



I. CALL NORTH COOK REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Governing Board of North Cook Intermediate Service Center was called to order by Executive Director, Dr. April D. Jordan, at 7:33 a.m.

Members Present: Michelle Adams (virtual), Don Angelaccio, Marcus Campbell, Karen Foley, Arlen Gould, Anny Lee, Sheila Yousuf-Abramson

Members Absent: Keith Bellof, Lisa Lau, Ileo Lott

Recording Secretary: Gina Shalzi, Office Manager, NCISC
Karla Sanchez, Office Manager (new in training), NCISC

Others Present: April D. Jordan, Executive Director, NCISC
Allison Slade, Assistant Executive Director, NCISC
Terrie Simmons, Business Manager, NCISC
Alina Morelli Baima, Director of Education & PL, NCISC
Cheryl Moore, Director of Human Resources, NCISC

II. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Guests: Lisa Ngo, Arcon Associates; VP Trinh, Arcon Associates; and David Torres from Nicholas & Associates.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Facilities Presentation: Arcon Associates and Nicholas & Associates – Lisa, VP, and David presented several options to the Governing Board in regards to expanding the offices of NCISC and NCYAA. The presentation showcased four options, including handouts, that described the available facilities, necessary renovations, construction timelines and costs. All options were discussed and compared.
- b. Governing Board Update/Executive Director's Report – Dr. April Jordan
 - i. Facility Planning Options – Dr. Jordan explained that NCISC and NCYAA have literally outgrown our current facility. There is no room available to expand both staff and programs, which are needed to serve more students and help them be successful. We have a waiting list of students, as we are currently capped at 40. We have limitations and would like to open the door to students with IEPs and EL students. While programs need to expand, more staff will be needed to support the growth.
 - 1. 1001 E. Touhy Expansion – April told the Board of a possibility of expanding our footprint at our current building. This expansion would include moving NCISC offices down the hall and then renovating the current offices into classrooms. However, this does not solve current issues such as: not having a gym, not having a science lab or STEM space, and other needed flexible spaces. It would be a temporary fix and still a “leasing” situation.

2. Negotiations regarding other properties – April described the work that Terrie Simmons, the Leadership Team, and herself have been doing to address and prioritize the needs of both NCISC and NCYAA at a new facility. April and Terrie have been working with CBRE to see available facilities. North Cook districts have also been asked if they have any schools for sale, as we are trying to stay centrally located in the North Cook area. Some districts have availability but only for a limited time.

The board discussed with the Leadership Team the options that were presented by Arcon and Nicholas and how they would work with North Cook's specific needs.

- ii. FY25 Strategic Plan End-of-Year Update – April pointed the board to the Strategic Plan table in the board packet. Most goals have been met. Goals not completed will be carried over to next year.
 - iii. AESA Leadership Academy 2025-26 – Dr. Jordan has been invited to participate in the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA) 2025-2026 Leadership Academy cohort. This is a national organization for educational agencies, such as ours, for the United States. There are only 25 leaders across the country who have been selected. Participation is designed to elevate not only April's leadership, but to broaden NCISC's impact as an office. Meetings are held throughout the US and in Spain and Portugal in 2025-2026. The primary focus of the group is to explore educational policies, systems, and best practices in K-12 and higher education. Also, leadership models, technology integration, and development strategies to help prepare students for the global economy. We are very proud that Dr. Jordan has been selected!
 - iv. Updated Governing Board Meeting Dates for FY26 – April explained to the board that dates were set for the FY26 Governing Board meetings, however due to her new AESA membership and conferencing schedules, a couple of changes are necessary. The meeting dates proposed are as follows: September meeting has been changed to **September 10, 2025, January 21, 2026**, April meeting changed to **April 22, 2026** and **June 3, 2026**. This is an action item on today's agenda for Governing Board approval.
 - v. New Governing Board Member Interest – Three NCISC superintendents interested in filling the vacant Governing Board seat were shared.
- c. Communications Report – None
 - d. Education & Professional Learning Report – Alina Morelli Baima, Director of Education & PL, stated it has been a great first year and she thanked the Board and the Leadership Team plus April, who laid the foundation. Alina stated that North Cook was able to offer free services with SEL HUB funds, while still doubling their revenue. The IGA with ISBE will be ending for our Instructional Coach Coordinator and Alina anticipates to continue with a Fee for Service. Alina and her team will

continue to be open and grow plus continuously be responsive and innovative to the needs of our districts.

- e. Student Services Report – Allison Slade, Assistant Executive Director, reported to the Board that currently, there are 54 Student Advocates in 31 schools. In FY26, she anticipates 67 Student Advocates in 40 schools. The program is only expanding within current districts that have Advocates, not adding any new districts. Two Student Advocates have been promoted to leadership roles (growth from within the organization) which will provide more supervision and support for the Advocates. Allison stated that of the 25 Student Advocates needed to be hired, they have already hired 20. In FY25, Advocates served 1,400 students; in FY26 it is anticipated that Advocates will serve upward of 2,500 students.

The Attendance Team will be having a retreat next week to discuss how to provide more attendance services for our North Cook districts, as it is a huge need.

Dr. Slade reported that NCYAA is holding summer school for students which will conclude at the end of June. There will be 22 students returning to NCYAA in August and that does not include new referrals. It is anticipated that NCYAA will start the school year with 25-30 students and our cap is 40 students.

- f. Finance Report – Terrie Simmons, Business Manager, explained that besides the facts in her report, the negative cash flow in the non-major special revenue is because of the gen. ops. expenses which have no revenue. It is like this every year.

Also, Terrie stated that she gave the Board a snapshot of the audit report from this past year and again, North Cook had no findings. Terrie also explained that the net increase amount will be added to the facility designation fund and she anticipates even more this year. She also explained that the unrestricted fund balance for all of our funds together is available to be used for a downpayment on property.

Terrie held the Annual Meeting of the NCISC Education Foundation. All the Directors agreed to keep their current positions another year:

Chair:	Keith Bellof
Treasurer:	Karen Foley
Secretary:	Don Angellacio
Executive Director:	April Jordan

Don Angellacio declared the Annual Meeting of the NCISC Education Foundation concluded.

- g. Human Resources Report –
 - i. Personnel Report, New Hires & Resignation – Cheryl Moore, Director of HR, stated that North Cook is hiring 25 new Student Advocates. 12 Advocates are being replaced due to promotions or others that have moved on to other

opportunities. Hiring is expected to conclude in a week or so. Onboarding of new Student Advocates has been ongoing. Orientation for the Advocates will begin on July 16th with Allison and her team.

- ii. FY26 Staffing Plan & Salary Recommendation – As the Board directed at the April meeting, in today's agenda there is an action item for the Board to approve the FTE staffing and compensation. Staff will receive a 4% increase and a 6% increase for all Student Advocates. This is approximately a 4.59% increase for staff salaries, with possibly a little bit of change, but in total should be close to this percentage.
- h. Policy Updates –
 - i. Policy Manual Updates, 2nd Reading: 600.10, 600:20, and 700s – These policies are an action item on today's agenda for Governing Board approval. These are the last of the NCISC policies. Later this year, April and Allison will begin to review and update the NCYAA policies. Also for the record, Cheryl stated that the status of Policy 700.90 listed on the report reads “remove policy” when in fact it is a “NEW policy.”

At this time, Dr. Jordan recognized Gina Shalzi and Cathy Kedjidjian for winning an award for Publication and Digital Media with INSPIRA. Cathy submitted the FY24 NCISC Annual Report for this award before she left NCISC.

III. **CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by Sheila Yousuf-Abramson and seconded by Karen Foley at 8:55 a.m. that the Governing Board meet in Closed Session to discuss:

- a. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).
- b. The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6).
- c. The sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7).
- d. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Adams, Angelaccio, Campbell, Foley, Gould, Lee, Yousuf-Abramson

Nays: None

Absent: Bellof, Lau, Lott

The chairperson declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Sheila Yousuf-Abramson and seconded by Arlen Gould at 9:16 a.m. to adjourn the Closed Session of the Governing Board and reconvene to Open Session.

Voice Vote: all present voted Aye

The chairperson declared the motion carried by voice vote at 9:16 a.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:25 a.m.

IV. **CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEMS**

Resolution

It was moved by Arlen Gould and seconded by Sheila Yousuf-Abramson that on this 4th day of June 2025, the North Cook Intermediate Service Center Governing Board place on the consent agenda and approve the action items listed below, as presented or corrected:

- Approval of Personnel, New Hires & Resignations
- Approval of Regular and Closed Session Governing Board Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2025
- Approval of Regular Disbursements for:
 - March 24, 2025 (2): \$47,589.50
 - April 1, 2025: \$17,680.16
 - April 15, 2025 (2): \$188,352.26
 - April 24, 2025 (2): \$61,441.29
 - May 13, 2025: \$238,670.96
 - May 22, 2025 (2): \$48,232.76
- Approval of Payroll Register from March 30, 2025 through May 15, 2025

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Adams, Angelaccio, Campbell, Foley, Gould, Lee, Yousuf-Abramson

Nays: None

Absent: Bellof, Lau, Lott

The chairperson declared the motion carried.

V. **ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Approval of Next Steps in Facility Planning

Resolution

It was moved by Marcus Campbell and seconded by Karen Foley that on this 4th day of June 2025, the North Cook Intermediate Service Center Governing Board approve the next steps in Facility Planning, as presented or corrected:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Adams, Angelaccio, Campbell, Foley, Gould, Lee, Yousuf-Abramson

Nays: None

Absent: Bellof, Lau, Lott

The chairperson declared the motion carried.

b. Approval of FY26 Governing Board Meeting Schedule

Resolution

It was moved by Arlen Gould and seconded by Sheila Yousuf-Abramson that on this 4th day of June 2025, the North Cook Intermediate Service Center Governing Board approve the

NCISC FY26 Governing Board Meetings, as presented or corrected:

- September 10, 2025
- January 21, 2026
- April 22, 2026
- June 3, 2026

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Adams, Angelaccio, Campbell, Foley, Gould, Lee, Yousuf-Abramson

Nays: None

Absent: Bellof, Lau, Lott

The chairperson declared the motion carried.

c. Approval of FY26 Staffing and Compensation Plan

Resolution

It was moved by Sheila Yousuf-Abramson and seconded by Anny Lee that on this 4th day of June 2025, the North Cook Intermediate Service Center Governing Board approve the FY26 Staffing and Compensation Plan, as presented or corrected:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Adams, Angelaccio, Campbell, Foley, Gould, Lee, Yousuf-Abramson

Nays: None

Absent: Bellof, Lau, Lott

The chairperson declared the motion carried.

d. Approval of NCISC Policy Manual Updates, 2nd Reading

Resolution

It was moved by Arlen Gould and seconded by Anny Lee that on this 4th day of June 2025, the North Cook Intermediate Service Center Governing Board approve the NCISC Policy Manual Updates, as presented or corrected:

- Updated Policies: 600.10, 600.20, and 700s

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Adams, Angelaccio, Campbell, Foley, Gould, Lee, Yousuf-Abramson

Nays: None

Absent: Bellof, Lau, Lott

The chairperson declared the motion carried.

VI. **COMMUNICATIONS** – None

VII. **BOARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** – The Board acknowledged Gina Shalzi and said thank you for all she has done and for her dedication as she retires.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

Resolution: It was moved by Marcus Campbell and seconded by Sheila Yousuf-Abramson at 9:35 a.m. that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: All present voted Aye

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

The next meeting of the North Cook Intermediate Service Center Governing Board will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the North Cook ISC offices located at 1001 E. Touhy Ave., Suite 200 in Des Plaines.

Don Angelaccio, Chairperson

Karla Sanchez, Secretary