

NORTHWEST EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
NECSS BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 16, 2017, 11:30 a.m.
Barrington High School
616 W. Main Street
Barrington, IL 60010

Dr. Kenya F. Ayers, NECSS Board Chair

PRESENT: District 211: Dr. Daniel Cates, Dr. Lisa Small
District 214: Dr. David Schuler, Dr. Laz Lopez
District 220: Dr. Brian Harris, John Bruesch
District 512: Dr. Ken Ender, Dr. Judy Marwick, Michelé Smith
NECSS: Dr. Kenya Ayers, Gayle Banakis

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

- NECSS Board Chair, K. Ayers, called the NECSS Board meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

- Upon roll call, representatives from D211, D214, D220, and D512 were present

2. Public Comments

- No public attendance or comments

3. Consent Agenda

- Motion by D. Cates, seconded by B. Harris, to approve the following Consent Agenda items:
 - a. Approval of Agenda for August 16, 2017 NECSS Board Meeting
 - b. Approval of Minutes of June 7, 2017 NECSS Board Meeting
 - c. Approval of Financial Transactions/Grant Budget Report dated June 30, 2017

- Motion passed

4. Informational Items

a. NECSS Vice President Report-K. Ayers



VP Report Aug 16,
2017.docx

- Please refer to K. Ayers' report for detailed updates on
 - NECSS Technical Visit
 - Grant Funds Update
 - ICCB DCEG Grant Completed
 - Onboarding and Faculty Engagement Meetings
 - Follow up from Special Populations Presentation
 - Transition Advisor Update
 - FY18 Goals/Priorities
 - G. Banakis Retirement as NECSS EFE Director

Discussion on Topics Included in K. Ayers Report

- Onboarding and Faculty Engagement Meetings
 - K. Ayers: We are working together across all partners on orientation, onboarding, and faculty-to-faculty engagement. We have identified next steps with implementation in spring 2018.
 - Council was asked to think about Rules of Engagement and improvement.
 - Council discussed current objectives of Career, Data, and Student Support Committees.
 - Status of dual credit courses is reviewed at Council meetings. Additional discussion around dual credit is essential.
 - Council discussed distinctions between secondary and postsecondary levels and ways in which to recognize those distinctions and not make assumptions. Goals are to support the students of the region, understanding distinctions, and supporting the NECSS Board.

- Follow up from Special Populations Presentation
 - At Board's request, K. Ayers has identified two populations of focus for FY18:
 - Low Income Students (follow-up by Professional Development Committee)
 - Students with Disabilities (follow-up by Student Support Committee)
 - Student Support Committee will be invited to work on a plan to align its initiatives with Harper's efforts to become a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).

- FY18 Goals/Priorities
 - Create/Implement Transition Advisor Pilot
 - Focus on two Special Populations Groups: Low Income Students and Students with Disabilities
 - Initiate process for NACEP (National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships) Accreditation
 - Develop Blueprint for Partnership Expansion

- G. Banakis Retirement as NECSS EFE Director
 - K. Ayers thanked G. Banakis for her 18 years of exceptional service to the organization. November 15, 2017 is G. Banakis' last day of employment.

- Transition Advisor Update
 - Council commissioned a small group to work on the Transition Advisor Pilot during FY17 to discuss the process, opportunities, and challenges associated with implementation of a pilot. Council will resume discussions at September 2017 Council meeting.
 - K. Ender asked for clarification of the Transition Advisor role and why it was placed on hold.

- K. Ayers summarized the concept of a Transition Advisor: Our organization would like to facilitate college and career readiness by looking at an advising model between the high schools and the college to ensure that students are receiving adequate guidance between high school and college transition. Council requested a visit from Harper to present on the software used by Harper College, Degree Works, which could potentially be used in a way that could facilitate advising for students in transition. Funds (\$40,000 appropriated to Harper) were set aside for this initiative from a Joyce Foundation Grant. Additional cost sharing could be appropriated from the districts.
- J. Marwick: Brian Knetl is Harper's representative on the Joyce Foundation Grant. Recommended that the \$40,000 be spent to hire someone for this academic year.
- L. Lopez: Objective of using a Transition Advisor is about advising parents and students who have earned Power of 15 credits on the quickest, most affordable route to completion. What is needed are Advisors who are knowledgeable in Harper's programs, and with the use of software, can analyze the most favorable pathways for students to earn an Associates' degree and then transfer to a four-year institution. This is about providing options and information to students, not tracking students. The scale is the challenge, although piloting this at one school was discussed. At this time, no particular school(s) has been targeted for being the pilot.
- K. Ender: This premise is beneficial; however, once we have an initiative, putting it off for three months is not in line with a way of doing business. K. Ender thinks this idea may perhaps be coupled with a secondary senior year orientation to the college with pathways to courses using a student portal. Financing is essential.
- L. Lopez: Additional funds from D214 could be appropriated for this concept; however, there is concern about finding the right person for the job. Also, L. Lopez does not want to speak for D211 or D220 for providing additional funds for this pilot.
- L. Small: D211 has a similar focus but trying to find the means to make it happen by using a career cluster or grouping of clusters. Exploring whether NECSS Career Advisors can be used in this capacity.
- J. Marwick: Further discussions will be held with Council on the possibility of NECSS Career Advisors being trained to provide this service.
 - **[NOTE: Per grant guidelines, Career Advisors can only serve CTE students. This indicates that we should look for another option.]**
- L. Lopez stated there is an additional grant that starts in January 2018 which may further assist in funding this pilot.

b. Financial Update-G. Banakis

- All FY17 Perkins funds have been received (\$673,628) and districts have been reimbursed. ISBE has approved FY18 Perkins grant.
- Approximately \$700,000 has not been received from the FY17 CTEI grant. The state's response to a lack of funds was to extend the FY17 grant until the end of December 2017. The state now has until the end of December 2017 to meet the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for the state response to the federal money.
- Simultaneously, we will open the FY18 CTEI grant (\$1,015,330) and the FY18 Perkins grant (\$653,598).

- ISBE informed NECSS that a very limited contract with the Career Advisors could be offered, from August 2017 to September 2017, until the CTEI grant is approved.
- D. Schuler voiced concern regarding the FY17 CTEI grant turning into an 18-month grant and the legality from a MOE perspective because the fiscal year for the federal government ends September 30, 2017. D. Schuler also inquired about the uncertainty of receiving the remainder of FY17 CTEI dollars prior to the end of December 2017.
- G. Banakis: We have met every benchmark that is required in order to secure the FY17 funds prior to the end of December. We will be running the two CTEI grants simultaneously; FY17 CTEI grant is scheduled to close on December 31, 2017 and FY18 CTEI grant is scheduled to close on June 30, 2018. We were cautioned by ISBE to be scrupulous about the way we maintain our books so that we do not have an overlap from one year to the next and also provide clarity for an audit.
- Since this NECSS Board meeting is G. Banakis' final one, she offered some personal remarks: "It has been such a joy to be able to work with your staff all these years. Dr. Marcella Zipp and I attended national conferences together so that we are in concert on the way we approach accounting so that whatever we are doing at NECSS meets the mandates for what you are doing in your districts. When it came time for the technical audit review, I was able to present your districts so fully with the kinds of work that we are doing, that our ISBE Principal Consultant did not need to leave my office to visit your schools. It has been an honor. Thank you."

c. Harper Promise Program Update-M. Smith

- M. Smith: The Promise Program started with approximately 4,600 enrolled students across all districts. Preliminary numbers for the Class of 2019 (current juniors) is that about 28% of students are still enrolled in the Promise Program. For the Class of 2020 (current sophomores), we calculate that is about 41% of the initial students who signed up.
- K. Ender stated those numbers are close to what was originally projected. We projected 12%-16% of the initial group that enrolled would qualify for the Harper Promise Program. Attendance in junior and senior year may be challenging if students are not engaging in numerous college-going activities and college credit. Community Service is more of an issue than Attendance.
- B. Harris stated that Barrington High School has been watching their attendance closely at all grade levels. Seniors are motivated in attendance because D220 has an incentive where if students do not miss school days, they may be excused from taking final exams.
- M. Smith: The preliminary numbers will be finalized before the next NECSS Board meeting. The Class of 2021 (current freshmen) have until December 15, 2017 to sign up for the Promise Program.
- Promise letters will be mailed next week, stating "Congratulations you are still in the Promise Program" OR "Unfortunately, you are no longer eligible for the Promise Program because... (state item(s)). Appeals are due by September 15, 2017, and Harper will respond by November 1, 2017 to appeal requests. Students should continue to meet the criteria in the event that their appeal request is honored.
- Appeals document has been updated to include the following information:
 - 1) If student appeals on basis of attendance, student has to include their attendance record
 - 2) If student appeals on basis of persistence, student needs to state their plan

- 3) If student appeals on basis of community service, student needs to provide proof of why they could not complete community service
 - 4) If student appeals on basis of rigor, student needs to include transfers
 - 5) Definition of what constitutes extraordinary circumstances was also added to Appeals document.
- Appeals meeting dates have been scheduled. First group meets on September 26, 2017 for the first level of appeals. Superintendents and President meet on October 18, 2017 for second level of appeals.
 - K. Ender: Harper College's 50th Anniversary Gala will be held on September 16, 2017 at Chicago Executive Airport. Proceeds from the evening will benefit the Harper College Educational Foundation's campaign for the Harper Promise Program. Harper College is offering \$1 million challenge to the Educational Foundation. After the Harper College Educational Foundation reaches the \$10 million mark in donations, Harper would match, up to \$1 million, what the foundation raises from the private sector for the Harper College Promise Program.

d. State of the Union-K. Ender

- K. Ender raised the question "What can Harper College expect with respect to working out issues surrounding dual credit courses prior to districts finding another partner?" He noted that minutes of NECSS June Board meeting do not reflect any discussion regarding any partner's intent to withdraw from dual credit courses.
- D. Schuler stated D214 will continue to work in good faith where significant progress is being made. If D214 feels there is a need to look for a different partner, the district will be clearer about sharing concerns before moving forward. D214 thought they had been upfront with Harper in expressing concerns.
- K. Ender stated D214 concerns were shared clearly; however, the need to find another partner was not clearly articulated. K. Ender shared how D214 partnering with Eastern Illinois University (EIU) has impacted morale within his institution and had diminished trust and willingness to work with one another to solve problems.
- D. Schuler viewed the issue K. Ender referred to as limited in scope to specific courses, and apologized for underestimating the impact working with a different partner on those specific dual credit courses would have on Harper.
- D. Schuler affirmed the many D214 dual credit partnerships with Harper College that remain intact. Circumstances surrounding D214 partnering with another institution revealed a need to establish protocols. "How long do we work with the group until we say we are frustrated and we are going to look for another partner? Or is it the understanding that no matter how long it takes, we won't look at anybody else? Who gets to make the decisions? How are those decisions made? If we have these conversations, then when we run into a blocker, and we don't feel like we are making progress, and when concerns are raised, we know where to go."
- K. Ender stated that if some part or some piece of a program is not working, then that issue could be resolved rather than D214 pulling out of 30 sections of Math. "This is a union, and in a union you expect things that you don't even think you have to say. Obviously, in this particular case, things needed to be said and were not said. The State of the Union is fragile."
- K. Ender stated Harper would like to clarify expectations before putting more time, energy, and money in future programs. Harper School Board Chair and K. Ender are

unclear about what expectations should be going forward. Harper Board Chair will reach out to D214 Board Chair. Harper would like to address putting back on the table dual credit courses in ENG 101, Math 101, and Math 103. D214 informed Harper Provost that they wanted to keep their communications courses together; therefore, Speech is no longer a dual credit course with Harper.

NECSS as a Model for Secondary and Postsecondary Partnership was Discussed

- K. Ender affirmed the possibility of NECSS being a prototype around the country.
- B. Harris maintained that the work of the Partnership is talked about at the national, state, and local levels. D220 had 775 graduates from Barrington High School last year; 227 of them went to Harper College. B. Harris stated that the Partnership is critical. D220 will exhaust all options with Harper prior to looking at other partners. Examples of where Barrington looked at other partners are Project Lead the Way and Entrepreneurship. B. Harris hopes that the organization can navigate this effectively; agree to disagree and move forward in a positive way. He is willing to put in the time to make sure that the Partnership moves forward in the right way.
- D. Cates affirmed the value in the Partnership for the district. D211 has thousands of students who are now able to get dual credit. Prior to the Partnership, that could not have happened. Two thirds of D211 students go Harper College. “D211 is committed and the prospect of NECSS falling apart is concerning.”
- K. Ayers affirmed the national perspective of NECSS work. What she heard at the table today was a desire to figure out a way to move forward. The *WHAT* NECSS does is not in question; much of the work is exemplary and unique. It is the *HOW* the work is accomplished that needs to be addressed. “We need to find a way to hear each other differently, whether it’s time for a Board retreat or a Board discussion. Do people see things that they wished they had done differently? I think they do. But people get frustrated and don’t always know how to have a different conversation. The *HOW* is where we have an opportunity to do the work differently.”

e. Upcoming Event Dates-Board Meetings

- November 29, 2017, Township High School D211
- March 14, 2018, Harper College
- June 7, 2018, Township High School D214

5. Strategic-Discussion and Sharing

a. FY18 NECSS Goals/Priorities with Metrics-K. Ayers

- 1) Create/Implement Transition Advisor Pilot
 - 2) Focus on two Special Populations Groups: Low Income and Students with Disabilities
 - 3) Initiate process for NACEP (National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships) Accreditation
 - 4) Develop Blueprint for Partnership Expansion
- K. Ayers and L. Small had a previous conversation regarding the NACEP accreditation and the fact that there are a couple of areas, grading and assessment, which have differences between the school districts and that will require some extensive conversation. There was also some dialogue about the role of the accreditors, which is not to enforce anything beyond the criteria statements, but they are inviting some opportunity for us to

think about best practices. They are asking us to maintain the uniqueness of who we are while understanding that there are some best practices out there.

- L. Small: NACEP accreditation has not been vetted at the Council level. There may be a point where the value added vs. the amount of time it's going to take to get accredited may not be at the same level.
- K. Ayers outlined the NACEP metrics steps:
 - 1) Self-study process for accreditation in January 2018
 - 2) Submit an intent to apply by January 2019
 - 3) Apply by June 2019
- K. Ayers will discuss additional information with Council. The Power of 15 Committee would be engaged in leading that effort (D211-Danielle Hauser, D214-Dan Weidner, D220-Kelly Hansen, and Harper-Brian Knetl).
- 2017 NACEP National Conference will be held on October 9-10, 2017 in Washington, DC and will be attended by:
 - K. Ayers – NECSS
 - B. Knetl and M. Moten – Harper
 - D. Schuler – D214 (Speaker)
- K. Ayers inquired if there were any other questions/comments regarding the above identified FY18 Goals/Priorities.
- D. Schuler suggested changing the word “Initiate” process for NACEP Accreditation to “Review” process for NACEP Accreditation (Goal #3).
- B. Harris voiced concern regarding Goal #4-Develop Blueprint for Partnership Expansion. He stated that in order to move two steps forward, the Board may need to take a step back. B. Harris suggested perhaps a neutral facilitator may be of assistance. “I want to make sure that we are all comfortable moving forward.”
- K. Ayers proposed removing Goal #4 for the time being. Conversations on Partnership expansion will start with Council. Inclusion of other voices at the table may be in an Advisory Committee capacity.
- K. Ender: D220 is a K-12 partner, which may be a good place for us to focus on as opposed to bringing in somebody new to commit to the Council Committee.
- D. Schuler stated that Goal #4 should remain. “I respect everybody in this room. D211 and D220 are doing great work. I want the Partnership opportunities with Harper to expand. K. Ender stated that Harper is not going to start new programs with D214; however, Harper’s interactions with D214 should not impact work with D211 and/or D220.”

b. FY18 NECSS Joint Agreement Budget-K. Ayers

- K. Ayers inquired if there were any question regarding the FY18 NECSS Joint Agreement Budget.
- No questions.

6. Action Items-K. Ayers

a. Approval of FY18 NECSS Goals/Priorities

- It was moved by K. Ender, seconded by D. Cates, to approve the FY18 NECSS Goals/Priorities with modifications as recommend by D. Schuler. Change: “Initiate” process to “Review” process for NACEP Accreditation.
- Motion approved

b. Approval of FY18 NECSS Joint Agreement Budget

- Motion by B. Harris, seconded by D. Schuler, to approve the FY18 NECSS Joint Agreement Budget
- Upon roll call, motion approved

7. **Closed Session**

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.

- Motion by K. Ender, seconded by B. Harris, to move to Closed Session
- Motion approved

8. **Adjournment**

- It was moved by D. Cates, seconded by B. Harris to adjourn
- Motion approved
- Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm

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

Wednesday, November 29, 2017
Township High School D211
1750 S. Roselle Road
Palatine, IL 60067