



River Trails

SCHOOL DISTRICT 26

TO: RTSD 26 Board of Education
FROM: Robert Rognstad
DATE: October 8, 2025
RE: NSSEO Committee Update

1. Shining Stars Update /Celebrations

SLOEC & District 211 New Endeavors Students: Max, Alexi, Justin, Keira, Darius, Tommy Joe and Rachel

Remember that SLOEC is NSSEO's property and by extension our property. Teachers, and staff (retreats) are schedulable via the website and dates are already filling up for the 2026-2027 school year.

<https://www.nsseo.org/programs/sloec/index>

2. Any Governance Board Meeting Items with Financial Implications to Our District and/or Votes Taken Place

I'm mostly happy to report that many of the concerns I have been expressing about the proposed governance changes have been agreed to be addressed. Hindsight being 20/20, I had assumed that the plan presented by the NSSEO administration and involved Superintendents had been more thoroughly thought through. It was not and the delays that have occurred over the past year certainly could have been avoided if the whole process had been more cooperative, and transparent. I don't exclude myself from this criticism either.

A forthcoming second draft of the revised "Articles of Agreement," will hopefully be ready for review and ratification by D26 in November.

I would like to specifically thank Dr. Megerle for her efforts to understand and engage in the process. We've spent several hours together getting our thoughts and concerns together and I think that has been very helpful in moving this process forward.

I would like to thank Dr. Schnoor for her efforts in pulling this together. And I'd like to thank all the member district administrators for their participation, cooperation, and good intentions.

Ultimately, democracy at times is messy but in the end I think we are going to arrive in a good place for both D26, NSSEO and most importantly our students which all benefit from NSSEO's programming, training, and expertise.

Based on the attachments in this committee update my recommendation is to formally communicate our district's feedback. These changes are largely necessary to ensure ratification by our entire board in alignment with the proposed in order to gain our support.

Requested Changes:

1. In alignment with the presented documentation from the October 8th, 2025 NSSEO Governing board meeting, modify the responsibilities of the Governing Board to clearly state that recommendations by the Operating Board will be approved by the Governing Board. AND, clearly state recommendation and decisions the Operations Board are making will be submitted to the Governing Board for formal approval or as an information item in alignment with standard board practices.
2. Modify the Amendments section to state that the Governing Board on behalf of member boards are the sole approvers of revisions to the Articles of Agreements. All parties are welcome to propose and recommend but no other approval is required than that of the Governing Board on behalf of member boards.

Suggested Changes:

1. Define a frequency in which the articles will be reviewed by future boards. Every 2 or 4 years at a minimum is suggested.
2. Allow for the development and defining of an interim and easier process by which the “Articles of Agreement” can be further refined over the next 24 months as this new structure takes hold.

3. Upcoming Decisions / Votes to Watch

- *The new draft “Articles of Agreement” will be available prior to the November 6th, 2025 NSSEO Governing Board meeting. At which time a vote will take place to send it back to the member district boards for ratification.*
- *Future Topic: Sunrise, NSSEO is looking into the potential purchase of the land to the south to preserve the oak savanna and a house for the high school students. The Governing Board has directed the Administrator to collect some high level information about the property and what an acquisition might look like.*

4. Questions / Follow-Up Needed

- *I do have a desire, with the understanding that my/our biggest concerns have been addressed, to move this towards ratification ASAP. Especially now that these concerns are addressed it's important that I/we get behind this agreement.*

The question is: How should we allow our board to review what will hopefully be a final version of the “Articles of Agreement” that we will available prior to the next NSSEO board meeting but before we meet again? Note that the next meeting will be for me to vote on our behalf to move the draft to the member districts for ratification.

- *My suggestion is that I relay it to the group upon receipt and ask for any final feedback. then...*

1. If it's minor feedback perhaps Jodi and I can work to draft up a response and/or Jodi and I with a passive consensus can decide to present such minor changes that may not necessarily be a deal breaker.

2. If it's more serious we/Bill can call a COW prior?

Or

We can just let the process play out and if necessary (and hopefully not) present more formal feedback in place of ratification in November. Waiting until our next meeting would still give us an opportunity to get some formal feedback in hopes that we could then ratify in December at the latest.