

# Northwest Educational Council for Student Success

## Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 11:30 a.m.

Township High School District 211

D211 Boardroom

1750 S. Roselle Road

Palatine, IL 60067

**PRESENT:**      District 211:      Dr. Lisa Small, Joshua Schumacher  
                         District 214:      Dr. Scott Rowe, Dr. Laz Lopez  
                         District 220:      Dr. Craig Winkelman, Dr. Melissa Byrne  
                         District 512:      Dr. Avis Proctor, Dr. Ruth Williams, Dr. Michelé Smith  
                         NECSS:              Nancy Awdziejczyk, Cara Steetz  
                         GUESTS:             Christopher Scalet, C.P.A - Evans, Marshall & Pease, P.C.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **APPEARANCES**

1. Public Comments

No public comments received.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of [Minutes of August 28, 2024 NECSS Board Meeting](#)

2. Approval of [Financial Transactions FY25 NECSS Budget Report dated October 31, 2024](#)

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. FY24 NECSS Audit Report - Christopher Scalet, C.P.A - Evans, Marshall & Pease, P.C.

Christopher Scalet from Evans, Marshall & Pease presented the NECSS Board with the FY24 NECSS Audit Report.

Mr. Scalet shared the audit report for both the financial statement audit and the single audit, new for this year due to hitting the threshold on federal funds. The threshold is scheduled to increase to \$1M for FY26. The audits were efficient, and NECSS received a clean, unmodified opinion on both audits with no internal control issues, no reporting issues and no findings.

Motion to approve the FY24 NECSS Audit Report as presented.

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

2. [Financial Update](#)

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

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

N. Awdziejczyk highlighted several Areas of Focus: the Dual Enrollment program planning has begun; Student Transitions is developing a plan for next fall to focus on those who don't enroll in any post-secondary institution; the one pagers created by Harper after last year's SEL Student Transitions event were shared with the Board; meetings and professional development were conducted this fall around Grant Compliance; and the STAMP grant has been reissued for \$34,000 total over the two years (for Districts 211 and 214). Dr. Proctor inquired if the STAMP grant is connected to

the statewide welding common curriculum. It is not connected. NECSS will follow up on the manufacturing initiative Dr. Smith referenced. Dr. Proctor asked if there are needs of the SEL group? Nancy responded there are no common needs at this time. SEL group will continue to meet quarterly and moving forward, they will host a combined event every three years. Dr. Lopez commended Nancy for the tedious work which has led to increased funding.

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

Presented.

5. Harper Promise Dashboard Overview

Dr. Ruth Williams shared the data is not complete and is expected to be updated after the holidays. Challenges maintaining eligibility after freshman year include community service hours, and especially for junior and senior years, grades and attendance. Dr. Winkelman asked what the barrier is to completing community service? Dr. Smith indicated the Promise program began as an opt-in and has since switched to an opt-out, whereby it is entirely possible students who had no interest in Harper Promise contribute to the increased decline in percentage of eligible participants.

6. [Dual Credit Report](#)

Dr. Ruth Williams presented the annual Dual Credit Report.

7. [Dual Credit Fee Structure](#)

Motion to approve the proposed Dual Credit Fee Structure for students served for school year 2025-2026 as presented.

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

8. [Harper Retention Data](#)

Dr. Ruth Williams presented the annual Harper enrollment data.

9. Possible Future Agenda Items

Dual Degree program update and Dual Credit Advisor shared cost discussion.

**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 12:22 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Harper College

Rm. W-101

1200 W Algonquin Rd.

Palatine, IL 60067

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