

Northwest Educational Council for Student Success

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 11:30 a.m.
Harper College
1200 W. Algonquin Road, W-101
Palatine, IL 60067

PRESENT: District 211: Dr. Lisa Small, Joshua Schumacher
 District 214: Dr. Scott Rowe
 District 220: Dr. Craig Winkelman, Dr. Melissa Byrne
 District 512: Dr. Avis Proctor (remote), Dr. Ruth Williams, Dr. Michelé Smith
 NECSS: 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
Dr. Winkelman asked if there was a Motion to approve the Agenda as amended, removing New Business item #5.
 - Motion by L. Small, second by S. Rowe
 - Roll Call: 214 – aye; 220 – aye; 512 - aye; 211 – aye
 - Motion carries

APPEARANCES

1. Public Comments
No public comments received.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of [Minutes of November 20, 2024 NECSS Board Meeting](#)
2. Approval of [Financial Transactions FY25 NECSS Budget Report dated February 28, 2025](#)
Dr. Winkelman asked if there was a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
 - Motion by S. Rowe, second by L. Small
 - Roll Call: 220 – aye; 512 – aye; 211 – aye; 214 – aye
 - Motion carries

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 S. Rowe, second by L. Small
- Motion carries by voice vote.
- The NECSS Board convened into Closed Session at 11:33 a.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

- Motion by L. Small, second by A. Proctor
- Motion approved by voice vote.
- The NECSS Board reconvened into Open Session at 11:52 a.m.

Dr. Winkelman asked for a Motion to approve a 3.4% salary increase for the 2025-26 school year for Cara Steetz and Nancy Awdziejczyk.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Financial Update

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

2. FY25 NECSS Goals and Areas of Focus

N. Awdziejczyk highlighted several Areas of Focus: Regional Alignment - the Data Committee has completed the view of the NECSS Dashboard and the report will be shared with Council; Student Transitions - focusing on the 37% of dual credit students that don't matriculate anywhere, by developing informational touchpoints pathway specific programs (ex. CNA); College and Career Pathway Endorsements have been approved for all endorsements applied for as of March 4; Grant Compliance and Management - more information on grant funding expected to be shared at SDLC this April in Springfield; Career Advisor Oversight - shared information and photos from the Healthcare Trek with over 300 students on campus and the Culinary Competition event, and District 220 K-Lab was highlighted as the spotlight program in the ISBE newsletter.

Dr. Rowe shared interest from members of a local economic alliance looking for more ways to participate in the hospitality pathway and will connect with Dr. Williams to share industry advising opportunities.

3. Transitional English MOU Update

Presented the Transitional English MOU for signature, updated to add a PSAT score and ACT equivalent as testing measures. Dr. Winkelman asked for a Motion to approve the Transitional English MOU as presented.

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

4. Transitional Math MOU Update

Presented the Transitional Math MOU for signature, updated to add Teacher recommendation as a placement measure; added the PSAT/NMSQT math and ACT math score as testing measures; and changed the name of Math 100 to reflect the current course name at Harper. Dr. Winkelman asked for a Motion to approve the Transitional Math MOU as presented.

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

5. ~~CTE Dual Credit Credentialing~~

6. Dual Degree Program and Advisor Update

N. Awdziejczyk shared an update on the taskforce. An initial plan has been developed with a hybrid schedule: ½ on Harper Campus, ½ on HS campus for junior year; 100% on Harper campus for senior year. Multiple options are being discussed on the fee structure. The marketing committee will bring a preliminary plan to Council. For the initial cohort, each organization will be responsible for managing the advising services for their organization, with no regional position at this time. Discussion about the naming of the program will occur at the next Council meeting.

7. Possible Future Agenda Items

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Winkelman asked for a Motion to Adjourn.

- Motion by L. Small, second by S. Rowe
- Motion carries by voice vote.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Township High School District 214

2121 S. Goebbert Road

Arlington Heights, Illinois

Room: Board Room

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

NECSS - Dr. Nancy Awdziejczyk, Executive Director; Cara Steetz, Assistant Director