North Cook Intermediate Service Center
Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
1001 E. Touhy Avenue, Suite 350 • Des Plaines, IL 60018
Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 7:30 a.m.

I. CALL NORTH COOK PUBLIC HEARING MEETING TO ORDER

The Public Hearing Meeting of the Governing Board of North Cook Intermediate Service Center was called to order by Don Angelaccio, NCISC Board Chair, at 7:32 a.m.

Members Present: Michelle Adams, Don Angelaccio, Kari Cremascoli, Karen Foley, Arlen Gould, Lisa Lau, Anny Lee, Sheila Yousuf-Abramson

Members Absent: Keith Bellof, Marcus Campbell, Ileo Lott

Recording Secretary: Gina Shalzi, 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 ITEM

a. Application for Waiver of Modification of State Board Rules and/or School Code Mandates (105 ILCS 5/13B-20.25: Modification to expand enrollment to K-3)

Dr. Slade read the following – We are holding this public hearing as a part of the required process to request an **administrative waiver of ISBE Rule 240.20(e)** pursuant to **Section 13B-20.25 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/13B-20.25)**. Currently, the Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) serves students in grades 4 through 12, providing targeted academic support, intervention, and enrichment to help students succeed. The purpose of today's public hearing is to discuss why this proven program should be expanded to include students in kindergarten through third grade.

NCISC has identified a need to provide earlier access to alternative learning supports for students demonstrating significant academic, behavioral, or social-emotional challenges in the primary grades. Allowing enrollment of students in grades K–3 will enable NCISC and its member districts to intervene earlier, provide individualized support, and reduce the need for more intensive interventions at later grade levels.

The requested waiver supports the goals of improving student outcomes, increasing access to appropriate educational programming, and addressing the diverse needs of students served by NCISC and its participating districts.

Early elementary years are a critical period for learning. Research and experience consistently show that skills developed in grades K–3, particularly in literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional development, form the foundation for long-term academic success. When students struggle during these early years, the gaps often widen over time, making later intervention more difficult and less effective. By extending ALOP to younger students, we have an opportunity to identify learning needs earlier, provide timely support, and prevent small challenges from becoming long-term barriers.

Expanding ALOP to serve grades K–3 is not about replacing core instruction, but about strengthening it.

This hearing is an opportunity to consider how expanding ALOP can better serve our youngest learners, strengthen our educational system as a whole, and ensure that more students enter the upper grades prepared, confident, and ready to learn. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration and welcome input from all stakeholders as we discuss this important step forward.

Dr. Slade opened the floor for the public to comment: No public comments.

Dr. Slade asked if there were any additional board comments. No comments or concerns we raised.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution requesting the Administrative Waiver for schools regarding ALOP

Don Angelaccio, NCISC Board Chair, asked the board to review the drafted resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board affirms that the requested waiver will not endanger student health or safety, will not compromise civil rights, and will support improved educational opportunities for students served by NCISC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the **Executive Director (or designee)** of NCISC is authorized to take all actions necessary to complete and submit the waiver application, including certification of compliance with ISBE requirements and inclusion of public hearing

Proposed Motion
I move that the North Cook Intermediate Service Center Governing Board approves **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE WAIVER REQUEST TO THE ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (ISBE)**, as stated above.

Resolution
It was moved by **Arlen Gould**, seconded by **Karen Foley**, that on this **22nd day** of **April, 2026,** the North Cook Intermediate Service Center Governing Board approves the **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE WAIVER REQUEST TO THE ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (ISBE),** as stated above.

Roll Call Vote:

	Ayes	Nays	Abstain
Adams	✓	____	____
Angelaccio	✓	____	____
Bellof	____	____	____
Campbell	____	____	____
Cremascoli	✓	____	____
Foley	✓	____	____
Gould	✓	____	____
Lau	✓	____	____
Lee	✓	____	____
Lott	____	____	____
Yousuf-Abramson	✓	____	____

The NCISC Board Chair declared the motion carried.

V. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING MEETING

Resolution: It was moved by Sheila Yousuf-Abramson and seconded by Michelle Adams at 7:35 a.m. that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: All 8 present voted Aye

The Public Hearing Meeting adjourned at 7:35 a.m.

_____

Don Angelaccio, Chairperson

_____

Gina Shalzi, Recording Board Secretary