

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 9:00AM CT

Host Location: Varner Hall-Board Room, 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE

Meeting Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College
Mr. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College (Zoom)
Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System
Mr. Burke Brown, Palmyra District OR-1
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School
Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Schuyler Community Schools
Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools
Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 03 (Zoom)
Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: *Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (Zoom); and Ms. Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media (Zoom)*

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:

Mr. Derek Bierman, Doane University; Mr. Bret Blackman, University of Nebraska; Mr. Edward Koster, Southeast Community College; Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska; Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02; and Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO.

CALL TO ORDER, ELECTRONIC POSTING, LOCATION OF OPEN MEETING LAW DOCUMENTS, ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTIONS

Co-Chair, Gary Needham, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. There were eight voting members present at the time of roll call. A quorum was present to conduct official business. The Meeting Notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on August 29, 2021. The meeting agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) on August 29, 2021.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 MEETING*

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the September 1, 2021 meeting agenda as presented. Mr. Maschman seconded. Roll call vote: Chrisman-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES*

Consider approval of the [Minutes](#) from the 4/21/2021 meeting*

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the 4/21/2021 meeting minutes as presented. Dr. Hoelsing seconded. Roll call vote: Turman-Yes, Needham-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Dunning-Yes, and Chrisman-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion carried.

Consider approval of the [Minutes](#) from the 6/16/2021 meeting*

On the June minutes, Mr. Needham indicated the approval of the agenda should ready June 16th agenda and not April 21st.

Dr. Turman moved to approve the 6/16/2021 meeting minutes as corrected. Mr. Hamersky seconded. Roll call vote: Hamersky-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Needham-Yes, Turman-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Dunning-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rolfes introduced Becca Kingery. Ms. Kingery is the new Education I.T. Specialist for Network Nebraska and the E-rate Office.

NITC UPDATE

[Membership Update.](#) The election of the K12 Co-chair is nearing. Mr. Needham stated that he is willing to continue to serve as K12 Co-Chair but is also willing to let someone else serve.

Dr. Hoelsing moved to reaffirm Gary Needham to serve as the K-12 Co-Chair of the NITC Education Council. Mr. Kelly seconded. Roll call vote: Brown-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Needham-Yes, Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-9, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion carried.

At the July meeting, the NITC approved the memberships of Derek Bierman and Edward Koster. The University of Nebraska membership is still being reviewed.

Co-Chair Needham reminded members that the Council has Task Groups in need of volunteers. Task Groups are vital in recommending and developing action items for the Statewide Technology Plan.

[EC Report to the NITC.](#) Mr. Rolfes reviewed the council report given to the Commission at the July meeting. The NITC is very interested in Network Nebraska and Digital Education initiatives and action items.

FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE

Overview of Federal Funding. Mr. Rolfes reviewed the major sources of federal funding for K-20 education. ESSER III budget proposals are due to NDE by the 15th of September which will require public input, as well as a review every 6 months. The According to Dr. Hoelsing, the Davis Bacon Act needs to be followed when making employment decisions. Funding is mostly for “capital” projects.

ESSER I, II, III Eligible Uses. In the meeting materials, members received an informational handout of allowable activities for the ESSER projects.

FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund. There is currently \$7.1 billion dollars available. Nebraska K-12 submitted \$19.8 million for device and broadband projects. So far, 92 applications have been received from 82 entities. There will be a new window to submit applications for the unawarded amount left from the first round of applicants. The window is September 28 to October 13. Mr. Rolfes indicated that USAC advises not to reapply if you applied the first time but have not heard back. After June 2022, districts would need to pay for any ECF discounted services. Decisions are being made at the local level and not at the state consortium level.

U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund. Approximately, \$10 billion dollars has been allocated for states’ critical capital projects with respect to Covid 19. The final rules and regulations have yet to be issued. Network Nebraska is ready to apply for its \$128.7 million.

The question was asked “what can the Education Council do in support of these funding initiatives”. A promotional public campaign that would focus on the “positive” effects of technology as a partner in education would be good. It would be good to share what we learned during the pandemic and hold a strategic conversation about face-to-face, hybrid, and remote learning. It was also suggested to develop a resolution from the Council for approval at the October meeting.

NETWORK NEBRASKA

ConnectED Nebraska, powered by eduroam. This is a brand-new initiative for K12. The eduroam authentication system has the ability to connect student and staff devices to Wi-Fi when the device comes within range of the eduroam SSID. Once a student, teacher, or administrator are on eduroam, their device will automatically connect every time at any participating location. School districts wanting to get more information or sign up can visit www.connectednebraska.com .

Cybersecurity Awareness and Training. State Information Security Officer, Patrick Wright, has negotiated a contract with Proofpoint to serve Nebraska schools. There are approximately 25,000 staff and 100,000 student licenses available. Some schools have a security awareness program but many do not. For those educational institutions that do not, this would provide affordable training over the course of at least three years. The

ESU Coordinating Council will be including this initiative in their Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative and will be offered to school districts at no cost for the first year, and then 67% subsidized in Year 2, and 33% subsidized in Year 3. Dr. Hoelsing commented that after the federal monies are gone, sustainability will need to be addressed. Free programs have backfired on school districts when thinking too short-term. Mr. Rolfes would like Dr. Hoelsing's input on the Cybersecurity training fee structure to build a sustainable model.

Risk Mitigation Discussion. Mr. Dunning report that the Nebraska State College system has been in conversations regarding cyber security. The University system is also having these discussions. The KANE Group is an informal association of educational institutions from Nebraska and Kansas. The Co-Chairs will meet with Mr. Rolfes to discuss options of expanding the consortium to other Nebraska colleges.

Network Nebraska Annual Fee [Memo](#). The memo has been sent to K12 Network Nebraska participants. DDoS protection caused a slight increase in the Participation Fee.

DIGITAL EDUCATION

Device Equity. Hot spots are being discussed.

Equity of Internet Access. Access to Nebraska's rural areas is still a concern.

DRAFT Rural Broadband Task Force Homework Gap [Report](#). The Rural Broadband Task Force is in the process of updating the 11/1/2019 report and recommendations.

South Central Economic Development District [Flyer](#). More speed tests are needed from Nebraska citizens. Members were encouraged to participate in www.nebraskaspeedtest.org. There are numerous Nebraska areas not represented by speed test data.

SUBSECTOR REPORTS

University of Nebraska. There was no report.

Nebraska State Colleges. Dr. Turman informed the Council that there is a Legislative Hearing scheduled for October 5th regarding specific needs of the American Rescue Plan Act for water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. The State College Board has hired a consultant, Jerry DeSanto, to assist in aligning software and hardware projects so it is common across all three state colleges. Colleges have experienced an average cost increase of 32% for cybersecurity/insurance. The Nebraska State Colleges will be meeting next week to discuss these issues.

Nebraska Community Colleges, Tom Peters. There was no report.

Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities. Mr. Maschman thanked Scott Jones for all of his technical assistance with Zoom licensing and setup.

Public K-12 and ESUs. Mr. Brown wanted to stress network and cybersecurity as a #1 issue. Two students in his district launched DDoS attacks on the school network. After the legislative hearing on LB 992 last year, Senator Albrecht expressed concern about security. Mr. Brown encouraged support by our state senators.

Private/Denominational K-12. Mr. Hamersky reported students are returning to school with less Covid restrictions.

Nebraska Public Media. Ms. Sun reported that the Chief Strategy Director will be leaving Nebraska Public Media. Stacy Decker will soon be named the Innovation and Strategies Director.

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Dr. Baumgartner reported that CCPE has received funding to pay for MHEC memberships. Once MHEC has released the details, CCPE will inform other institutions.

Nebraska Department of Education. Mr. Rolfes indicated that NDE will soon be searching for a candidate to fill SuAnn Witt's State E-rate Coordinator position. NDE is also doing a national search for the CIO position formerly held by Dr. Dean Folkers.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

RBTF meetings on 9/8/2021 & 10/18/2021. The next two meetings of the Rural Broadband Task Force will be held at Varner Hall Board Room on September 8th at 1:30 p.m. and on October 18th at 9:30 a.m.

NITC [Meeting](#) on 11/4/2021 in Lincoln. The next NITC meeting will be held at Varner Hall Board Room on November 4, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Other. Mr. Needham informed the Council that the ESUCC would like to meet with Education Council's Network Nebraska and Digital Education Task Groups and provided a couple of dates of September 9 or 23rd from 8 a.m. until noon. It was agreed to meet on September 23rd, Network Nebraska from 9-10:30 a.m. and then Digital Education from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Mr. Dunning asked the Council if they would be interested in a presentation from the Midwest Impact Group. They are a credentialing engine that transcribes and transfers students' academic records. He will work with Mr. Needham and Mr. Rolfes to get a presentation scheduled for the December meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS & LOCATION FOR THE 10/13/2021 MEETING

Due to calendar conflicts, the October meeting date was changed to October 13th at 1 p.m. Mr. Rolfes will confirm the date with other members.

Agenda items for the next meeting:

- Prep for NITC Meeting
- Cullen Robbins, PSC, presentation

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn. Dr. Hoelsing seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Tom Rolfes of the Office of the CIO/NITC.