



NSSEO Governing Board Brief January 9, 2019

D/HH Academic Bowl Team Lead NSSEO Governing Board Competition:



Three members of the D/HH Academic Bowl Team, Sergio Cortes, Winter Ly and Yael Lenga, facilitated a modified academic bowl competition with a range of questions along with the actual buzzers and response boards used in competition. This activity was a milder version of the intense competition the D/HH team will face as they advance to Nationals at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. this February. There they will compete against 80 of the Nation's top teams. We are so proud of their success thus far and wish them the very best in the next phase of their national competition. Follow the team's success on Twitter @DHHNSSEO.

NSSEO SEL Shining Superstar, Isaac Spiegel:



The NSSEO Governing Board recognized District 23 student Isaac Spiegel, for his exceptional growth in the area of social emotional learning. Isaac presented his personalized speech for the NSSEO Governing Board, speaking confidently about the hard work and dedication it takes to independently utilize his coping skills when he feels upset. Isaac also shared his impressive data on his daily point sheets, which reflected his growth and supported his ultimate goal of transitioning to his home school. He beamed with pride as he shared what it took: hard work,

dedication and perseverance. The Governing Board, Timber Ridge and his Betsy Ross teams, as well as his family are all so very proud of his accomplishments and know he will continue to excel.

Continuous Improvement Plan, Goal 2:

At each NSSEO Governing Board meeting, one of the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) goals is addressed with a presentation regarding a specific area of focus. The NSSEO CIP for the 2018-2019 school year also includes dashboard indicators that provide measures of growth aligned to NSSEO's organizational goals. This month's focus was on CIP Goal 2 which is targeted at building the capacity of educators to support the social emotional learning and behavioral needs of students.

Mr. Brian Weems, Principal of Timber Ridge School, described the collaborative efforts of building the capacity of educators between the team at Timber Ridge and home districts. The teams design and implement effective transitions for students to their home school as their SEL needs and supports are addressed. Principal Weems shared the importance of "seeing the generalization and continuum of support from Timber Ridge to the home school" as Timber Ridge transitions approximately 25% of the program's students back to their home school at a part time or full time basis. This goal is accomplished through intentionality, goal setting with students and comprehensive planning. Teams routinely adjust and refine programs, supports and methodologies to move the needle of success for students. The emphasis on teaching students to be reflective and be accountable for their actions is an intricate part of the success of the Timber Ridge program. Timber Ridge staff employ many systemic, school-wide strategies to support students' social emotional growth. The training, coaching and support to educational teams working with students ensures greater consistency and integration of instructional skills and strategies across all educational environments.

Innovative Professional Learning:

Ms. Heather Miehler, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, shared information with the Board about professional learning across NSSEO, both in current and future state, emphasizing that "professional learning is an investment in our educators to improve student outcomes." Ms. Miehler shared the four ways NSSEO offers professional learning to member districts and NSSEO programs. The four vehicles are: skill-builder trainings (which includes workshops, keynotes and large groups), coaching, professional learning communities (which are networks of professionals who come together to collaborate, share and support one another's practices) and personalized learning (which is on-demand and self-selected by staff members).



On-demand or just-in-time learning allows educators to choose and access learning or information that is immediately and readily available so they can learn what they need, exactly when they need it.

Advantages of this learning include higher learner motivation, greater retention of skills, it is cost effective, and potentially greater impact.

Just-in-time learning is an area NSSEO is continuing to grow and expand to enhance effectiveness. Ms. Miehler summarized the presentation by highlighting the current professional learning opportunities that include the mentor program, new leader series,

Infinitec workshops and online classrooms as well as upcoming events such as the Legislative

Roundtable, Administrator Academy, a mental health series, and customized trainings for special education teachers and assistants.

NSSEO IDEA Flow-Through Funds Resolution Approved:

NSSEO receives IDEA federal funds which flow through the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). On an annual basis, the NSSEO Finance Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives from all member districts and a Federal Funds Subcommittee, reviews the IDEA allocations and provides a recommendation to the NSSEO Governing Board. NSSEO has retained 15% of the IDEA grant funds annually for professional learning opportunities and to fund a portion of the general costs associated with supporting students in NSSEO programs and services. ISBE informed the field of special education in late July, 2018 of a significant change in practice projected to be implemented in July of 2019 with plans to flow IDEA federal funds directly to districts rather than special education cooperatives. ISBE cited their interpretation of guidance received from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) several years ago as the rationale for this change. NSSEO and other cooperatives across Illinois worked with ISBE to request additional time to collaborate with the field to develop guidance and training to effectively implement the changes.

Representing the interests of the NSSEO member districts, the NSSEO Governing Board unanimously approved a Board Resolution at the January Board meeting, requesting a 12 month extension from ISBE to address the state changes responsibly. Presently, neither state procedures nor the application process for the 12 month extension have been provided by ISBE. The approved NSSEO resolution reflects the collaborative partnerships with member districts and will serve as an important part of the extension application. The extension will allow for the time needed to implement this change effectively with the appropriate time for training and clarification of the process details.

Upcoming NSSEO Events:

1/25 6:30pm - 9:00pm

2/2 - 12:00pm - 4:00pm

2/10 - 10:00am - 12:00pm

2/21 - 6:00pm

2/24 - 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Trivia night brought you by PATHS @ Kirk

Winter Wonderland @ SLOEC

Alumni Basketball Game @ Kirk

Basketball Game @ Miner

Miner Friends & Family Bowling Fundraiser