

Northwest Educational Council for Student Success

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 11:30 a.m.

Harper College

1200 W. Algonquin Road, W-219

Palatine, IL 60067

PRESENT: District 211: Dr. Lisa Small
 District 214: Dr. Laz Lopez
 District 220: Dr. Robert Hunt (arrived at 11:38 a.m.)
 District 512: Dr. MayAnn Janosik, Dr. Michelé Smith
 NECSS: Nancy Awdziejczyk, Cara Steetz
 GUESTS: Dr. Alicia Tomasian, Harper Co-Honors Sponsor
 Phi Theta Kappa students: Emily Alvia and Varshitha Akella

ABSENT: Dr. Avis Proctor, Dr. Melissa Byrne, Joshua Schumacher

CALL TO ORDER

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum
NECSS Board Chair, Dr. Small called the NECSS Board meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.
 - Roll Call: 211 - present; 214 – present; 220 – absent; 512 - present
 - Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum
2. Welcome to new leaders
Dr. Small welcomed Dr. Laz Lopez, named co-interim Superintendent for District 214.

APPEARANCES

1. Public Comments
 - No public attendance or comments

CONSENT AGENDA

1. [Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2022 NECSS Board Meeting](#)
2. [Approval of Financial Transactions/FY23 NECSS Budget Report dated February 28, 2023](#)
 - Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
 - Motion by 214, second by 512
 - Roll Call: 214 – aye; 220 – absent; 512 - aye; 211 – aye
 - Motion approved

NEW BUSINESS

1. Phi Theta Kappa student presentation
Dr. Tomasian introduced E. Alvia and V. Akella, members of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Program who presented their College Project: College Mentoring Program. The program is designed to increase awareness in the high schools about the mentoring program and to thwart Community College “CC” stigma by promoting Harper as more than just a sound financial choice. The mentoring program is currently piloting at Fremd. The students would like to expand the mentoring program to all the area high schools. To increase awareness about the opportunities at Harper, the students propose creating opportunities for student panels to visit the high schools during freshman seminar or lunch periods. Dr. Lopez referred the students to contact the post-secondary counselors to share and grow the program. Dr. Hunt inquired about the

onboarding and training of new mentors. Each board member referred the students to designated contacts for student panel opportunities. Dr. Small thanked the students for their presentation.

2. [Financial Update](#)

C. Steetz gave the update on the status of funding and expenditures for all grants.

3. [FY23 NECSS Goals and Areas of Focus](#)

N. Awdziejczyk highlighted the work of Equity for All and the review of the Transitional Math data which had students on par with peers. In the area of Regional Alignment, NECSS held its first Future Educators Conference, with over 400 students taking part in breakout sessions of their choice and an engaging keynote speaker. The format of the conference was very successful, and will be used with future conferences. Endorsements are beginning to build real currency, with ISAC offering a financial incentive for minority teachers who hold an endorsement. J. Kloss, the CCPE coordinator, has worked diligently to help each district approve and at times, re-approve endorsements in the state system. Power of 15 collaborated for a Dual Credit Day, connecting over 50 educators and support personnel.

4. Possible Future Agenda Items

Recap of the Education Pathway grant

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 214, second by 512
- Motion approved on a voice vote.
- The NECSS Board convened into Closed Session at 12:10 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

- Motion made by 214, second by 220
- Motion approved by voice vote.
- The NECSS Board reconvened into Open Session at 12:27 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn

- Motion by 512, second by 214
- Motion approved by voice vote.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Township High School District 214

2121 S. Goebbert Road

Arlington Heights, Illinois

Room: FVEC C102