

**NORTHWEST EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, August 13, 2014, 11:30 a.m.
Township High School District 211
1750 S. Roselle Road
Palatine, IL 60067

PRESENT: District 211: Dr. Daniel Cates, Dr. Lisa Small
District 214: Dr. David Schuler, Dr. Laz Lopez
District 220: Dr. Brian Harris, Cynthia Jaskowiak
District 512: Dr. Kenneth Ender, Sheila Quirk-Bailey, Dr. Judy Marwick,
Maria Moten
NECSS: Cynthia Garcia, Gayle Banakis

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING-FY15 NECSS BUDGET

1. Call to Order

- Chairperson S. Quirk-Bailey called the Public Budget Hearing for the FY15 NECSS Budget to order at 11:35 a.m.

2. Public Comments

- No public attendance or comments.

BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum

- Chairperson S. Quirk-Bailey called the NECSS Board meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.
- There was a roll call establishing a quorum. Representatives from D211, D214, D220, and D512 were present.

2. Public Comments

- No public attendance or comments.

3. Consent Agenda

- Motion by D. Schuler, seconded by D. Cates, to approve the following Consent Agenda items:
 - a. Approval of Agenda for August 13, 2014 NECSS Board Meeting
 - b. Approval of Minutes of June 4, 2014 NECSS Board Meeting
 - c. Approval of June 2014 Financial Transactions and FY14 Grant Close-Out NECSS Budget
- There was a roll call vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Information Items

- a. Executive Director Update-C. Garcia
 - Please refer to the Director's Report included in NECSS Board packet for detailed updates on the following items:

- ✓ FY15 Grant Budget and Plan
- ✓ NECSS Partnership with North Carolina
- ✓ NECSS Partnership with the Illinois Health Learning Exchange
- ✓ NECSS Cosmetology Program
- ✓ NECSS Predictive Performance Measure Dashboard Update
- ✓ Presentations Given about NECSS
- ✓ Achieving their Goals-Implementing an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) Process with Programs of Study (POS) to Build Student Success
- ✓ NECSS NIU Biology Master's Degree Cohort
- ✓ Golden Corridor Partnership
- ✓ ENG 100 Project
- ✓ Conceptual Design for Early College-"Power of 15"
- ✓ NECSS Representation on Education Advisory Committee
- ✓ NECSS Partnership with the Illinois Health Learning Exchange

5. **Strategic-Discussion and Sharing**

a. NECSS Participation in Grants-C. Garcia

i. North Carolina New Schools-i3 Scale-up Proposal - Early College Degree Program

- NECSS will collaborate with North Carolina New Schools (NCNS) and regional and state education partners to create an environment for the success of an Early College Model.
- Implement the Early College Model in at least three schools in Illinois.
- Provide a matching commitment of 10% of the value of their partner support (private funding only) during the five-year grant period.
- Application was submitted in June; notification is expected in fall 2014.

ii. Illinois Health Learning Exchange

- UIC would like to partner with NECSS to pilot a program on a Health Informatics Technology (HIT) course offering through Harper.
- This program could be an alternative healthcare pathway similar to the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certificate.
- Harper and American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) are discussing curriculum alignment and the establishment of a formal agreement.
- AHIMA is aligned with the Illinois workforce; they provide an apprenticeship program and hourly wage to students who earn HIT certification. Grant funding would pay for the certification fee.

iii. MDRC Research Grant

- MDRC is a non-profit educational research organization who inquired about NECSS interest in applying for a grant that could provide statistically predictive student performance indicators.
- Grant application was submitted on August 14, 2014; grant award notification of first phase is July 2015. In the interim, S. Quirk-Bailey will work on data preparation and goals.

- S. Quirk-Bailey suggested that, with or without grant funding, NECSS may consider moving forward in creating an extra research capacity to ensure the initiatives we undertake as a group are beneficial to our students.
 - Grant benefits: (1) building a common data warehouse system; (2) create series of dashboards for use by districts; (3) identify early college readiness.
- b. NIU Biology Master's Degree Cohort-C. Garcia
- Harper Science faculty approved the proposed NIU Master's as meeting credentials for adjunct faculty.
 - High school teachers with this Master's in Biology will be eligible to teach dual credit Biology courses, including Anatomy/Physiology.
 - Information sessions for prospective cohort members proposed for September 2014. Proposed start of classes in January 2015. Registration may also be open to teachers outside the NECSS region.
 - J. Marwick suggested a "contract for course" option. Harper employed this model with NIU for previous cohorts. One benefit to "contract for course" is a set tuition fee for the course regardless of enrollment.
 - Contract with NIU for payment is still in the planning stages. NECSS used a "contract for course" model for cohorts with Eastern Illinois University and will suggest this option to NIU.
- c. Golden Corridor/Career Cruising Partnership-INSPIRE Program-C. Garcia
- Career Cruising's Inspire program is a work-based learning venue whose goal is to help schools offer on-line career related mentoring as well as work-based learning opportunities for students.
 - Golden Corridor has offered to (1) pay the \$15,000 annual fee for three years, (2) assist in obtaining the business partners, and (3) establish the on-line business profile.
 - Additional staffing includes one full-time person to manage and monitor website. Participating high schools will need to designate a contact person for their building.
 - Concern was voiced regarding maintenance fees, initial uploading of student records, and maintaining up-to-date student records.
 - **S. Quirk-Bailey stated this program will be further vetted through the Career committee, may be proposed to Council, and recommendations will be made to Board.**
- d. Conceptual Design for Early College-"Power of 15"- C. Garcia
- On August 12, 2014, NECSS Council hosted a retreat to "Adopt a unified plan for students to earn 15 college credit hours prior to high school graduation." Research shows that if students acquire the 15 additional credits while still in high school, the college enrollment rate increased.
 - S. Quirk-Bailey stated this retreat was one of the best events held by this group, there was excitement in the room, goals were established and commended NECSS staff on this accomplishment.

- Regional Agreement of Power of 15 Courses:
 1. SPE 101 (Fundamentals of Speech Communication) (summer school offering on Harper campus)
 2. ENG 101 (Composition)
 3. MTH 101 (Quantitative Literacy)
 4. PHS 101 (Physical Science Survey)
 5. ART 105 (Intro to Visual Art)
 - L. Lopez stated our goal is to transform a “typical” senior schedule into one that is almost entirely college credit bearing.
 - J. Marwick stated this generation of college credit can be accomplished by a combination of AP and dual credit courses. There is no age limit, but students need to be college ready before they take college courses.
 - Retreat Part II will be held on October 6, 2014. Discussions at this meeting will focus on district schedules and implementation dates.
- e. NECSS Cosmetology Program-C. Garcia
- C. Garcia suggested the possibility of an in-house regional cosmetology program due to Empire increases in tuition and student kits.
 - C. Garcia and Krista Paul visited College of Lake County (CLC) and College of DuPage (COD) to evaluate their cosmetology program. Tuition at these colleges is approximately 1/2 the amount and student kits are approximately 1/4 the amount we pay to Empire.
 - C. Garcia stated she is investigating possible new site locations for this program.

Cosmetology Discussion

- K. Ender stated bringing cosmetology in-house may not necessarily enhance the program. K. Ender suggested having an executive-level conversation with Mario Triccoci; D. Schuler agreed.
- D. Schuler voiced concern regarding the return of investment value of the cosmetology program vs. other programs. Funds might be better spent in career pathways, such as IT, that may offer more opportunities for students, such as higher paying jobs.
- D214 would like to be an active partner in this regional program but stated a facility that can support a broader base is needed or we need to look for other options.
- D. Cates stated student enrollment in this program is declining; transportation may be an issue. D. Schuler stated D214 provides transportation.
- L. Lopez stated sustaining this program at its current level is not optimal. The funds that are allocated for this program vs the number of students enrolled in this program are excessive.
- B. Harris stated the partnership may have to refocus, look at other opportunities, and some options may have to be discontinued within the high school program.
- L. Lopez stated his staff is examining additional options through College of Lake County (CLC) and College of DuPage (COD). A decision will be made by the end of November.

- S. Quirk-Bailey stated program options will be brought to Coordinating Council and recommendations will be provided to Board.

6. Other

Data Sharing Agreement Discussion

- D. Schuler voiced concern over cyber security threats as to ownership of data; more data sharing agreements create more exposure. D. Schuler inquired if the Partnership should retain an attorney knowledgeable in this area.
- D. Cates voiced concern with the INSPIRE program data collection; Career Cruising has a specific purpose, but INSPIRE is a change in that purpose.
- D. Schuler suggested a systematic review of the Data Sharing Agreement every two years.
- B. Harris suggested adding a line item on NECSS budget to track funds that may be expended for attorney fees. If these expenses increase, we may need to allocate funds into next year's budget for attorney fees.

7. Action Item-S. Quirk-Bailey

a. Approval of FY15 NECSS Joint Agreement Budget/Signing of Joint Agreement Budget Form

- Motion by B. Harris, seconded by K. Ender, to approve the FY15 NECSS Joint Agreement Budget and Signing of Joint Agreement Budget Form.
- There was a roll call vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

8. Meeting Adjournment

- Motion by K. Ender, seconded by D. Schuler, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

9. Next Meeting-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, November 19, 2014
Harper College, Room W201
1200 W. Algonquin Road
Palatine, IL 60067