



NSSEO Governing Board Brief October 2nd, 2019

NSSEO October Shining Stars: Arlington Heights Fire Department



With the help of Peter, a student council member of Timber Ridge School, Principal Brian Weems recognized an influential community partner- the Arlington Heights Fire Department. Members of the Arlington Heights Fire Department have made generous contributions to NSSEO for many years in a variety of ways. Most recently, the AHFD donated backpacks filled with school supplies to every Timber Ridge student on the first day of the 2019-20 school year. The AHFD surprised students by bringing vehicles for students to explore as well as having the opportunity to meet the brave men and women that support our community.



Lieutenant Ross Chapman and Firefighter Jim Stempien were in attendance to accept October's Shining Star on behalf of the Arlington Heights Fire Department. Stempien stated, "Every time a project involves a child, it is even more special for us at the fire department. It's a true honor to give back to our community." Maggie Johanson, Timber Ridge instructional coach, began this great giving experience early this summer by engaging in discussions with the AHFD Fire Department on this rewarding activity. Maggie received glowing praise from the AHFD for connecting them with this project and was recognized for her collaborative partnership at the Board meeting.

A special note of gratitude to the AHFD for the generous contributions and for reaching out to others to donate backpacks and supplies that have made a positive impact on the Timber Ridge and NSSEO community to kick off a great start to a great year.

Federal and State Updates: Dr. Judy Hackett

Our Illinois Senators focused on articulating the local impact and associated stories to continue efforts to advocate for IDEA full funding. Senator Durbin is working on innovative ways to address the teacher shortage by proposing a graduated tax credit bill that would provide an incentive to stay in the education field and advocating for public service loan forgiveness. Senator Durbin and other legislators continue to push for trauma-informed practices for schools through the efforts of the RISE Act. Senator Duckworth has continued her focus on training and workforce development, apprenticeship programs, childcare for working parents, IT "boot camps" for veterans and Pell grant eligibility.

Dr. Hackett, serving as co-chair of the IAASE legislative committee, discussed the process of proposing amendments or revisions during the upcoming brief veto session. As guiding principles for their work, they are focused on what will best protect the needs of students with disabilities, mitigate additional efforts that do not support the student and family partnership and keep our focus on the important work of educating students. The main areas of legislative focus include funding and equalized reimbursement for districts to address the costs of our more significant learners, addressing shortages in special education positions, proactive focus on supports for mental health needs.

In addition to participation in IASA Board meeting discussion in late September, Dr. Hackett attended the IASA Annual State Conference in Springfield with several area superintendents. The conference's main areas of focus included social-emotional learning supports for students, staff and leaders, setting a positive, impactful mindset and practices that enhance our culture to balance the challenges in our educational field.

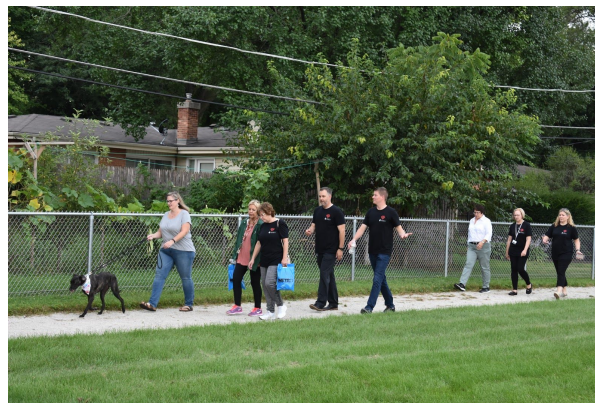
Ongoing efforts to collaborate on legislative priorities include considerations for special education in Evidence Based Funding (EBF), proposed language changes for PA101-0515 (formerly HB3586) to amend district requirements under the new law and PA101-0220 that's basic skills test elimination has resulted in unintended consequences for paraprofessionals who would need to pass the test to meet the requirements for a position. Dr. Hackett continues advocacy efforts on legislation, writing and presenting a special education funding white paper and presenting at the upcoming IAASE conference with an NSSEO parent and staff member to share the importance of collaborative partnerships to build greater understanding for life planning by expanding and engaging parents as partners throughout the educational process.

Continuous Improvement Goal 1 Update: Principal Brian Weems

At the Board Meeting, Brian Weems, Principal of Timber Ridge, shared specific information and examples of the work within the Timber Ridge Curriculum Team this year to promote intentional instructional practices. The NSSEO Continuous Improvement Plan for the 2019-2020 school year includes a significant focus on promoting student growth and outcomes. Specifically, **Goal 1: Student Outcomes** aims to foster development, ongoing growth and positive outcomes for all students. One of the objectives for this goal includes the development and implementation of a **framework to support intentional instructional practices that includes effective professional learning and coaching.**

Mr. Weems shared highlights of the work led by the Timber Ridge Curriculum Team to identify core beliefs for English Language Arts (ELA) instruction at Timber Ridge, enhancements being implemented to reading and writing instructional strategies, as well as the process for materials adoption. The Timber Ridge Curriculum Team have engaged in a process of research and exploration of theory, evaluation and thoughtful planning to lead their building towards a new Language Arts curriculum and instructional block. The work in this area is aligned to the philosophy of NSSEO as well as our 2019-2020 Continuous Improvement Plan, and the outcomes that are being realized are impressive.

Wellness Kick-Off:



On September 19th, the NSSEO Wellness Committee hosted its second annual Wellness Event for all NSSEO staff members. This year's event included multiple vendors, fun activities, refreshments and raffle prizes. Over 100 employees turned out to this event which focused on physical, mental, and financial wellness.

Foundation Highlights:

NSSEO Foundation President Sandy Neumann, highlighted the 2018-2019 Foundation Mini Grant award recipients. The Foundation awarded over \$30,000 to NSSEO programs, classrooms and students for various initiatives, projects and activities within all programs that expand learning and enhance opportunities for students. These included expanded after-school opportunities, support for the D/HH Academic Bowl trip to the National competition in Washington D.C and events that bring families and students across districts together.

Professional Learning 2019-2020:

NSSEO provides high-quality professional learning opportunities grounded in research and designed to facilitate changes in educator practices that will result in improved learning. These learning opportunities are open to all NSSEO staff and our member districts. Ms. Stacy Colgan, Professional Learning Coordinator highlighted several opportunities that await our staff this year. Executive Functioning, Facilitated IEP Training, customized Mental Health Series, and the Safe and Civil Schools Cohort are a few important and timely events taking place this fall. To view NSSEO's Professional Learning Calendar please click on this [link](#).



Remembering a Special Student:

NSSEO and Miner School lost a dear student on October 1st. Kayla, a fifth grade student, was a wonderful young lady who made a positive impact on the students, parents, and staff at Miner and Kirk Schools. Kayla's sheer presence brought joy throughout the halls of the schools and her contagious smile that would light up any room, drawing people to her. Kayla had an affinity for music, socializing, and was known for her expansive collection of shoes. Miner and Kirk communities will remember Kayla for her engaging personality. She will be greatly missed by all.

Upcoming NSSEO Events:

- 10/18 - End of First Quarter; Kirk PBIS Student Celebration (Dance Party)
- 10/19 - Harvest Fest @ Sunrise Lake Outdoor Education Center from 3-7 pm
- 10/29 - Timber Ridge Honor Roll Breakfast @ 9:10 am
- 10/30 - Kirk Halloween Dance; Timber Ridge Family Literacy Night
- 10/31 - Halloween Monster Mash PBIS Celebration @ Miner
- 11/4 - School Improvement Day - NON STUDENT ATTENDANCE DAY
- 11/6 - Governing Board of Education Meeting @ 7 pm
- 11/13 - Bingo Night at the Arlington Heights Ale House (NSSEO Foundation Fundraiser)

Making a Difference:

NSSEO is continually looking for ways to expand partnerships with parents, district, community leaders and legislators to join together as a community committed to deepening understanding and making a positive impact for NSSEO students and families. To learn more about how to make a difference visit us at <http://www.nsseo.org/MAKEADIFFERENCE/> as well as on our social media platforms:

Twitter @NSSEO_org
Facebook @NSSEO
Instagram NSSEO_org