

# Northwest Educational Council for Student Success

## Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.  
Township High School District 214  
2121 S. Goebbert Road,  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	<u>District 211:</u>	Dr. Lisa Small, Joshua Schumacher
	<u>District 214:</u>	Dr. Scott Rowe, Dr. Laz Lopez
	<u>District 220:</u>	Dr. Craig Winkelman, Dr. Melissa Byrne
	<u>District 512:</u>	Dr. Avis Proctor, Dr. Michelé Smith
	<u>NECSS:</u>	Nancy Awdziejczyk, Cara Steetz

### **CALL TO ORDER**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum  
NECSS Board Chair, Dr. Winkelman, called the NECSS Board meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.  
Roll Call: 211- present; 214 – present; 220 – present; 512 - present
2. Approval of the Agenda  
No discussion. Agenda approved as presented.

### **APPEARANCES**

1. Public Comments  
No public comments received.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of [Minutes of March 19, 2025, NECSS Board Meeting](#)
2. Approval of [Financial Transactions FY25 NECSS Budget Report Dated May 31, 2025](#)  
Dr. Winkelman asked if there was a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
  - Motion by L. Small, second by S. Rowe
  - Roll Call: 214 – aye; 220 – aye; 512 – aye; 211 – aye
  - Motion carries

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. [Financial Update](#)  
N. Awdziejczyk shared information on a one-time Work-based Learning CTEI grant we received on May 22, 2025, and funds need to be used in the 2024/25 school year. Nancy worked with district teams: Michele Napier, Dr. Marcella Zipp, and Ty Gorman, and these funds will largely be used to pay for transportation for students to work sites and to create formal programs and processes for WBL. C. Steetz gave the update on the status of funding for all grants.
2. [Proposed 2025-26 NECSS Budget](#)  
N. Awdziejczyk gave an update on the status of next year's allocations and shared the additional funding for three more schools in the Education Pathway grant. As guided by the state, the proposed budget was based on receiving static funding for our initial budget. The NECSS office budget only reflects a change for salary adjustment and continues to be under what it was in FY19.  
Motion to approve the Proposed 2025-26 NECSS Budget as presented.
  - Motion by S. Rowe, second by L. Small
  - Roll Call: 220 – aye; 512 - aye; 211 – aye; 214 – aye
  - Motion carries

3. [FY25 NECSS Goals and Areas of Focus Update](#)

N. Awdziejczyk recapped this year's Areas of Focus: **Equity for All** - tasked with evaluating the impact of transitional coursework on closing college readiness gaps across the NECSS region. The group conducted a comprehensive root cause analysis using disaggregated data from the NECSS Dashboard, focusing on college readiness outcomes from 2019–2023 and presented their findings to Council on May 12. Guided by the frameworks of Amanda Lewis and John Diamond, the team examined the systemic impact of math tracking practices and the implementation of Transitional Math, and shared recommendations designed to reduce remediation rates and increase postsecondary success. **Regional Alignment - Dual Degree**: next meeting on June 16 with Council to work on the financial components and the application process, and bring in the Marketing Taskforce to review the plan for stakeholder communication for this program, which will begin fall 2025. **Data Dashboard**: work was completed and the written report submitted to Council. **Student Transitions - Regional Advising**: this work continues to evolve. What began as a shared advisor position has expanded to include pilot pathway information sessions, dual credit audits and communications aligned with the Harper Promise program. Moving forward for next year, the group identified the goal to create a regional informational landing page. This resource will provide teachers, counselors, parents, and students with centralized access to postsecondary exploration events, open houses, etc. The outcome of this work will allow for a more intentional system of communication between organizations and an ongoing process for providing information to stakeholders. **Grant Compliance and Management** - we conducted two webinars for our elementary districts on the PaCE Framework requirement, and will provide additional follow-up for three districts who requested support for building their plans and implementation.

Dr. Winkelman inquired about the Regional Alignment Dual Degree timeline for sharing information for a coordinated rollout and building out the board calendars. The Board discussed sharing at each of their September board meetings (tentatively September 16-17-18) with the possibility of a public announcement and photo opportunity for all districts at Harper's September 10th Committee of the Whole meeting. Final schedule added as an agenda item for August NECSS Board meeting.

4. [NECSS Time and Effort Certification](#)

Time and Effort Certification documentation in keeping with the requirements of the grant.

5. [Proposed 2025-2026 NECSS Board Meeting Dates and Locations](#)

Motion to approve the Proposed 2025-26 NECSS Board Meeting Dates and Locations with a modification to change the August date to August 27, 2025.

- Motion by A. Proctor, second by S. Rowe
- Roll Call: 512 - aye; 211 – aye; 214 – aye; 220 – aye
- Motion carries

6. Possible Future Agenda Items

- Finalize the rollout for the Dual Degree program launch.
- Preview of Barrington's College & Career pathway addition to BHS.
- Harper to share an update on campus construction, including the new “living room” University Center space for students, the new Business and Social Sciences building, and the Emergency Services Training Center.
- Updates on programs in development: aviation, cyber security and AI.

**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 made by A. Proctor, second by L. Small
- Motion carries by voice vote.
- The NECSS Board convened into Closed Session at 12:06 p.m.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Dr. Winkelman asked for a Motion to reconvene the NECSS Board into Open Session.

- Motion by S. Rowe, second by L. Small
- Motion approved by voice vote.
- The NECSS Board reconvened into Open Session at 12:12 p.m.

Dr. Winkelman asked for an updated Motion based on new information to approve a 3.7% salary increase for the 2025-26 school year for Cara Steetz and Nancy Awdziejczyk.

- Motion by S. Rowe, second by L. Small
- Roll Call: 211 – aye; 214 – aye; 220 - aye; 512 – aye
- Motion approved

### **APPRECIATION OF SERVICE**

The NECSS Board extended warm wishes to Dr. Small on her retirement and thanked her for many years of support of the partnership.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Winkelman asked for a Motion to Adjourn.

- Motion by S. Rowe, second by A. Proctor
- Motion carries by voice vote.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, August 27, 2025  
Barrington CUSD 220  
515 W. Main Street  
Barrington, Illinois

D211 - Dr. Lisa Small, Superintendent; Joshua Schumacher, Assistant Superintendent

D214 - Dr. Scott Rowe, Superintendent; Dr. Laz Lopez, Associate Superintendent

D220 - Dr. Craig Winkelman, Superintendent; Dr. Melissa Byrne, Assistant Superintendent

D512 Harper - Dr. Avis Proctor, President; Dr. Ruth Williams, Provost; Dr. Michelé Smith, VP of Workforce Solution