

Paul Bunyan Education Cooperative
EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
October 8, 2026 12 pm

The Paul Bunyan Education Cooperative (PBEC) Executive Board met on Thursday, October 8, 2026 at Washington Educational Services Building, Conference Room 308.

Roll Call: Jon Clark, Rick Aulie, Ryan Krominga, Kurt Stumpf (arrived 12:16pm), Chip Rankin (arrived 12:20pm), Mary Morem (virtually), Jennifer Johnson, Kristi Crocker, Amanda Schoenhofen
Guests: Joel Anderson, Lynn Krominga

Call to Order: Jen Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

Approval of the Agenda: Jon Clark made a motion to approve the agenda. Ryan Krominga seconded the motion. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: The consent agenda is used for those items on the agenda that usually do not require discussion or explanation as to the reason for board action. At the request of any Executive Board Member, an item shall be removed from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda for discussion.

a. Minutes

i. Approval of previous meeting's minutes June 25, 2026

b. Employment of Amanda Schoenhofen - Student Records Clerk

Rick Aulie made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Jon Clark seconded the motion. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action Items:

August 2026 Professional learning for new staff onboarding reviewed and discussed. Focuses were on Sped 101, Sped Forms, classroom structure, behavior response and instruction. Gaps identified included curriculum/lesson planning and caseload finalizations. Looking towards the SY27-28, lesson planning (including a focus on structured preparation and curriculum alignment) and caseload management will be main topics. Target resolution timeline in Spring 2027 as to better prepare teachers for the start of the new school year. New staff onboarding set for August 16-18, 2027.

Fiscal audit for PBEC aligned with fiscal host Brainerd School District, the week of October 19, 2026. Kristi is getting prepared for the auditors; findings to be reviewed in December Executive Board meeting.

The Board discussed potential expansion of existing Setting IV programming to better support students requiring intensive, individualized instruction in emotional awareness, self-regulation, coping strategies, social communication, and navigating transitions and changes in routines. Discussion also included exploring the feasibility of PBEC assuming administrative oversight of the Federal Setting IV programming currently managed by Brainerd Public Schools. A motion was made for Jen to explore options for expanding Setting IV programming and the feasibility of Cooperative management of the program.

Outside Therapy During the School Day was discussed. Guidance has been provided to Principals and Special Education teachers in each member district.

The current PBEC administrative structure was discussed, including the support provided by two Assistant Directors across six member districts, two charter schools (28 buildings throughout the Cooperative). The discussion highlighted the challenges of providing consistent, in-person administrative support across all locations with current staffing levels. A motion was made to explore potential adjustments to administrative roles, including the ability to purchase additional roles if a district wanted, and evaluate options for improving support to member districts while minimizing additional financial impact.

Reports:

1. LEC Student Data - a handout documenting the enrollment numbers at LEC was included in the board member's packet. Still a high number of students on the waiting list. Total student enrollment as of October 1, 2026 is 85 with 16 on the waiting list.
2. Student Served Data - a handout was included in the packet listing each district's student counts as of October 1, 2026.
3. Professional Learning Hours Recap for August 2026 Jumpstart - a handout describing number of attendees from each district participating in the August Jumpstart for due process paperwork event.

Calendar:

- A. Board of Delegates - November 5, 2026
- B. Executive Board Meeting - December 17, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.

Submitted by Amanda Schoenhofen

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Wait List Numbers for LEC / ATLAS
- Students Served as of 10/1/26
- Professional Learning Hours as of 10/1/26