

NORTHWEST EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
NECSS BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 28, 2019, 11:30 a.m.
Barrington CUSD 220, Conference Room B
515 W. Main Street
Barrington, IL 60010

Dr. Daniel E. Cates, NECSS Board Chair

PRESENT: District 211: Dr. Daniel Cates, Dr. Lisa Small
 District 214: Dr. David Schuler, Dr. Lazaro Lopez
 District 220: Dr. Brian Harris, John Bruesch
 District 512: Dr. Avis Proctor, Dr. Brian Knetl, Michelé Smith
 NECSS: Nancy Awdziejczyk

CALL TO ORDER

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum
 - NECSS Board Chair, D. Cates, called the NECSS Board meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.
 - Roll Call: D211-present; D214-present; D220-present; D512-present
2. Welcome and Recognition of New Leaders
 - Dr. Avis Proctor – Harper College President
 - Nancy Awdziejczyk – NECSS Executive Director
3. The NECSS Board congratulated Dr. Brian Knetl on his appointment as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Grand Rapids Community College.

APPEARANCES

1. Public Comments
 - No public attendance or comments
2. Public Budget Hearing – FY20 NECSS Joint Agreement Budget
 - Motion by B. Harris, second by D. Schuler to open the Public Budget Hearing to discuss the FY20 NECSS Joint Agreement Budget
 - Motion approved by voice vote
3. Public Comments Regarding Proposed Joint Agreement Budget
 - No public attendance or comments
 - Motion by D. Schuler, second by B. Harris to close the Public Budget Hearing to discuss the FY20 NECSS Joint Agreement Budget
 - Motion approved by voice vote

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of June 5, 2019 NECSS Board Meeting
2. Approval of Financial Transactions/FY19 NECSS Budget Report dated June 30, 2019
 - Motion by D. Schuler, second by B. Harris to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
 - Roll Call: D512-aye; D211-aye; D214-aye; D220-aye
 - Motion approved

NEW BUSINESS

1. NECSS Organizational Chart and Operating Structure

- In July 2019, NECSS hired an Executive Director, who will also serve as the regional Education for Employment (EFE) System Director. With the retirement of the NECSS administrative assistant in December 2019, the new role of Assistant Director will include supporting the partnership's administrative needs as well as co-leading the ongoing work.
- NECSS committees have been reduced from six to three and will now be chaired by the NECSS Executive Director or Assistant Director. This new structure will streamline ongoing efforts and maximize the time of regional members. NECSS committees include:
 - 1) CTEI/Perkins Grants Committee – Grant Compliance
 - This committee's focus is project-based work aimed at being grant compliant with secondary budget allocations. A Harper representative is not necessitated on this committee.
 - A Perkins V task force may be engaged to complete a Local Needs Assessment. A Harper representative will participate in this task force.
 - 2) Data Committee – Regional Data Collection
 - 3) Power of 15 Committee – Dual Credit
- As-needed task force groups will be engaged to accomplish specific annual initiatives.
- Motion by D. Schuler, second by B. Harris that the NECSS Organizational Chart and Operating Structure be approved as presented.
- Motion approved by voice vote

2. FY20 NECSS Goals and Areas of Focus

- Council reviewed the NECSS 5-Year Strategic Plan and agreed on three Areas of Focus, which were principal themes taken from the original plan. FY20 NECSS Areas of Focus include:
 - 1) Equity for All – Coordinate a 2nd Suburbanization of Poverty Impact Day
 - 2) Regional Alignment – Complete three College and Career Pathway Endorsements and a Perkins V Needs Assessment
 - 3) Student Transitions – NECSS and Harper working together to align elementary CTE course offerings with secondary and postsecondary pathways.
- Motion by D. Schuler, second by B. Harris that the FY20 NECSS Goals and Areas of Focus be approved as presented.
- Motion approved by voice vote

3. FY20 Proposed NECSS Joint Agreement Budget

- FY20 local funds have been reduced due to the NECSS organizational restructuring. All NECSS staff salaries/benefits will now be expended between the CTEI and Perkins grants.
- CTEI Grant – slight increase from the original FY19 allocation.
- Perkins Grant – decrease of just less than 9%, which is consistent throughout the Northwest suburbs.
- Motion by B. Harris, second by A. Proctor that the FY20 proposed NECSS Joint Agreement Budget be approved as presented.
- Roll Call: D211-aye; D214-aye; D220-aye; D512-aye
- Motion approved

4. Financial Update

- NECSS has not yet received the final FY19 CTEI payment from the state.
- The FY20 Perkins grant has been approved. The FY20 CTEI grant has been submitted, but to date, has not been approved by ISBE.
- The Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act, signed into law on August 31, 2017, enacts Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) and changes the way that school districts receive the bulk of state funds, with the greatest share of funding going to those districts with the greatest need for assistance.
- This year the state held back \$1.1 million to use for competitive and rural grants. This new formula, with a Hold Harmless, will keep our regional funding where it is now; however, without the Hold Harmless, our funding could significantly be reduced.
- ED-RED, an education advocacy organization serving Cook, Lake, and DuPage counties, works closely with a number of organizations that represent education groups in Springfield. The Board suggested that N. Awdziejczyk may want to meet with ED-RED staff regarding EBF resources.
- N. Awdziejczyk will provide the NECSS Board with an update regarding ongoing discussions about the changes proposed to Perkins V.

5. Dual Credit Report

- First cohort of the regional Quantitative Literacy/Statistics transitional math course has been implemented for FY20.
- L. Lopez informed the Board that the first statewide committee for transitional English is meeting in September, with the expectation of its implementation in FY21.
- Since 2013, our region has experienced a 72% increase in the number of students enrolled in dual credit courses.
- The NECSS Dual Credit Video was presented to the Board. The video has also been entered in the NACEP video contest, and the winner will be announced at the annual conference in October 2019.
- N. Awdziejczyk will provide the NECSS Board with the dual credit video link.

6. Dual Credit Fee Structure

- NECSS Council has been reviewing the Model Partnership Agreement under the Dual Credit Quality Act (DCQA), which was developed by ISBE and ICCB to address the parameters of local school district-community college partnerships to offer dual credit. The Model Partnership Agreement will serve as the default agreement under the DCQA and would only be implemented if an agreement is not reached between the high school districts and the colleges.
- The Council meeting scheduled today to further discuss the Model Partnership Agreement was cancelled at Harper's request. Harper stated that additional time was necessary to gather all pertinent documentation to make an informed decision regarding Harper's actual cost of dual credit.
- Harper assured the high school districts that the discussions on the dual credit fee structure will not impact the high school students' ability to register at Harper College for dual credit courses. Additionally, outstanding high school dual credit invoices will be due to Harper after a decision has been reached.
- Council will finalize a dual credit fee structure at their September 16, 2019 meeting.

- The NECSS Board agreed to hold a Special NECSS Board meeting on Monday, October 7, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at Harper College at which time Council will recommend a dual credit fee structure to the Board.

7. Harper Promise Program Update

- A Harper Promise Program update as of 8/15/19 was presented to the NECSS Board. The first full cohort of 421 Harper Promise scholarship recipients entered their postsecondary journey at Harper College in August 2019.
- Also included in the update was a Harper Promise Spotlight profiling three students, one from each district, whose lives have been impacted in a meaningful way by the Promise Program.
- A. Proctor stated, and the Board agreed, that continued support for the Harper Promise Program is essential in order to sustain the program.
- The NECSS Board requested that subsequent Promise Program updates include data disaggregated by districts.
- D. Schuler requested that Harper share information with the high school districts regarding the progress of the students as they continue their two-year journey as Promise Scholars.

8. Possible Future Agenda Items

- Harper Dual Credit Fee Structure
- Career Advisors
- Progress of High School Students at Harper

2019-2020 BOARD MEETING DATES

1. Monday, October 7, 2019 at Harper College (Special Board Meeting)
2. Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at Township High School District 211
3. Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at Harper College
4. Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at Township High School District 214

CLOSED SESSION

- Motion by D. Schuler, second by B. Harris that the NECSS Board enter Closed Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the region, 51LCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.
- Roll Call: D214-aye; D220-aye, D512-aye, D211-aye
- Motion approved
- The Board convened into Closed Session at 12:45 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

- Motion by B. Harris, second by A. Proctor that the NECSS Board reconvene into Open Session
- Motion approved on a voice vote
- The Board reconvened into Open Session at 1:09 p.m.

1. Compensation of Executive Director

- Motion by D. Schuler, second by D. Cates to increase the Executive Director's salary by \$7,500 effective immediately.
- Roll Call: D512-aye; D211-aye, D214-aye, D220-aye
- Motion approved

2. Approval of Assistant Director Job Description

- Motion by D. Schuler, second by B. Harris to approve the Assistant Director Job Description as presented.
- Roll Call: D220-aye; D512-aye, D211-aye, D214-aye
- Motion approved

3. Appointment of Assistant Director

- Motion by D. Schuler, second by A. Proctor that Cara Steetz be appointed Assistant Director effective October 1, 2019.
- Roll Call: D512-aye; D211-aye, D214-aye, D220-aye
- Motion approved

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion by B. Harris , second by D. Cates to adjourn the NECSS Board Meeting
- Motion approved on a voice vote
- Meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Special Meeting – 1:00 P.M.
Monday, October 7, 2019
Harper College, Room W-202A
1200 W. Algonquin Road
Palatine, IL 60067