



## NSSEO Governing Board Brief

### March Shining Stars

#### Bella Garcian (3rd Grade) - District 23



Bella's team supported her goal to become increasingly independent, an essential skill in the educational journey. This individualized approach to goal targets, supports and prioritization are at the heart of our work and tailoring a plan to support growth. Independence takes determination and an incredible team! Bella's exuberant message of pride and jubilation when she received the 'golden shining star award' with a big cheer reflected just how much pride and meaningful recognition of great progress means. The Miner team is so proud of Bella's continued growth.

#### Sophia Koval (8th Grade) - District 21



Principal Brekke has known Sophia since she was a young kindergartener, and with pride and admiration, he shared her determination, increased engagement in large group instruction, and active participation to accomplish goals. Sophia's team and leaders were all beaming with pride and joy to celebrate her shining personality and star status as the other March Shining Star.



What a great celebration of amazing students guided by such caring, dedicated and talented teams. The room was filled with people who shared in the pride of such great student growth and the growing possibilities ahead.

### **NSSEO Continuous Improvement Plan Goal 2 - Social Emotional Learning**

The Miner School leadership team, Mr. Erik Brekke and Mrs. Dominique Pacini shared the focus of systematic debriefing at Miner school that was piloted and refined throughout the year in review and refinement of replacement strategies and response to behavioral incidents. Collaborative efforts from the Miner team led by Erik and Dominique reflected a focus on debriefing as a high-leverage strategy that will directly support NSSEO's desired outcomes related to the use of Restraint/Time Out (RTO). The consistent use of debriefing meetings to reflect on RTO events will meet many purposes including, but not limited to:

- ❖ Providing opportunities to review/refine de-escalation strategies and protocols
- ❖ Providing opportunities for review of Ukeru and other alternatives to RTO
- ❖ Providing ongoing opportunities for adjustments to individual student plans
- ❖ Identifying any needs for additional problem-solving and/or training for staff
- ❖ Supporting staff safety, confidence, and efficacy in handling crisis situations

The team also worked on developing both a mission and vision that guided their collective collaboration on such an important supportive process with a shared purpose and understanding of the complex needs and supports for students.

### **NSSEO Updates**

It is such a busy, unpredictable legislative season with increased interest and recommendations of increased budget supports for special education funding at both the federal and state levels, recognizing the need and impact increased funding could provide. There are many legislative proposals that have the potential to impact students with special needs and NSSEO continues to advocate for equitable support and resources that align with the needs of students and families. Whether participating in state committees and advocacy efforts or joining in special events that reflect the essence of what NSSEO is,

the depth of our influence and impact truly comes from within. We see it in our leaders, coaches, staff, and student-athletes, at the amazing celebration of special athletes at the annual Amy Rudolph Tournament at Hoffman Estates or a Timber Ridge CAEL basketball game. In all of these sporting events, at the end of the game, it is the sheer joy, pride, sportsmanship, and care for each other that reflects what winning is all about. So proud to have been able to join in the experience of watching true champions.



### **Dr. Meg Schnoor named next Superintendent of NSSEO**

After approval at a special NSSEO Governing Board meeting on Tuesday, March 7th, Dr. Schnoor was announced as the incoming Superintendent of NSSEO and will assume the role on July 1, 2023. Dr. Schnoor's extensive career includes her current role as Assistant Superintendent in Palatine D15 and previously worked as Special Education Director in Elmhurst and Huntley. NSSEO Board President Anna Klimkowicz shared that "At NSSEO we have had amazing leadership that has been progressive and focused on student-centered growth and we look forward to continuing to expand our goals with Dr. Meg Schnoor as our next NSSEO superintendent" NSSEO welcomes Dr. Schnoor to a special community founded on purpose and building futures for students with special needs. A special welcome reception is scheduled for April 5th at Timber Ridge School at 6:30, shortly before the next NSSEO Board meeting.



## Continued Focus on Recruitment and Hiring

NSSEO has started reviewing hiring needs throughout the district by strategically meeting with leaders throughout the cooperative. This winter and spring will be another busy hiring season as NSSEO will be attending multiple university/college fairs and online job fairs searching for “one like our next best.” Available positions for the upcoming year are posted for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. [Click this link to check out any job vacancies.](#)

## New NSSEO website

Ms. Julie Jilek introduced the [new NSSEO website](#) launched on February 16th with an emphasis on news, content, and events front and center making it more engaging for all visitors. Families are encouraged to subscribe to news and calendar feeds which can be accessed on any of their personal devices. Special thanks to NSSEO Technology Coordinator Eric Murray; Zack Hackett, and Sami Rizvi for the website design and enhancements that communicate the depth and breadth of the work across NSSEO and highlight to parents and visitors events and resources provided across the NSSEO community.

## Upcoming NSSEO Events:

**NSSEO Spring Break**

**Monday, March 27th-Friday, April 1st**

**Welcome Reception for  
Dr. Meg Schnoor**

**Wednesday, April 5th 6:30 pm @ Timber Ridge**

**NSSEO April Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 5th 7:00 pm @ Timber Ridge**

## Making a Difference

NSSEO is continually looking for ways to expand partnerships with parents, districts, community leaders, and legislators to join together as a community committed to deepening understanding and positively impacting NSSEO students and families. To learn more about how to make a difference visit us at [Make A Difference](#) as well as on our social media platforms:

Twitter      @NSSEO\_org  
Facebook    @NSSEO  
Instagram    NSSEO\_org