NSSED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2014

NSSED Governing Board Honors Peter Perna, Michael Kahn and Carrie De La Cruz

At their meeting last evening, the NSSED Governing Board recognized Peter Perna, a student in the NSSED Early Childhood Program at Henry Winkelman School in Northbrook and two District 31 Administrators. Nancy Kind, Coordinator for the Early Childhood Program, recognized Dr. Carrie De La Cruz, District 31 Director of Instructional Services and Michael Kahn, Principal at Winkleman School for their extraordinary work on behalf of students with special needs in their district. Nancy recognized Mr. Kahn's willingness and collaboration in the development of the Little Wildcats Preschool and his interest in having all classrooms fully included in the building culture. Carrie was recognized for her vision for the classroom, and her contribution in the organization of the program and the recruitment of District 31 peers for the blended classroom.

Caryl Slavin and Allison Biasco, Peter's former and current teachers in the Early Childhood Program, spoke about his accomplishments and growth in the program. When Peter first entered the program he didn't have much language and struggled to express his needs. Through his time in the program, he learned to participate in group activities and play cooperatively with his peers. Peter learned to contribute through his language in the classroom and shows a great deal of empathy and connection with other students in the classroom. Caryl and Allison also indicated that the partnership and collaboration with his family played a significant role in his success.

Transportation Update

Heather Miehl, Director of Programs and Services, informed the Governing Board of the intent to initiate a bidding process for transportation services on behalf of its member districts. The transportation contract provides for single student and small group student transportation services across the NSSED catchment area. Septran, Inc. has held the transportation contract since 2009. Heather explained that all district Special Education Administrators would be invited to participate in the development of the bid proposal. She indicated that a contract would be awarded in sufficient time to have a provider ready to initiate service for the 2015-2016 school year.

Technology Infrastructure Upgrade

Andy Piper, Director of Personnel and Compliance, informed the Governing Board that NSSED is seeking to upgrade the campus wireless infrastructure from the Cisco Aironet system that was installed four years ago. The upgrade will support the 1:1 student Chromebook initiative at North Shore Academy, the growing presence of iDevices and tablets for students and staff and the movement away from traditional desktop computers to mobile laptops for instructional and administrative staff. Although the expense is within the technology budget,

and not subject to the bidding requirements in the Illinois School code, it is a significant expense and therefore the Administrative team wanted to bring it to the attention of the Governing Board.

Goals/Objectives Update: Human Resources

Andy Piper presented an update on the Board Goal and the objective related to Human Resources. Andy specifically addressed the objective to support staff in the understanding and application of NSSED core competencies: Communication, Collaborative Problem Solving, Continuous Professional Improvement and Job Function. These core competencies appear on NSSED job descriptions, are a part of the interview process and this year have been included in the Professional Educator Licensed Staff Evaluation Plan and have become central to the evaluation process.

In order to meet the objective to support staff, NSSED is engaging in professional development in a variety of ways to increase staff awareness and identify ways in which they can develop and enhance their skills in these competencies. Activities that address this objective are: 1) programmatic presentations regarding the Core Competencies and the new evaluation plan; 2) staff evaluation committee meetings to discuss the evaluation plan and to identify needs related to professional development; 3) administrative team professional development related to developing standards based on core competencies; 4) multiple professional development activities related to improving communication skills and application.

Finance Committee Update

Jim Fitton reported that the Fiscal Year 2014 audit was complete and that the auditors presented to the Finance Committee on November 5, 2014. Overall the audit was considered clean. One suggestion was to update the asset ledger on a more frequent basis.

Andy Piper reported that the Fund Balance currently can be calculated at 18.6% or 17.6% based on a calculation using either FY14 actual expenditures or FY15 budgeted expenditures as the divisor. Our current fund balance policy does not offer specific direction on which divisor should be used. The policy does indicate that our intended range is 15-18% of our budgeted expenses. The Board is asking the Finance Committee to clarify this issue.

Dr. Tim Thomas provided the Governing Board an update on the meetings and conversations the Administrative Team has held regarding the proposed alternate billing structure. In addition to the larger group meetings, there were individual district meetings held with Superintendents, Business Officials and Special Education Directors. Common feedback received from all of these sessions was 1) to identify the actual reductions measures that will be taken related to the resulting $387,000 NSSED reductions; 2) detail on how member district dollars are spent on membership, IDEA funds and program tuitions and; 3) that NSSED consider increasing the surcharge for non-member district tuitions. Overall the feedback from stakeholders was positive. Discussion by the Board included concern over how to support districts most impacted by this model and a request to consider additional alternatives.

Next Governing Board Meeting – 7:00 PM December 10, 2014