

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Wednesday, April 16th at 10:00AM CT

Host Location:

[Sandy Creek Public Schools, 30671 Highway 14, Fairfield, NE](#)

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Co-Chair, Mr. Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska
Co-Chair, Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09
Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 2
Mr. Jeremiah Ourada, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College
Mr. Dean Tickle, Loup City Schools
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchel Secondary School

LIAISONS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College Systems
Mr. Leonard Kwapnioski, Columbus Public Schools
Mr. Bryce Swiggum, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Mr. Greg Robke, ESU 4
Ms. Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Schools
Ms. Ann Burk (Alt. for Nick Muir, Wayne State College)

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:

Mr. Trent Kelley, Hastings Public Schools
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School
Mr. Brandon Eckmann, Northeast Community College
Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska
Ms. Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media
Ms. Elizabeth Kumru, Nebraska Association of School Boards
Mr. Dean Tickle, Loup City Schools
Dr. McCarville, State of Nebraska, Chief Information Officer
Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Post Secondary Education

[NCAPS](#) PRESENTATION

NCAPS is a program that is part of the CAPS network

Excerpt from Website “Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) programs are nationally recognized, innovative high school programs. Students fast forward into their future and are fully immersed in a professional culture, solving real world problems, using industry standard tools and are mentored by actual employers, all while receiving high school and college credit. CAPS is an example of how business, community and public education can partner to produce personalized learning experiences that educate the workforce of tomorrow, especially in high skill, high demand jobs.”

NCAPS focuses on 5 guiding principles that unite, define, and guide the NCAPS experience:

- Profession-based Learning
- Self-Discovery and Exploration
- Entrepreneurial Mindset
- Responsiveness
- Professional Skills Development

Ashley Borer, Secondary Science/ Co -Director NCAPS with Sandy Creek Public Schools, did the presentation. She entertained questions from the council members.

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

Co-Chair Gary Needham called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. There was no quorum at the time of roll call. The meeting proceeded with informational items until quorum was reached. The meeting notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on April 10, 2025. The meeting agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) on April 11, 2025.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 19, 2025 MEETING*

Approval of the agenda was tabled until the next meeting.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF [MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 19, 2025 MEETING*](#)

Approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NETWORK NEBRASKA UPDATES

The Network Nebraska update was provided and included topics such as the closing of the RFP for 22 sites, contract negotiations, revisions of MIUs, memberships, and preparations for the next RFP.

Ms. Kingery entertained questions from the council members.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Ms. Kingery provided updates on the following Legislative Bills: LB31, LB34, LB40, LB241, LB389, LB390, LB296, and LB599. Members were given an opportunity for discussion.

STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY PLAN ACTION ITEM UPDATES

Ms. Kingery and Task Group members provided updates on the action items.

An item of discussion was funding for Cybersecurity. The Office of the CIO has a new State Chief Information Security and Privacy Officer, Abby Eccher. The OCIO is creating a JSOC (Joint Security and Operations Center) which will have regional centers across the State of Nebraska.

Another item of discussion was the Network Nebraska Survey. Susanna Witt, formerly with the Department of Education, created the survey. Ms. Witt is no longer with the State. Survey has not been done since Ms. Witt left.

Some points and suggestions from the council members included:

- How are we getting the survey to the right people and constituents – need an effective way to get this survey out.
 - Technical survey portion is getting bypassed and we need to determine a way to get this from the superintends to the technical staff.
- Survey questions - possibly provide a website for council members to access and provide survey questions.
- Ms. Christina Struebing, with the Department of Education, volunteered to develop a newsletter that would be distributed to superintendents, ESUs, technical staff and other participants.

The council discussed the possibility of visiting superintendents to discuss issues and Network Nebraska, but the logistics would need to be worked out.

SUBSECTOR REPORTS (IF TIME PERMITS)

The following sectors provided updates: University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Nebraska State College Systems; Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities; Public K-12 and ESUs; and the Nebraska Department of Education.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Kingery commented that the council has some upcoming membership vacancies to fill in the next few months: Trent Kelly, Ted DeTurk, Leonard Kwapnioski, and Cassandra Joseph.

CONSIDER LOCATION(S) FOR THE JUNE 18, 2025 MEETING

The Education Council doesn't typically meet in June but keep this date open in case a meeting needs to be held.

CONSIDER AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE JUNE 18, 2025 MEETING

Continued discussion on the survey was recommended.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Co-Chair adjourned the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Meeting minutes were taken by Vicki McElroy and reviewed by Becca Kingery of the Office of the CIO.

Upon adjournment members attending the meeting in-person will be invited to a tour of the Nebraska CAPS facility. The Council would like to express its gratitude to Sandy Creek Public Schools for their hospitality and assistance.