

## **I. CALL NORTH COOK GOVERNING BOARD MEETING TO ORDER**

The Governing Board Meeting of North Cook Intermediate Service Center was called to order by Executive Director, Dr. April D. Jordan, at 7:45 a.m.

Members Present: Michelle Adams, Keith Bellof, Marcus Campbell (left 9:30 am), Kari Cremascoli (arrived 7:35 am), Karen Foley, Arlen Gould, Lisa Lau, Sheila Yousuf-Abramson

Members Absent: Don Angelaccio, Anny Lee, Ileo Lott

Recording Secretary: Karla Sanchez, Office Manager/Exec. Admin. Assistant, 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  
Mer Fenton, Director of Communications, NCISC

## **II. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – None**

## **III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a. Executive Director's Report** – Dr. April Jordan gave the board a brief description of current happenings at NCISC:

- Finances on track with our 5-year projections reflecting a positive cash flow.
- Further discussion about the investors and the debt certificates we issued.
- Initiated the elective termination option of the 1001 E. Touhy lease.
- Implementing a fee for service structure for some PL programs when their current funding sunsets.
- New TAOEP grant, thanks to Adriana Chavez, our Attendance Program Manager, under Allison Slade.
- Cheryl Moore, Director of Human Resources, will share feedback from our Great Places to work survey.
- Closed session, market analysis, and some changes coming due to Terrie Simmons, part-time Business Manager, retiring at the end of June.
- In communications, we are excited about our 2026 NCISC & North IASA Better Together Pk-8 Job Fair coming up. It was a huge success last year.

**i. Facility Planning Update** – Dr. April Jordan stated we negotiated a purchase price for the 852 Feehanville property in Mount Prospect. Inspections have been going great and no concerns were found. We are the first ROE/ISC to get a Moody's issuer rating and get a taxable debt certificate rating of Aa2.

We chose the elective termination option at our current location. We will be leaving at the end of July, per our agreement. During construction there are a few options of where staff will work: remotely, at one of our sister-locations, or in completed areas of the new building. We have drafted the 2026-27 NCYAA calendar with a possible start date after Labor Day.

We received a signed Letter of Interest (LOI) on the 852 Feehanville, Mount Prospect property and we are awaiting the Purchase Sale Agreement (PSA).

**ii. CSBO & Market Adjustments** – Dr. Jordan stated that the Board will be convening in Closed Session to go into further details. Terrie Simmons, our part-time Business Manager, will be retiring at the end of June. The full-time CSBO position has been posted. In order to meet with compensation standards, we had to do a market analysis.

**iii. FY26 Strategic Plan Mid-Year Update (Year 3)** – The Leadership Team shared updates in all five (5) of the Strategic Plan's focus areas/subgoals:

Communications, Ms. Mer Fenton: Swag store raised \$500 for the McKinney-Vento Emergency Fund. District registration is open for March job fair. Streamlined internal communications platform with HR.

Student Services, Dr. Allison Slade: Highlighted growth. Anticipate adding 12-14 new advocate positions a year and about 25 with new and changing positions. If we are successful with the waiver, more schools will be able to expand ALOP to younger students.

Professional Learning & Support, Mrs. Alina Morelli Baima: Professional Development going very well. NCISC's goal is to be responsive to our districts' needs. Our part-time instructional coordinator is developing a new teacher program with a la carte offerings to be launched in June.

Organizational Systems & Capacity, Ms. Cheryl Moore: NCISC purpose and values tied to Evaluwise system regarding all staff performance-metrics. We finished our mid-year meetings with employees and we will also have end-of-year meetings with staff to evaluate performance.

Finance, Ms. Terrie Simmons: Building our financial capacity to move into the new building. Funds secure for the purchase and renovations of the facility. Official closing for the Debt Certificates Issue is tomorrow and the closing for the facility purchase should be within the next 1-2 weeks. Arcon and Nicholas are progressing on the plans and timelines. IT vendors, project engineers, and security consultants will be identifying our needs in the new space in the next month.

**b. Communications Report, Ms. Mer Fenton** – Federal requirements for WCAG 2.1 for our web content, social media, and all of our NCYAA materials to meet the educational institutions requirements by April 2026 are being planned. NCISC is on schedule to meet this deadline.

**c. Education & Professional Learning Report, Ms. Alina Morelli Baima** – PL Team supporting in-district requests for services. Areas of PE/Health and Wellness and Special Education

support have been requested. Intentional play-based learning also needed; consultant working with three of our districts. Our DEIB and Wellness Coordinator, has delivered SpeakUp curriculum to over 25 schools. Fee-For-Service model for our DEIB & Wellness Coordinator and SEL & Behavior Coordinator roles begins September 2026. Grant writing consultant hired for NCISC. Mentor Program serves 63 mentees. NCISC now approved to issue Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) for Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) and Psychologists.

**d. Student Services Report, Dr. Allison Slade** – ALOP program has 70 Student Advocates (SAs). We added two new programs mid-year as some current districts requested an additional advocate. Approximately 1,800 students need advocacy services. New districts will be added next year. Quarterly advocate contact meetings have great attendance. Currently surveying district news for SAs for FY27; eight recruitment meetings have occurred. Districts must commit by the end of March to move forward with the program.

NCISC has hired a new Attendance Specialist (also getting licensed to drive the van). The van has been a big success to help those parents who cannot take their children to school. NCISC received the ISBE Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) grant and this will enable a new Rebound Class at the new facility. The Attendance Team led a 3-session workshop in District 59 about what administrators can do for attendance intervention.

**e. Financial Report, Ms. Terrie Simmons** – Financial audit has not started yet due to the scheduling of the auditors; report will be late this year.

- i. Unaudited FY25 Financial Statements (Accrual Basis): Unaudited financial statements show growth throughout all our programs, allowing the funds to be available for purchase of the new facility.
- ii. Moody's Rating Press Release and Rating Chart: NCISC is the first ROE/ISC to apply for a Moody's rating. We received a rating of Aa2.
- iii. 5-year Projections used in Moody's Presentation: Terrie and team developed 5-year conservative projections, including personnel, facility needs, and the cost for operating the new facility.
- iv. FY26 Year-To-Date Finances Update: On track for where we should be for the first six months. General fund, nonmajor programs, PL department and Licensure, show a positive cash flow.

**f. Human Resources Report, Ms. Cheryl Moore** – We continue to grow in personnel. We continue to offer benefits under District 62; now part of a cooperative. Membership in this co-op will help generate significant savings in our health insurance costs, while maintaining the same plans for our employees.

Great Places to Work survey feedback analyzed. We are building our action plans regarding the feedback. Areas we will explore – competitive compensation and creative ways to reward our employees.

Draft Holiday Schedule FY27 – The holiday schedule for NCISC previewed.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

##### Resolution

It was moved by Keith Bellof and seconded by Arlen Gould that on this 21st day of January 2026, the North Cook Intermediate Service Center Governing Board place on the consent agenda and action items listed below, as presented or corrected:

- a. Approval of Personnel as presented in the packet
- b. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from Aug. 27, 2025 and Regular Meeting Minutes from Sept. 10, 2025
- c. Approval of Regular Disbursements for August 25, 2025–December 24, 2025
  - August 25, 2025                   \$5,265.00                   • October 28, 2025           \$40,615.32
  - August 27, 2025               \$144,002.50               • October 30, 2025           \$5,000.00
  - August 27, 2025               \$29,899.65               • November 13, 2025       \$188,736.10
  - September 12, 2025           \$51,019.93               • November 20, 2025       \$544,750.61
  - September 15, 2025           \$217,313.22               • November 24, 2025       \$5,289.98
  - September 24, 2025           \$5,265.00               • November 25, 2025       \$36,429.94
  - September 30, 2025           \$3,194.05               • December 11, 2025       \$261,787.05
  - October 15, 2025               \$112,433.67               • December 18, 2025       \$27,397.30
  - October 24, 2025               \$5,130.00               • December 19, 2025       \$11,383.42
  - October 28, 2025               \$117,138.66               • December 24, 2025       \$5,218.54
- d. Approval of Payroll Register August 30, 2025-December 19, 2025
- e. NCISC Holiday Schedule FY27

##### Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Adams, Bellof, Campbell, Cremascoli, Foley, Gould, Lau, Yousuf-Abramson

Nays: None

Absent: Angelaccio, Lee, Lott

The vice-chairperson declared the motion carried.

#### V. CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Arlen Gould and seconded by Sheila Yousuf-Abramson at 9:12 a.m. that the North Cook Intermediate Service Center Governing Board convenes into Closed Session for reason of Personnel.

- a. 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, Bellof, Campbell, Cremascoli, Foley, Gould, Lau, Yousuf-Abramson

Nays: None

Absent: Angelaccio, Lee, Lott

The vice-chairperson declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Arlen Gould and seconded by Lisa Lau at 9:30 a.m. to adjourn the Closed Session of the Governing Board and reconvene to Open Session.

Voice Vote: All present voted Aye

The vice-chairperson declared the motion carried by voice vote at 9:30 a.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:32 a.m.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Approval of Human Resources Director Contract, Cheryl Moore, effective 4/15/2026

Resolution

It was moved by Sheila Yousuf-Abramson and seconded by Karen Foley that on this 21st day of January 2026, the North Cook Intermediate Service Center Governing Board approves Human Resources Director Contract for Cheryl Moore, as stated above:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Adams, Bellof, Campbell, Cremascoli, Foley, Gould, Lau, Yousuf-Abramson

Nays: None

Absent: Angelaccio, Lee, Lott

The vice-chairperson declared the motion carried.

- b. Approval of Director of Education & Professional Learning, Alina Morelli Baima, effective 7/1/2026

Resolution

It was moved by Michelle Adams and seconded by Sheila Yousuf-Abramson that on this 21st day of January 2026, the North Cook Intermediate Service Center Governing Board approves Director of Education & Professional Learning for Alina Morelli Baima, as stated above:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Adams, Bellof, Campbell, Cremascoli, Foley, Gould, Lau, Yousuf-Abramson

Nays: None

Absent: Angelaccio, Lee, Lott

The vice-chairperson declared the motion carried.

**VII. FOIA REPORT** – One (1) FOIA request from CT Mills Public Info Access LLC

**VIII. BOARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** – None

**IX. ADJOURNMENT OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING/NEXT MEETING**

Resolution

It was moved by all and seconded by all at 9:37 a.m. that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: All 7 present voted Aye

The Governing Board Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

The next meeting of the North Cook Intermediate Service Center Governing Board will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the North Cook ISC offices located at 1001 E. Touhy Ave., Suite 200 in Des Plaines.

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Keith Bellof, Vice-Chair on behalf of Don Angelaccio, Chairperson

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Gina Shalzi, Recording Board Secretary (for Karla Sanchez)