

School Board Notes

The Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit Board of Directors held their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Ms. Gill, Mrs. Romasco, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Miller, Mr. VanZalinge, Mr. Mowad, Mr. Inman, Mrs. Klessner, Mr. D'Itri, Mrs. Ceratti, Mr. Blackwell, Mrs. Marino and Mrs. Hanes

Members Absent: Mr. Hunter

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Rosendale, Attorney Al Steff, Mrs. Niedbala, Mrs. Ference, Mrs. Johnston, Mr. Sanderbeck, Dr. Guzie, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Huwar, Mrs. Schultz and Mrs. Leiper

ACTION TAKEN:

- The Board seated the following new Board members:
Mr. Adam VanZalinge representing Blackhawk School District. Mr. VanZalinge fills the unexpired term of Mrs. Roberta Mansell which expires June 30, 2028.

Mr. Michael Hunter representing Riverside Beaver County School District. Mr. Hunter fills the unexpired term of Mr. Roger Radevski which expires June 30, 2026.

Mrs. Madeline Hanes representing Western Beaver County School District. Mrs. Hanes fill the unexpired term of Mr. Patrick McGeehan which expires June 30, 2026.
- The Board accepted the resignation of Ms. Courtney Kendall, Shared Aide at New Horizon School, effective November 18, 2025.
- The Board employed the following persons as Shared Aides, effective January 2, 2026:
Ms. Renia Stala, Aliquippa, PA
Ms. Debra Sedlacek, New Brighton, PA
- Ms. Amy Bowen, Beaver Falls, PA, was approved as an addition to the Nurse's Substitute list for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
- The following CPE Instructors were approved for the Spring 2026 term:

Instructor	Address	Course	Instructor's Fee
Rick Roth	Glenshaw	21 ST Century Educator Essentials	\$1975.00
		"Apps" & iPads in the K-12 Classroom	\$1975.00
		"Any Device" Technology Tools in K-12	\$1975.00
		Teaching K-12 Problem Solving Using Computational Thinking in All Subjects	\$1975.00
Rhonda & Michael Bielawski	Bradford Woods	Addressing Learning Disabilities in Education: Inclusive Practices	\$1975.00
		ADHD in Education: Inclusive Practices	\$1975.00
		A New Look at Working with Students with Autism	\$1975.00
		Autism in Education: Inclusive Practices	\$1975.00
		Adopting a Growth Mindset	\$1975.00

Kelley Engle	Columbiana, OH	Addiction: Identifying and Understanding	\$1975.00
Colleen Anzio	Pittsburgh	A-Z Guide on Positive Discipline-Solutions for the Classroom Behavior Problems	\$1975.00
		Active and Engaging Strategies for the Inclusive Classroom	\$1975.00
		Achieving Excellence-14 Things That Matter Most	\$1975.00
		ABC's on Teaching Strategies for Pre-K-3	\$1975.00
		A+ Ideas for Every Student's Success	\$1975.00
		Art of Interaction	\$1975.00
Jill Brooks	Munhall	Designing a Digital Classroom	\$1975.00
		Developing Media Literacy Skills	\$1975.00
		Digital Literacy Skills	\$1975.00
		Tech Tools for 21 st Century Learners	\$1975.00
		There's an App for That	\$1975.00
		The Fundamentals of Project Based Learning	\$1975.00
		Culturally Responsive Teaching	\$1975.00
		Social and Emotional Learning	\$1975.00
		How to View Students Through a Trauma Lens	\$1975.00
William Yerger	Bethlehem, PA	Innovative Teaching with AI	\$1975.00
		The First Days of School: How to be an Effective Teacher	\$1975.00
		Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom	\$1975.00
		Writing Alive: Strategies, Techniques and Materials	\$1975.00
		Motivating and Inspiring Today's Students	\$1975.00
Danielle Nuhfer	Wyomissing, PA	Teachers Building Resilience and Creating Compassionate Classrooms	\$1975.00
		Mindfulness for Educators and Their Students	\$1975.00
Melissa Borgia Askey	Beaver Falls, PA	ESL 4	\$1975.00
		ESL5	\$1975.00
		ESL 6	\$1975.00

6. The Board approved the following Speech Clinician assignment:

BVIU Therapist	Speech Clinician	Dates
Lisa Sutter	Kylee Weaver	1/14/26 – 5/1/26

7. The following fund-raising activities were approved by the Board:

Event	Sponsor	Date of Event
Coffee and Hot Chocolate	Rooms 183 and 188	2/16/26 – 3/2/26
Craft Show	New Horizon North	3/20/26

8. The Board renewed the lease with Allied coordinated Transportation Services, Inc. for the space at New Horizon North.

ADDENDUM ITEMS

9. The Board accepted the resignation of Mrs. Stacey Hicks, Physical Therapist, for the purpose of retirement, effective February 6, 2026. Mrs. Hicks has been employed by the BVIU since September, 2004.
10. An FMLA request was approved by the Board.
11. The Board employed Mr. Nathan Kelley, Pulaski, PA, as Behavior Consultant for the IBHS program.
12. The Board employed the following as Behavioral Health Technicians for the IBHS program, effective date to be determined:
 - Ms. Denise Clements, Aliquippa, PA
 - Ms. Kaiya Goosby, Rochester, PA
13. An agreement with Teachtown, an online curriculum platform, was renewed by the Board.
14. An agreement with GoGuardian, a classroom assistance platform was renewed by the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE – NONE**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Good evening Ladies and Gentleman:**

My name is Eric Rosendale and I have been the BVIU's executive director since 2013.

I began my career in education in 1995 and during that time I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to be a classroom teacher, technology director, central office administrator, a mentor, colleague and friend to many in public education. While I have experienced many challenges in my career, the New Horizon School project is one of the toughest challenges.

When BVIU's administrative team first learned of the mold at New Horizon in August, we immediately took action to keep everyone safe and communicate to our stakeholders.

Investigation into the level of mold began immediately and to our dismay, we learned that the mold was extensive - it was found in at least 64 rooms, and in some areas, it was found on the studs behind walls. Furthermore, we learned that this was all caused by the failure of several building systems including the building envelope, the HVAC, and windows

This would not be an easy fix.

At the same time, our team began a search for a temporary location where our students could be together. Being at one facility is in the best interest for our students because it allows them to receive the comprehensive instruction and related services which they require. Being in one location also helps minimize costs for our districts.

Fortunately, in late August, we were able to find a suitable, albeit temporary, location at a former technical school in Midland.

While the temporary facility is significantly smaller than New Horizon, and not designed for students with severe and significant disabilities, it has allowed students and staff to remain together and continue instruction. Unfortunately, the lease on the Midland facility expires in June 2026 with no option to renew, thus creating a tight and time-sensitive project timeline for bringing our students home to New Horizon.

I am disheartened that we have to delay the vote on the items related to the New Horizon School project tonight. However, I believe that with perseverance, creativity, patience and a problem solving approach, we will be successful. All of our stakeholders, parents, teachers,

school administrators, board members and local government officials have expressed their sincere and passionate support for our kids and we all want to do what is best for them. We may have differences in opinions on how to get there, but in the end I am confident that we will get there.

Our focus remains where it has always been—on the health, safety, and educational continuity of the students we serve.

Our students are our top priority, as I know they are for our partner school districts. It is essential that the New Horizon project not only addresses the current issues in the building, but ensures the facility is prepared to serve students safely and effectively for the next 50 years.

We have followed the law at every step in this process, and in spite of tonight's unnecessary delay, we will continue to work collaboratively and transparently to identify a sustainable path forward.

As we stated since the beginning, we need to bring our students home.

Thank you.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Agenda Items #14 and #15 – are removed from tonight's agenda for action at January meeting. To explain – the original project cost submitted to the School Districts did not result in an agreement. We have now been able to reduce the project cost without reducing the efficacy and ability of the project to make the New Horizon Building entirely safe and future-ready for our students and staff.

However, since the matter of potential litigation has been raised, the lender has understandably stepped back until we are able to resolve that concern.

We believe that in light of the fact that the project cost has now been significantly reduced, those districts that had reasonable concerns regarding their responsibility for their share of the cost of the project may reconsider and approve the project at the adjusted cost. For that reason, we ask you all to bear with us until we can work with the districts and document their reconsideration to the satisfaction of the lender.

Please bear with us as we work to get all of our kids back in our school as soon as possible.

OTHER BUSINESS – A MESSAGE FROM MR. RONALD MILLER, BOARD PRESIDENT:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen:

As our solicitor just stated, the BVIU Board of Directors met in executive session, and due to threatened legal action by one of our member school districts, the board has reluctantly made the decision to table actions related to the New Horizon School project.

As the BVIU board president, I am extremely disappointed that, just one week before Christmas, we cannot move forward and provide the gift of a safe learning environment to our New Horizon students.

Honestly, it breaks my heart.

Since August, when extensive mold was discovered at New Horizon School, Dr. Rosendale and his administrative team have worked tirelessly to do what is right for our students and the families of Beaver County.

After the extent of mold was first discovered, Dr. Rosendale and his team moved mountains to find an appropriate, safe, temporary location so that our students could go to school.

As we have worked together as an organization to figure out the best course forward, Dr. Rosendale and his team have been transparent and forthcoming every step of the way.

Any suggestion otherwise is simply wrong and inaccurate.

It has been suggested that as an organization, BVIU has tried to circumvent the law and established precedent. This is wrong and inaccurate.

There is a lot of misinformation out there, both online and in the community. In an effort to put unsubstantiated rumors to rest, we have posted information on the BVIU website that clarifies and corrects this misinformation.

And if anyone ever has questions, they can always reach out to us.

Ladies and gentlemen, as board president and a parent myself, I am deeply concerned about our students and what could happen if we don't quickly and immediately address the safety issues at New Horizon School.

Our students need to come home to New Horizon School. As a board and as an organization, BVIU will keep fighting to do what is right by our kids.

Thank you and at this time we are going to formally adopt the agenda to exclude items 14 and 15.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Staff, parents, students, former students, Superintendents, elected officials and community members filled the conference rooms. Comments were made by the audience asking the Board members to do the right thing for the students of Beaver County. They praised the teachers and staff members. The general consensus of the room was that the students feel safe at New Horizon School. They stated that they receive an equitable education with people that really care about them and their needs. They asked the Board to please vote yes. They stated that the longer we wait to make a decision, the more money the renovations will cost. They said that if construction doesn't start, the children will not return to school on time.

Parents stated that this shouldn't be about the money; it should be about the kids. Comments were made about how the districts are still trying to recover financially. It was stated that no one is advocating to close New Horizon School. They said that there have been lost jobs in the communities.

Comments were made about the lower price options for the renovations and questioned why the price changed. It was stated that there should be other avenues of revenues, such as grants and go-fund-me pages. They stated that the local representatives and senators should be bombarded with telephone calls and emails.

Parents stated that there are safety concerns at the MIT building. They stated that MIT is a short-term solution. They said that some of the children at New Horizon are medically fragile and they need to return to a place where they are comfortable and safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric G. Rosendale

Dr. Eric G. Rosendale
Executive Director

EGR/cbf

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lee and Tori Shultz
Ashley Looze
Heather Hamm
John Kochanowski
Sheila Romano
Breanne Steiner
Shane Schutte
Chris McCabe
Michael Black
Alyssa Quillin
Kelly Mayo
Nicole Baldwin
Renee Wrzesniewski
Tammy Netting
Rozann DiNuzzo
Julie Kochanowski
Rebecca Dixon
Elishia Hopkins
Sydney Migliore
Linda Ammon
Cindy Rebich
Justin Pavetto
Bernadette Stankay
Mary Fogg
Tammy Wakefield
Loui Papperis
Carla Helbling
Brittany Modany
Kelly Dickinson
Hope Barton
Andrea Watt
Renee Radevski
Ashley Jakubowski
Dominique Brack
Mary Jo Brack
Rachel Edwards
Sara Hoey
Barb Bovalino

Keana Gordon
Ariann Edwards
Joel Edwards
Dan Helbling
Paula Carnahan
Maria Frasier
Peggy Mesing
Bill Mesing
Michelle Vujakly
Chelsey Lambertus
Shania Taylor
Jennifer Shank
Margie Ware
Megan Brimmer
Jessica Shope
Aaron Shope
April Cower
Kristyn Thomas
Ally DiBitetetto
Megan DiBitetetto
Emily DiBitetetto
Aaron Rhodes
Julie Winterrowd
Jordan Shuber
Kaitlyn Lone
Diane Tatuseo
Megan Tomasic
Heather Doyle
Cindy McCue
Nicole Becker
Tammy Witt
Mike Rounds
Craig Steward
Heather Kidd
Jeannine Waston
Jenna Davis
Harley Beckey
Alex Modany

Emily DiBitetetto
Justina Voie
Jordan Voie
Dena Noble
Georgina James
Stephanie Jijon
Kenneth Jijon
Dan Rinkus
Dena Lip
Linda Sutton
Nick Pollio
Jennifer Rhodes
Lauren & Tom Snyderburn
Miles Snyderburn
Gabriella Snyderburn
Sarah Zak
Elizabeth Caraise
Roger Radevski
Megan Swager
Zachery Farquhar
Shawn Plassmeyer
Chelsea Contenta
Shayla Book
Olivia Shepherd
Brianna Shepherd
Curt Clear
Megan Clear
Sean Tanner
Kathie Longmire
Julie Henry
Matt Kadilak
Erin Weldon
Krysten Dentel
Jeanene Dugan
Gina Davis
Renee Simon
Marta Rocco
Lindsey Kasich

Chris Shick	Alyssa Bowers
Christine Welch	Courtney Taylor
Josiah Bailey	Dana Jacobs
Tracy Yowler	Eileen Kovlak
Saima Aziz	Gabrielle Sikora
Kayla Weingartner	Harley Beckey
Rachael Gaydosh	Teresa Scarsella
Michael McCue	Jade Stepanian
Emily Daubenspeck	Julie Jurich
Pam Kitner	Kim McCabe
Lisa Gouldsbarry	Krystelle Fisher
Ed Gouldsbarry	Leighana Waxler
Hudson Gouldsbarry	Madison Maxwell
April Stadtmiller	Suzanne Holt
Ashley Zarella	Tristan Holt
Jen Wallace	Josh Cogar
Erin Palmiero	Jennifer Weiner
Kaylee Hahn	Pat Kadilak
Marcie Fleming	Maggie Miller
Jarrod Rebich	Mike Frankowski
Samantha Emery	Samantha Emery
Morgan Prokovich	Ann Helsing
Nicole O'Neil	Krista Berger
Mike Ronds	Kim Grimes
Amy Noah	Sara Mills
Billie Jo Brown	Brianna Kusler
Gemma Henry	Allison Benedict
Joel Renner	Brandon Glenn
Daniel Camp	Judy Lewis
Lori Milot	Lou Papperis
Lisa Vendemia	Bret Trotta
Nicole Unsworth	Chris Mercer
Gary Unsworth	Patti Mercer
Kathleen Wayne	Abigail Scott
Alyssa Bowers	
Karen Bigeutte	
John Tataseo	
Mark Carrier	
Carla Simmons	
Brianna Vincenti	
Sara Jean	
Judy Lewis	