, at an annual salary of \$23,500, prorated for the 191-day work year, effective October 17, 2023, or upon receipt of final paperwork (New Position; Behavioral Health Budget).

Kelley Duminie, Instructional Assistant, Special Programs and Services, at an annual salary of \$23,250, prorated for the 191-day work year, effective October 17, 2023 or upon receipt of final paperwork (Instructional Assistant Pool; Special Programs and Services Budget).

Support Teacher

Payment per the CLEA contract, to the following support teacher(s) on September 30, 2024:

<u>Support Teacher(s)</u>	<u>Scholar(s)</u>
Vanessa McCormick	Lindsay Beck
Katie Titano	Amanda Benko
Carley Knappenberger	Dova Day
Karen Famularo	Abbigail Stachnik
Adriane Strohl	Ian Pychinka
Christina Morgan	Kelsey Anthony
Heather Szoke	Leanne Thomas
Angelique Baran	Aaron Fritz
Amy Haas	Andrea Collier
Courtney Fillman	Jordan DeMasi
James Steber, Jr.	Jamie Potenzi
Courtney Fillman	Amber Gibson
Concetta Schultz	Leah Jaremenko
Jacqueline Morgan	Karen Wilson-Payne

Contracted Services

Contract with the following person(s) for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, up to 29 hours per week:

Gwendolyn Reinhard, Reading Specialist, at the hourly rate of \$50, effective October 17, 2023.

Craig Waters, Driver Education Teacher, at the hourly rate of \$25, effective October 17, 2023.

Vincent Castrine, Mental Health Worker, at the hourly rate of \$27, effective October 17, 2023.

Summer Employment Pool Support Staff

Summer Employment Pool Support Staff, on an as-needed basis, September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024 at the appropriate hourly rate or board approved rate, up to 29 hours per week:

Emily Franko
Brittany Gangaway

Tenure Acknowledgement

Tenure has been granted to the following CLIU Employee:

Nicole Shaw

PERSONNEL MATTERS (continued)

Sherry Haas took a moment to congratulate the retirees and thank them for their years of service.

Jennifer Senavaitis left the Board meeting via Zoom before the Personnel Matters were moved.

Moved: Sherry Haas; Seconded: Lisa Roth; Roll Call Vote: Moved: Jeremy Glaush; Seconded: Duane Deitrich; Roll Call Vote: Yes – 8; No – 0; Abstentions – 0; Absent – 6.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business to discuss at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Carbon Lehigh Special Needs Children’s Foundation Annual Fiscal Report

President Williams explained that per the by-laws of the Carbon Lehigh Special Needs Children’s Foundation, the Board is to receive an annual Fiscal Report which has been provided by Jeanne Coy, Director of Business Services.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public offered no comments at this meeting.

BOARD SHARING

Jeremy Glaush shared with the Board that he is now the Board President at the Leighton Area School District. The Board collectively congratulated Mr. Glaush.

Duane shared that after 20 years at the district, Catasauqua Area Superintendent Bob Spengler has retired and Dr. Christina Lutz-Doemling has taken over. Mr. Deitrich said he is confident that Mr. Spengler’s momentum will continue with Dr. Lutz-Doemling.

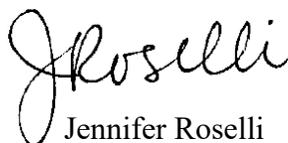
Sherry Haas, Board member for Palmerton Area, congratulated the Palmerton varsity football team for starting their season 8-0.

Lisa Roth took a moment to thank Kim Talipan for setting up the tour of the Troxell Elementary Early Intervention classrooms with Dr. Koons. Mrs. Roth noted that Jonathan [Walter, Supervisor of Special Programs and Services] was wonderful.

ADJOURNMENT

- MOTION: The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m. Moved: Duane Deitrich; Seconded: Gale Husack. President Williams declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Roselli
Board Secretary

NEXT BOARD MEETING
Monday, November 20, 2023
6:30 P.M.
Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit
4210 Independence Drive
Schnecksville, PA 18078