



NSSEO Governing Board Brief - December 1, 2017

Engage. Connect. Grow.



Kirk Principal Recommendation

The NSSEO Governing Board named Cathi Ivack as the next principal of Kirk School. Cathi will replace Kim Dungan as she retires after 32 years of dedicated work at NSSEO. The principal search process included input from Kirk staff, parents, member district administrators and members of the NSSEO leadership team. In this process the staff and leadership shared that the most important leadership traits to them were respect, understanding and compassion for very special students. Cathi demonstrates these qualities every day. Her experiences as a special

education teacher, assistant principal, principal and most recently, assistant principal at Kirk School have prepared her for this very important role as Kirk Principal. Cathi shared at the Board Meeting that “The Kirk principalship is about growing others; helping staff and students discover and develop their aspirations.”



NSSEO’s Shining Stars- Academic Bowl Recognition

The NSSEO Governing Board recognized the 2017-2018 Hersey High School Deaf Academic Bowl Team. The Academic Bowl for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing High School students was established in 1997 by Gallaudet University. Students engage in a

rigorous schedule of practices, preparing to compete in a tournament style competition. They study a variety of topics including the arts, current events, literature, math and science to name a few. This year the team consists of four students, three of which attend Hersey High School. The team includes: Andrew Wisniewski from District 155, Crystal Lake; Winter Young from District 203, New Trier Township; Megan Runnion from District 211; and Yael Lenga from District 125, Stevenson High School. The students expressed their gratitude to the Board for the opportunity to participate in such a challenging and exciting experience, stating they “dominated the Harper Academic Bowl and finished in first place”. Winter Young was the only female player at the tournament acknowledged with an All-Star recognition. We wish them well in their next round of competition in February.

Review of NSSEO’s Timber Ridge Gymnasium and Life Safety Project

The Governing Board approved entering into an agreement with the construction management firm, Nicholas and Associates to assist in the planning and management of the future Timber Ridge project. The NSSEO Facility Planning Committee will work with our architect and construction manager to develop a more detailed project cost estimate including the identification of any potential areas of cost savings. Additionally, the committee will continue to investigate additional funding sources including donations and grants, along with partnerships opportunities with community organizations such as park districts and special recreation associations.

Transportation Contract Extension

NSSEO entered into a one-year contract extension with Richlee Vans, Inc. NSSEO has developed an exceptional working relationship with Richlee Vans and our programs have benefited from experienced drivers who have driven for Richlee for years and have developed commendable skills in working with students with special needs.

Giving Spirit

During this Holiday season, NSSEO is supporting two families in need through donations gathered at Central office during a time where the spirit of giving means so much. The two families are from Timber Ridge and Kirk Schools and donations of any denomination will go towards purchasing a few gifts and providing important supports for the family. If you would like to donate, please send your checks, payable to NSSEO Giving Spirit, to Linda Maine at NSSEO by December 18th.