



Executive Summary Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: April 20, 2023

TOPIC: Resolution Ratifying Changes to Niles Township District for Special Education (NTDSE)

Articles of Agreement

PREPARED BY: David Russo

Recommended for:

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

Purpose/Background:

Niles Township District for Special Education (NTDSE) is a special education cooperative formed by member school districts, including Lincolnwood School District 74. The cooperative is commonly used by smaller and mid-sized districts to ensure students with the greatest special education needs receive access to skilled professionals that the District might not otherwise be able to employ directly.

Member school districts typically agree on the format and structure of the cooperative by adopting an intergovernmental cooperation agreement or other formal agreement. NTDSE uses an “Articles of Agreement” document. This Articles of Agreement document was first adopted in 2005, with revisions in 2012 and 2015.

Major changes to this 2023 version included:

- General language cleanup to enhance clarity within the document
- The terms of office for President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the NTDSE Governing Board increased from one year to two years

- Additions regarding the roles and procedures for the Fund Balance Committee and other potential committees
- Formula to provide NTDSE classrooms to run satellite programs; increase from \$15,000 to \$25,000 for spaces allocated above the formula level
- Procedures to return excess funds or the assessment of additional funds needed from member districts

District Legal Counsel reviewed the Articles of Agreement and found, “The revisions are generally acceptable, unless there are significant issues or concerns regarding the financial structure or overall management of NTDSE at the present time. Otherwise, the Board should feel comfortable proceeding with the resolution to adopt the proposed revision to the NTDSE Articles of Agreement.”

Fiscal Impact:

The NTDSE Articles of Agreement call for no direct fiscal implications; however, the District pays tuition for those students educated through Niles Township District for Special Education programming and fixed costs to run the district.

Recommendation:

It is the Administrative recommendation that the Finance Committee concurs to recommend to the Board of Education to approve the Resolution Ratifying Changes to Niles Township District for Special Education (NTDSE) Articles of Agreement as presented.