

NSERVE

BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

Main Office Conference Room, Maine South High School, 1131 South Dee Road, Park Ridge, IL

Wednesday, September 5, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Shawn Messmer, Board of Control President, called the meeting to order at 10:10am

II. Roll Call

Present

Dr. Sandra Arreguin
Ms. Anne Brennan
Mr. Shawn Messmer
Mr. Peter Tragos
Dr. Rosanne Williamson
Ms. Martha Eldredge Stark
Ms. Julianne Arvizu
Ms. Mary Anne Brown

Absent

Dr. Peter Bavis

III. Welcome to New Board Member, Sandra Arreguin

A welcome was extended to new Board Member, Dr. Sandra Arreguin. Sandra is the new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at Niles Twp. High Schools. She described some of her experience before joining Niles, and expressed that she is looking forward to working with the Board.

IV. Election of Officers

The Board members volunteered for the officer positions were:

- Mr. Shawn Messmer Board President
- Dr. Rosanne Williamson President Pro Tempore
- Dr. Peter Bavis Board Secretary

A motion was made by Anne Brennan and seconded by Peter Tragos. All were in favor.

V. Approval of Board of Control Consent Agenda

The Board was asked to approve a consent agenda of:

- Joint Board of Control/Administrative Council Minutes of May 17, 2018
- Financial Reports for May, June, and July 2018
- Final NSERVE budget for FY19 with both CTEI and Perkins allocations
- Mary Anne Brown to attend Forum for Excellence

Martha Eldredge Stark provided some explanation of the financial reports, and expressed that she would like to have Mary Anne Brown attend the Forum for Excellence conference in September. It will be important to learn more about *Perkins V*, the reauthorization of the Perkins grant, and the likely changes it will bring.

Martha has been informed by ISBE that NSERVE cannot use grant funds to pay for Mary Anne to attend a conference, so she proposed the use of some fund balance funds to pay for Mary Anne's attendance. The cost would be approximately \$500. The Board agreed that it would be helpful to have Mary Anne attend for institutional knowledge reasons, considering Martha's planned retirement June 30, 2020.

A motion was made by Dr. Rosanne Williamson and seconded by Mr. Peter Tragos to approve the consent agenda. All were in favor.

VI. Accomplishments

Martha Eldredge Stark presented a document detailing the varied accomplishments of NSERVE in FY18. She noted that this was a way of reporting out to the Board, and expressed her thanks to the Board for their support and collaboration in achieving these accomplishments.

VII. Collaboration Time

Shawn Messmer reported Maine’s progress in implementing a Competency Based Graduation Requirement pilot. He explained that competency-based evaluation concept is still new in high schools and it is important to understand how it will be perceived by parents and colleges. Competency-based assessment also incorporates learning habits for success such as time management. It also has a unique structure of assessment reporting which looks different from the current letter-grade report. Dr Rosanne Williamson offered information about the shift to competency-based assessments standards at Northbrook D28 where the competency is still converted to a letter grade since that is the standard that parents and public most easily understand. Shawn added that it is possible to take up to 10 years to fully roll out the change to competency-based assessment and for the community to fully comprehend the shift.

Peter Tragos reported that New Trier is embarking on a new strategic plan named “New Trier 2030.” New Trier has not had a strategic plan for many years. The new overall plan would roll into more manageable annual plans. Peter will be leading the Student Intellectual Engagement Growth and Readiness Program which will focus on non-cognitive skills and have more explicit goals in soft/essential skills.

The conversation turned to the issue of students’ placement when working with a standards-based grading system. Rosanne Williamson reported that the placement of students at District 225 involves a review of each individual student overall ability and does not just look at letter grades or one single assessment indicator. Shawn Messmer also emphasized the importance of the relationship between the elementary school and the high school to collaborate on fully understanding the assessment system to ensure accurate placement for each individual student.

VIII. NSERVE’s FY19 Grant and Financial Status

Martha reviewed information she learned from a recent Perkins V webinar. Perkins V is the reauthorization of the Perkins grant, which will be more aligned with workforce development. Martha reported on the positive gains of the new law, such as more local control. The initiative to make Perkins a competitive grant was avoided. There is likely to be more funds for K-8 schools in the new legislations as Perkins V will apply to grades five and up. Proposed increases in the funding may be up to 10% over the next 6 years. Regarding the Maintenance of Effort (MOE), the new law allows states to take one opportunity to “re-set” its level of funding. This clause might mean that Illinois will take the opportunity to lower funding given the general financial condition in the state. Perkins V will require a new comprehensive needs assessment at each school every two years. Future spending of the grant funds will be dependent and based on that assessment. It is uncertain what “comprehensive” means at this stage.

Martha reminded those present that in FY17 when the state was extremely slow in paying out the CTEI grant funds, NSERVE received a loan of \$65,000 from the five school districts to support NSERVE’s operations. NSERVE still holds those funds but we are hopeful that we will be able to repay the \$65,000 loan to the school districts in FY19, which depends entirely on how quickly and regularly grant payments are received from the State of Illinois this year.

The 2018 annual audit has been completed and we are waiting for the final report from the auditors.

IX. NSERVE Technical Assistance Visit and ISBE Financial and Programmatic Audit

Martha provided a copy of the letter from Nancy Bitner at ISBE regarding her one-day Technical Assistance visit which took place in July. The letter states that the NSERVE program is being managed impeccably and Ms. Bitner had no recommendations.

Martha also reported on the 4-day Financial and Programmatic Audit by the state which was also in July. She explained that the auditor completed his inspection in three days. A significant factor in his completing the audit so early was the comprehensive records of the purchases made by our schools using grant funds that NSERVE keeps. This meant that on-site inspections at the schools was not necessary.

X. ESSA, College and Career Readiness Indicator (CCRI) and Postsecondary Workforce Readiness (PWR) Act

Martha Eldredge Stark walked the Board through various handouts relating to ESSA, CCRI and the PWR Act. They were:

- The final College and Career Readiness Indicator (CCRI) which has two graduation standards: *Distinguished Scholar* and *College and Career Ready*.
- The PaCE framework. This was re-distributed to show the cross-walk with the CCRI and the College and Career Pathways Endorsement (CCPE).
- A summary table of the College and Career Pathways Endorsements (CCPE) which shows the new seven career clusters, with the eighth being multidisciplinary
- High School Transformation – Connecting the Dots for PaCE, CCPE and CCRI
- A table which cross walks the elements of the PaCE framework, the CCRI and the CCPE
- A summary of the CCPE and its implementation across the state
- A booklet which outlines the technical and essential employability skills that have been developed for the College and Career Pathway Endorsements with educators, businesses, Jobs for the Future and NIU's Education Systems Center.

Martha spent time in the meeting explaining each document and how they fit together, and there was considerable discussion as to how our schools will implement the PWR Act. There were many questions as to what student experiences counted towards the requirements of the Act and/or the CCRI. Martha will further investigate this issue.

Shawn Messmer shared that Maine is using Pathway Manager for students, which is a system that will guide and instruct students on what they will need to do to pursue their chosen pathway. Maine has introduced a period into their school day called ACA – Academic Career Advisory, which gives students an opportunity to work with their counselor on pursuing their pathway(s) of interest, and help them select courses and activities.

XI. Oakton Update

Anne Brennan reported that there have been considerable changes in how dual credit courses are handled at Oakton. There is now an online application as well as a page of the Oakton website devoted to providing information about dual credit to schools and students. It is Anne's goal to communicate better with the administration and faculty at high schools and to work more collaboratively. She is also working on solving problems such as how dual credit is reported on transcripts, especially if and when the transcript is reported to other colleges for credit. Oakton is also working on creating career pathways by October which will be in their catalogue to guide students. The pathways will focus on stackable credentials. Oakton is also happy to work with NSERVE on revising the postsecondary part of NSERVE programs of study to bring them up to date.

XII. Inspire Your Future update

Julianne Arvizu reported that we have over 200 companies and 300 online career coaches for students. Julianne's most important effort this year will be to ensure that students and teachers are using the program. She has plans to be at Niles Open House and at a similar event at Evanston, and continues to approach people to become part of the net work of companies and coaches. She also emphasized to the group that she is happy to help schools with their implementation of Inspire by making presentations to students and educators to walk them through the system.

XIII. Summer Career Exploration Courses Report

Martha Eldredge Stark drew the attention of those present to the report from Brian Whalen on the Summer Career Exploration Courses that took place in June 2018. Martha also reported that she has told The Talking Farm that it is not possible for NSERVE to run the Environment and Horticulture class going forward because of the low number of students enrolled (4 in 2018). Lucas Allen is looking to find sponsors for the class to continue. Martha has told Lucas that if he can find funding, NSERVE will provide the administrative services for the class.

XIV. Other Items for Consideration

The following items were shared with the Board:

- *Career Readiness for All Students – Coalition for Career Development., July 2018*
- *New Data on CTE Delivery Across the Nation – CTE Policy Watch Blog, April, 2018*
- *How Much Time do Students Spend in School in Top-Performing Schools Systems and the US? – www.ncee.org/cieb, August 2018*
- *Apprenticeships and Community Colleges, Do they have a Future Together – Jorge Klor de Alva and Mark Schneider, American Enterprise Institute*

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11.55a.m., which was followed by lunch and a summit on the Transitional Math component of the PWR.