

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

University of Nebraska-Varner Hall

3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Co-Chair, Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09

Co-Chair, Mr. Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska

Mr. Derek Bierman, Doan College

Mr. Brandon Eckmann, Northeast Community College

Mr. Leonard Kwapnioski, Columbus Public Schools

Mr. Greg Robke, ESU 4 (Alt. for Dr. Ted DeTurk)

Mr. Bryce Swiggum, Nebraska Wesleyan University (Alt for Jeremiah Ourada)

Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College

Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchel Secondary School

LIAISONS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Dr. Mathew McCarville, Chief Information Officer, State of Nebraska

LIAISONS & ALTERNATES – VIRTUAL & PARTICIPATION ONLY:

Ms. Elizabeth Kumru, Nebraska Association of School Boards

Dr. Cheri Polenski, Nebraska State College Systems

Ms. Christine Struebing, Nebraska Department of Education

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:

Ms. Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Schools

Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School

Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska

Ms. Molly Delany, Nebraska Public Media

Mr. Dean Tickle, Loup City Schools

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

Co-Chair Gary Needham called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. There was a quorum present to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on February 13, 2025. The meeting agenda was posted to the NITC Web site on February 12, 2025.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Muir moved to approve the September 3rd meeting agenda. Mr. Peters seconded. Mr. Needham offered a friendly amendment to add an action item after Item #5 and before Item #6 which is Approval of Membership Nominations to the NITC. Mr. Muir and Mr. Peters accepted the friendly amendment.

Mr. Muir moved to approve the September 3, 2025 agenda with the additional action item to be added after item #5 and before #6, Approval of Membership Nominations to the NITC. Mr. Peters seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Bierman-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Robke-Yes, Eckmann-Yes, Kwapnioski-Yes, Muir-Yes, Needham-Yes, Swiggum-Yes, and Peters-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 19, 2025 MEETING

Mr. Muir moved to approve the February 19, 2025 minutes as presented. Mr. Robke seconded. Roll call vote: Peters-Yes, Swiggum-Yes, Needham-Yes, Muir-Yes, Kwapnioski-Yes, Eckmann-Yes, Robke-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Bierman-Yes, and Buker-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 16, 2025 MEETING*

Mr. Needham had a correction to the member attendance. Other members that were present via Zoom included Dean Tickle, Leonard Kwapnioski, Greg Robke, Cassandra Joseph and Ann Burk, which would result in no quorum.

Mr. Robke moved to approve the April 16, 2025 minutes as corrected. Mr. Muir seconded. Roll call vote: Kwapnioski-Yes, Muir-Yes, Needham-Yes, Swiggum-Yes, Peters-Yes, Buker-Yes, Bierman-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Robke-Yes, Eckmann-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION WITH DR. MATTHEW MCCARVILLE, STATE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

State agencies are going through budget cuts, as well as a reduction in work force. Dr. McCarville informed the Council that, unfortunately, Becca Kingery was released due to a reduction in staff and Rick Becker has retired.

Marcus Rechtenbach, OCIO/NITC Legal Counsel, will be heading up the team along with Vanessa Castro and Callie Richards. Dr. McCarville assured the Council that there will be no change in the Network Nebraska services currently offered to participants. The Office of the CIO now has a JSOC (Joint Security and Operations Center). The NOC teams are now under the OCIO Security and Privacy Officer, Abby Eccher-Young. Ms. Eccher-Young serves on the MS-ISAC (Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Board representing Nebraska.

The OCIO is working with vendors to explore and build a service fee that is “based on consumption and is scalable” with a full stack security. Mr. Kwapnioski indicated they have also begun these discussions with vendors and offered NATA’s (Nebraska Association of Technology Administrators) assistance with OCIO efforts.

Another point of discussion was the internship program and looking at ways to offer internships in the smaller rural schools. The OCIO is attempting to recruit the best of the best and have begun attending college fairs at Nebraska higher ed institutions. Dr. McCarville asked members to contact the OCIO if they had ideas or suggestions regarding the internships.

The NITC (Nebraska Information Technology Commission) will have 2 new councils. One with a focus on data/data sharing, and the other with a focus on Security. If any council members would like to serve on the council, they are more than welcome. Councils will be informed when the council has been established and ready for membership.

MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS

Mr. Needham shared brief information regarding the membership nominations.

Mr. Muir moved to approve the membership nominations of Scott Issacson, ESU Coordinating Council (ESUCC); Leonard Kwapnioski, Columbus Public Schools; and Cory Gearhardt, Grand Island Public Schools to serve on the Education Council. Mr. Bierman seconded. Roll call vote:

ACTION ITEM REVIEW AND TASK GROUP ASSIGNMENT

Task Group Requirements. The Education Council has four Task Groups aligned to Network Nebraska and Digital Education, per the initiatives in the Statewide Technology Plan. The task groups document was distributed to council members for review. Members were asked to participate in a work group. Work Groups can include individuals outside of the council who have an interest or expertise in these areas.

CHARTER REVIEW

The Council Charter has not been reviewed and updated for several years. Members were asked to review the charter for discussion and update at a future meeting, especially Sections 7.3-7.5 regarding membership.

Vanessa Castro volunteered to update and redesign the charter. She will have the new charter ready for edits and approval at the next council meeting.

DISTANCE LEARNING UPDATE

Chris Struebing will provide an update at the next meeting

SUB-SECTOR REPORTS

Reports were given by the following sectors: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, State Colleges Cheri; Community Colleges; Independent Colleges; and Public K-12.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Cybersecurity Conference will be held on September 29th, 2025 at the Nebraska Innovation Campus, 2021 Transformation Drive, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Dan Lohrmann, Presidio, is the keynote speaker.

DISCUSSION POSSIBLE LOCATION AND AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 15, 2025 MEETING

The Nebraska Department of Education new location was suggested for the next location. Ms. Struebing will follow-up with this request.

Agenda items for the next meeting:

- New Membership Nominations
- Education Council Charter
- Education Council Work Groups
- Presentation – Nate Watson

There was no further business.

Mr. Muir moved to adjourn. Mr. Kwapnioski seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

The meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Marcus Rechtenbach, Callie Richards, and Vanessa Castro of the Office of the CIO/NITC.