



ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

475 East Waterfront Drive | Homestead, PA 15120 | 412-394-5700 | aiu3.net

June 23, 2026

Pennsylvania Department of Education
607 South Drive, Forum Building
Harrisburg 17120
By email only: RA-PDE-SchoolService@pa.gov

Robert Scherrer, Ed.D.
Executive Director
robert.scherrer@aiu3.net
412-394-5979

Re: NOTICE OF CURTAILMENT/ALTERATION OF PROGRAM

To the School Services Office:

This letter serves to notify you that the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) curtailed and/or altered its Alternative Education Program (AEP), resulting in the suspension of professional staff members.

The curtailment/alteration was approved by the AIU Board of Directors at its regular public meeting on February 23, 2026. Copies of the minutes and the relevant agenda items are enclosed (see Page 15 of enclosure). Ten professional employees were suspended in connection with the curtailment/alteration.

The reason for the curtailment/alteration is the closure of Community School East, an Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) program approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). On May 7, 2025, PDE informed the AIU that there was no basis in law to continue to fund the AIU's AEDY program from PDE's Tuition for Orphans appropriation. In consultation with sending school districts, the AIU subsequently chose to discontinue the AEDY program after the 2025-2026 school year. This action conforms with Sections 908-A and 914-A of the Public School Code, 24 P.S. §§ 9-908-A, 9-914-A. We previously notified PDE of this decision by letter dated March 12, 2026.

The last day of instruction for Community School East students was June 5, 2026. The last contractual workday for instructional employees was June 9, 2026. The program director/principal will remain employed through June 30, 2026. Community School East will officially close on July 31, 2026.

Please contact me if you require additional information.

Very truly yours,

Robert Scherrer

cc: Jill Jacoby, Assistant Executive Director for Teaching and Learning
Joseph Shaulis, General Counsel

Enclosures

Board of Directors Meeting - February 23, 2026 (Monday, February 23, 2026)

Generated by Jaci Defelice on Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Members present

Jackie Blakey-Tate, James Bulger, Frank Cortazzo, Phil Little, Kristine Minnick, Antonio Paris, David Schaap, Robert Shages, Michelle Stepnick, Doneika Griffin, David Seropian

Meeting called to order at 8:21 AM

1. Opening

Information, Procedural: A. Call to Order

The February 23, 2026 Allegheny Intermediate Board Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm.

Procedural: B. Pledge of Allegiance

Procedural: C. Roll Call

Information: D. Reading of AIU Shared Belief

Information: E. Executive Session

Discussion: F. Comments from Visitors Regarding Items on the Agenda

2. Minutes

Action, Minutes: A. Approval of Minutes January 26, 2026 Meeting

Administration recommends that the Board approve the minutes as presented.

Motion by Jackie Blakey-Tate, second by Frank Cortazzo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Jackie Blakey-Tate, James Bulger, Frank Cortazzo, Phil Little, Kristine Minnick, Antonio Paris, David Schaap, Robert Shages, Michelle Stepnick, Doneika Griffin, David Seropian

3. Treasury

Action: A. Treasurer's Report

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the Treasurer's Report as presented for February 2026.

Motion by Robert Shages, second by Doneika Griffin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Jackie Blakey-Tate, James Bulger, Frank Cortazzo, Phil Little, Kristine Minnick, Antonio Paris, David Schaap, Robert Shages, Michelle Stepnick, Doneika Griffin, David Seropian

Action: B. Approval of Expenditures

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the Expenditures as presented for February 2026.

Motion by Phil Little, second by Jackie Blakey-Tate.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Jackie Blakey-Tate, James Bulger, Frank Cortazzo, Phil Little, Kristine Minnick, Antonio Paris, David Schaap, Robert Shages, Michelle Stepnick, Doneika Griffin, David Seropian

4. Reports

Discussion: A. AIU 2024-2025 Audit Maher Dussel

5. Business and Personnel Items

Discussion: A. Administration

Discussion: B. Early Childhood, Family and Community Services

Discussion: C. Finance and Business Operations

Discussion: D. Human Resources

Discussion: E. Special Education and Pupil Services

Discussion: F. Strategic Partnerships and Cultural Impact

Discussion: G. Teaching and Learning

Discussion: H. Technology Services

Discussion: I. Personnel

Action: J. Motion to Approve All Business and Personnel Items for February 2026.

Motion to approve all Business and Personnel items within Section 5.

Motion by Jackie Blakey-Tate, second by Antonio Paris.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Jackie Blakey-Tate, James Bulger, Frank Cortazzo, Phil Little, Kristine Minnick, Antonio Paris, David Schaap, Robert Shages, Michelle Stepnick, Doneika Griffin, David Seropian

6. New Business or Personnel Items and/or Board Business

Information: A. New Business Or Personnel Agenda Item and/or Board Business

7. Comments from Visitors

Discussion: A. Comments from Visitors

8. Closing

Information: A. Future Business

Action: B. Adjournment

The February 23, 2026 Allegheny Intermediate Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion by David Schaap, second by Jackie Blakey-Tate.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Jackie Blakey-Tate, James Bulger, Frank Cortazzo, Phil Little, Kristine Minnick, Antonio Paris, David Schaap, Robert Shages, Michelle Stepnick, Doneika Griffin, David Seropian



Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3

Personnel Agenda Items

Monday, February 23, 2026

PERSONNEL ITEMS: ADMINISTRATION

February 23, 2026

There are no personnel items

PERSONNEL ITEMS: EARLY CHILDHOOD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

February 23, 2026

The administration recommends that the Board approve the following personnel items, subject to the terms and conditions of any applicable offer letter(s), collective bargaining agreement(s), compensation and benefits plan(s), Board policies, and laws and regulations

A New Hire

Total New Hires:

3

	Name	Effective Date	Job Title	Program	Work Location	Salary	Hourly	Step and Range
1	*Martini, Krista	2/2/2026	Head Start Teacher Assistant	Early Childhood Education	Highlands I Head Start Classroom	\$30,627.00		1
2	*Simmons, Dawn	2/2/2026	Day-to-Day Substitute Head Start Teacher Assistant	Early Childhood Education	Countywide		\$17.00	
3	*Valiska, Michele	2/16/2026	Administrative Support	Adult Education and Workforce Development	Allegheny County Jail	\$36,050.00		

B Separation

Total Separations: 4

	Name	Effective Date	Job Title	Program	Reason
1	*Alred, Larita	2/13/2026	Community Outreach Specialist	FACES	Resignation
2	Golebie, Elaine	6/30/2026	Family Support Specialist	Early Childhood Education	Retirement
3	*Kanzic, Mary Jo	2/14/2026	Head Start Teacher Assistant	Early Childhood Education	Retirement
4	*McNeil, Alissa	2/6/2026	Head Start Teacher	Early Childhood Education	Resignation

D Leave of Absence

Total Leave of Absences: 2

	Name	Type	Employee Title	Location	Program	Start Date
1	*Young, Nicole	Unpaid - Leave of Absence	Mentor Head Start Teacher	Waterfront Early Childhood Classroom	Head Start	2/16/2026
2	*Fierst, Shannon	Return to Duty	Head Start Teacher	Baldwin VI Head Start Classroom	Head Start	2/12/2026

*Reason for Ratifications: Action occurred prior to Board meeting.

PERSONNEL ITEMS: FINANCE AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS

February 23, 2026

There are no personnel items

PERSONNEL ITEMS: HUMAN RESOURCES

February 23, 2026

PERSONNEL ITEMS: Strategic Partnerships and Cultural Impacts

February 23, 2026

There are no personnel items

PERSONNEL ITEMS: SPECIAL EDUCATION AND PUPIL SERVICES

February 23, 2026

The administration recommends that the Board approve the following personnel items, subject to the terms and conditions of any applicable offer letter(s), collective bargaining agreement(s), compensation and benefits plan(s), Board policies, and laws and regulations

A New Hire Total New Hires:
6

	Name	Effective Date	Job Title	Program	Work Location	Salary	Hourly	Step and Range
1	*Kelley, Madeline	2/16/2026	Preschool Early Intervention Paraprofessional	Preschool Early Intervention	PEI Elizabeth Forward III Classroom	\$26,434.00		Step 1, Paraprofessional A
2	*McCray, Tanaijah	2/2/2026	Building Paraprofessional At Large	Special Education School	Pathfinder School	\$26,434.00		Step 1, Paraprofessional A
3	*Smolar, Brian	2/9/2026	Swimming Pool Paraprofessional	Special Education School	Pathfinder School	\$26,434.00		Step 1, Paraprofessional A
4	*Van Beek, Elsa	2/3/2026	Building Based Substitute Special Education Teacher	Special Education School	Sunrise School		\$26.67	
5	*Wilfong, Bess	1/28/2026	Occupational Therapist	OT/PT	Itinerant		\$50.17	
6	Zimmerman, Elizabeth	3/2/2026	Occupational Therapist	OT/PT	Itinerant		\$46.00	

B SeparationTotal Separations:
4

	Name	Effective Date	Job Title	Program	Reason
1	Cook, Sandra	7/31/2026	Paraprofessional	Special Education School	Retirement
2	*Davis, Na-Auja	2/5/2026	Paraprofessional	Special Education School	Resignation
3	Gilchrist, Robin	7/24/2026	Paraprofessional	Special Education School	Retirement
4	Stupar, Michele	8/3/2026	Paraprofessional	Special Education School	Retirement

C Leave of AbsenceTotal Leave of Absences:
6

	Name	Type	Employee Title	Location	Program	Start Date
1	*Anderson, Cassandra	Unpaid - Leave of Absence	Preschool Early Intervention Special Education Teacher	PEI Penn Hills Classroom	Preschool Early Intervention	2/4/2026
2	Auria, Amanda	Unpaid - Leave of Absence	School Psychologist	Central Office	Pupil Personnel Services	4/24/2026
3	*Blackburn, Jamie	Return to Duty	Preschool Early Intervention Speech Language Pathologist	Countywide	Preschool Early Intervention	2/2/2026

4	*Bruner, Melinda	Unpaid - Leave of Absence	Preschool Early Intervention Special Education Teacher	Gateway Middle School	Preschool Early Intervention	2/3/2026
5	Dowell, Richard	Unpaid - Leave of Absence	Principal	Mon Valley School	Special Education School	4/6/2026
6	*Paul, Alissa	Unpaid - Leave of Absence	Itinerant Teacher of the Blind/Visually Impaired	Itinerant	Blind/Visually Impaired	2/12/2026

D Tenure

Total Tenures:

7

	Name	Program
1	Nathan , Justyn	Special Education
2	Douglas, Corey	Preschool Early Intervention
3	Large, Jennifer	Special Education
4	Page, Nicole	Special Education
5	Moon, Amy	Preschool Early Intervention
6	Myers, Erin	Special Education

7	Carr, Sheila	Pupil Personnel Services
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E Stipend Total Stipends: 1

	Name	Effective Date	End Date	Amount
1	*Dadowski, Scott	2/18/2026	6/1/2026	10%

F Supplemental Total Supplementals: 1

	Name	Type	Effective Date	End Date	Rate
1	Hodgekiss, Kahla	Mentor	1/5/2026	6/30/2026	\$350.00

* Reason for Ratifications: Action occurred prior to Board meeting.

PERSONNEL ITEMS: TEACHING AND LEARNING

February 23, 2026

The administration recommends that the Board approve the following personnel items, subject to the terms and conditions of any applicable offer letter(s), collective bargaining agreement(s), compensation and benefits plan(s), Board policies, and laws and regulations

A: Abolishment of positions:

1. The administration recommends that the Board abolish the following thirteen positions within the Alternative Education Program, realign professional staff as required by Section 1125.1 of the Public School Code and suspend (furlough) professional employees who are without position, as a result of the curtailment or alteration of the educational program in connection with the closure of Community School East:
 1. Art - 1
 2. Biology/Earth and Space Science – 2
 3. Business Computer Information Technology/STEAM – 1
 4. English/Language Arts – 2
 5. Mathematics – 2
 6. Physical Education – 1
 7. Program Director/Principal – 1
 8. Social Studies – 2
 9. Special Education – 1
2. The administration recommends that the Board abolish the following nonprofessional positions within the Alternative Education Program as follows:
 1. Secretary, Community School East, effective August 15, 2026
 2. Student Behavior Assistant, effective June 30, 2026

B New Hire

Total New Hires: 1

	Name	Effective Date	Job Title	Program	Work Location	Salary	Grade
1	Platts, Marie	3/9/2026	Continuing Professional Education Coordinator	Curriculum and Instruction	Central Office	\$70,000.00	Grade 15

C Leave of Absence

Total Leave of Absences: 2

	Name	Type	Employee Title	Location	Program	Start Date
1	*Raggi, Dejana	Return to Duty	Continuing Professional Education Coordinator	Central Office	Computer Science and CPE	2/2/2026
2	*Randolph, Melissa	Return to Duty	Specialist	St. Therese	Non-Public Schools	2/23/2026

D Change of Employment

Total Change of
Employments: 2

	Name	Reason	Effective Date	From Position	From Rate	To Position	To Salary	Step and Range
1	McBroom, Katie	Change in Position	4/1/2026	Teaching and Learning Coordinator	\$98,198.33	Program Director, Training and Consultation	\$115,000.00	Act 93 Grade 18
2	*Zacharias, Rachel	Change in Position	2/6/2026	Every Day Substitute K-12 ESL Teacher	\$26.67	K-12 English as a Second Language Teacher	\$48,520.00	BA Step 2

E Tenure

Total Tenures: 1

	Name	Program
1	Weissert, Noelle	Non-Public School Program

F Separation

Total Separations: 13

	Name	Effective Date	Job Title	Program	Reason
1	Cook, Kelly	6/5/2026	School Counselor	Non-Public Schools	Resignation
2	Chakos, Stacey	6/9/2026	Teacher	Alternative Education Program	Furlough
3	Covington, David	6/9/2026	Teacher	Alternative Education Program	Furlough
4	Hogan, Brian	6/9/2026	Teacher	Alternative Education Program	Furlough
5	Hritz, Anthony	6/9/2026	Teacher	Alternative Education Program	Furlough
6	Pelloni, Mark	6/9/2026	Teacher	Alternative Education Program	Furlough
7	Schell, Frank	6/9/2026	Teacher	Alternative Education Program	Furlough
8	Slater, James	6/9/2026	Teacher	Alternative Education Program	Furlough
9	Speal, Mark	6/9/2026	Teacher	Alternative Education Program	Furlough
10	Lentz, Licia	8/16/2026	Program Director/Principal	Alternative Education Program	Furlough
11	Robinson, Theresa	8/16/2026	Secretary	Alternative Education Program	Furlough

12	Black, Jalal	6/30/2026	Student Behavior Assistant	Alternative Education Program	Position Elimination
13	McCarthy, Timothy	6/9/2026	Everyday Substitute	Alternative Education Program	End of Demand

G Supplemental

Total of Supplementals:
2

	Name	Type	Program	Location	Effective Date	End Date	Not to Exceed
1	*Wassum, Kathryn	Mentoring inductees in the AIU Educator Induction Program 25-26	Non-Public Schools	Central Office	10/1/2025	5/31/2026	\$700.00
2	*Kuhar, Jennifer	Mentoring inductees in the AIU Educator Induction Program 25-26	Mon Valley	Central Office	10/1/2025	5/31/2026	\$700.00

* Reason for Ratiications: Action occurred prior to Board meeting.

Technology Services

February 23, 2026

There are no personnel items