



NSSEO Governing Board Brief

May 2, 2018

Engage. Connect. Grow.

NSSEO Shining Stars: Communication for All



The NSSEO Governing Board recognized five students for their growth in the NSSEO Universal Design for Augmented Communication Pilot. Nick Gard (D211), Sebastian Sroka (D214), Jenna Haller (D21), Abhigna Lakkireddy (D25) and Michael Duchaine (D21) have made astonishing developments in their communication through the use of customized assistive technology aligned to their individual needs.



NSSEO educational teams joined assistive technology and innovative learning coaches to explore various means of communication for students with complex motor needs. Staff collaborate and problem solve to ensure every student has a voice.

Please follow the link to see the innovative assistive technology initiatives that have allowed our students to communicate and socialize at school, at home and in the community.

[AAC Pilot Video Link](#)



Recognizing the Power of Purpose and Giving - Kirk Fundraiser

Principal Dungan, Ms. Allie Vitale and Ms. Julie Hollamby represented an impressive Kirk team accomplishment in their recent St Baldrick's and Life

Source blood drive fundraiser. Ms. Dungan praised the Kirk School community for their generosity and service to others. Forty-seven staff donated blood and thirty-one staff shaved their heads for St. Baldrick's, an organization that raises money in an effort to find a cure for childhood cancer. The Kirk Community raised \$36,000 at this single event. Each staff member who shaved their head shared their "why"; some because they have been directly impacted by cancer within their families, some staff with their children affected and Kim Dungan shared her purpose of "believing in letting children be children and by finding a cure for childhood cancer, all children will be free to play and love." The sense of love and community at this event was a beautiful reflection of a caring team focused on children.

7th Annual STEAM Fair

NSSEO held its annual STEAM fair on Monday, April 30th. The theme this year was World of Wonder. Over 110 students showed their science, technology, art and math knowledge and skills at the 26 booths displayed for judges, peers and families in the Miner School gym. STEAM Fair Judges, made up of Governing and Foundation Board members, NSSEO Administration and Staff, engaged in incredible experiments and activities at the booths and shared in the students' enthusiasm for learning. STEAM Fair experiments ranged from building circuits, engineering, weather, coding and included video lesson with a scientist online and great technology engaging activities. The evening STEAM Fair focus was short awards presentation for families and the community. The STEAM Fair incorporated innovative ways for students to advance and demonstrate their passion for learning. A special thanks to the STEAM Fair committee for making this possible for the students in NSSEO programs.

[2018 NSSEO STEAM Fair Video Link](#)



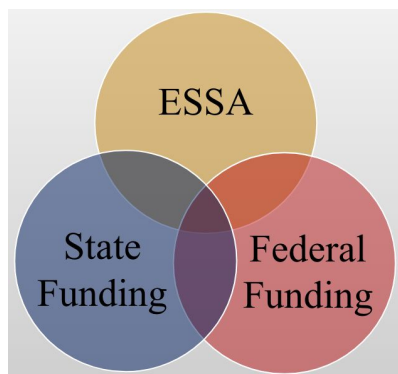
Special Olympics Award-Winning Team

On April 22nd, Prospect High School in District 214 hosted the Special Olympics Spring Games. Fourteen students from Kirk participated in the event. Benefitting from the new Kirk Athletic Field for practice, Kirk athletes showed their enthusiasm and many talents with seven athletes earning **GOLD MEDALS**. The Gold Medalists were Amea

Shanklin, Jeremy Szott, and Justin Roach from District 211, CiCi Quijano from District 26, Luke Cullen from District 125, Zach Borast from District 203 and Zach Jakubowski from District 214. Coaches Allison Cole and Brian Matkovic led their team to victory and are excited to begin preparing the team who is advancing to the statewide competition at Illinois State University! Their success is also a reflection of the commitment of time and dedication to the staff and family members who volunteer and support the incredible event. This year Special Olympics celebrates their 50th year anniversary. It is a great time to recognize the incredible opportunities and achievements special athletes have achieved over the years. More information to follow on the special celebration of Special Olympics in Chicago, held on July 17-21.

Review of NSSEO Fund Reserves

Ms. Julie Jilek, Asst. Superintendent of Business Services, summarized the NSSEO Finance Advisory Committee's recommendation to reallocate a portion of NSSEO reserves for identified needs on the NSSEO long-term facilities plan. All of the options discussed aligned the use of funds with one of the following purposes: reduction of a long-term need or obligation, realize long-term savings to the NSSEO budget and a shared benefit to all member districts. A recommendation for consideration to the NSSEO Governing Board includes utilizing those identified funds to address a combination of three options: a buy-down of NSSEO's IMRF rate, window replacement at Kirk School, and setting aside additional dollars for the Timber Ridge gym/elevator project.



Intersection of ESSA, EBF and Site-Based Reporting

Dr. Judy Hackett and Ms. Julie Jilek provided a brief summary of the special education intersection of processes and reporting for the upcoming implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the associated site-based reporting requirements and the Evidenced-based Funding reform implementation, all beginning in earnest this Fall, 2018. Dr. Hackett and Ms. Jilek have presented across several regions of the state throughout the spring with the focus on how to maximize resources and supports for students with special needs, articulate the needs and resources concisely and provide feedback and suggestions to state leaders to ensure that the educational community has a clear understanding of the complexity and range of needs of their students and the support for the differentiated associated costs.

A Moment to Remember



In early May, NSSEO received the sad news that one of Kirk transition students, Joyal Thomas passed away. Joyal was an engaging 20 year old student who captured everyone's heart with his endearing personality. He often communicated his happiness with a big smile and friendly fist bump. Joyal enjoyed learning new things, watching videos, swimming and playing games with his friends. Our thoughts and sincere condolences are with his family during this difficult time.



During the same week, NSSEO received the sad news that Pat O'Connor, beloved member of our NSSEO Maintenance team at Kirk School since 2006 had passed after a tough battle with cancer. Pat loved the staff, students and the work she did for NSSEO. She put her heart into her work and she will be greatly missed.

A moment to reflect and remember Joyal and Pat was given at the May NSSEO Governing Board Meeting for their incredible gifts of personality and contribution to NSSEO.

Upcoming NSSEO Events

- NSSEO Retirement Reception: May 17th, 4:00 p.m. at Miner School
- Miner Stride-for-Pride: May 19th, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Kirk Walk and Wheel-A-Thon: May 20th, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Timber Ridge Graduation: May 22nd, 7:00 p.m.
- Kirk High School Graduation: May 23rd, 7:00 p.m.
- Kirk Junior High Graduation: May 24th, 1:30 p.m.
- Miner Graduation: May 24th, 7:00 p.m.
- Kirk Transition Graduation: May 29th, 7:00 p.m.