

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 9:00AM CT

Host Locations:

ESU 9, 5807 Osborne Drive West, Hastings, NE;
Wayne State College CB 142, 704 Lindahl Drive, Wayne, NE
Zoom Attendance

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Burke Brown, Palmyra District OR-1
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools
Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02
Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College (Host site)
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School
Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools
Mr. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 03
Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09 (Host site)
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education; Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media; Gregg Robke, ESU 4; Steven Dow, Nebraska Wesleyan University; Leonard Kwapnioski, Columbus Public Schools

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Derek Bierman, Doane University; Bret Blackman, University of Nebraska; Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Schuyler Community Schools; Edward Koster, Southeast Community College; Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska; Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System; Ed Toner, OCIO

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

Co-Chair, Jon Dunning, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. There were nine voting members present at the time of roll call. A quorum was present to conduct official business. Meeting Notice Posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) 2/11/2022
Agenda Posted to the [NITC Web site](#) 2/11/2022

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no guests present and no public comment.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 16, 2022 MEETING*

Mr. Dunning moved to approve the February 16, 2022 agenda as presented. Mr. Brown seconded. Roll call vote: Brown-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-

Yes, Kelly-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Moore-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Peters-Yes. Results: Yes-9, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Greg Maschman arrived at the meeting.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE [MINUTES](#) FROM THE 12/15/2021 MEETING*

Dr. DeTurk moved to approve the December 15, 2021 minutes as presented. Mr. Hamersky seconded. Roll call vote: Brown-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Moore-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Peters-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments from any of the sites.

Mr. Rolfes introduced Jeremiah Ourada, Director of Technology and Resource Center, Wesleyan University. Greg Maschman will be resigning from the Council. The Council is awaiting approval of Mr. Ourada's nomination.

LEGISLATIVE [UPDATE](#)

Council members were provided a report listing Nebraska Legislative bills relating to broadband and educational technology: LB83, LB86, LB293, LB338, LB388, LB398, LB411, LB450, LB455, LB456, LB460, LB498, LB520, LB583, LB600, LB604, LB621, LB623, LB656, LB699, LB703, LB731, LB761, LB914, LB916, LB959, LB961, LB962, LB1021, LB1101, LB1112, LB1144, LB1194, LB1199, LB1208, LB1213, LB1214, LB1234, and LB1253. Some bills are still in committee. LB 1213, introduced by Senator Albrecht, will require every database vendor to set up an individual account for each student needing access. Mr. Brown testified on LB1144, LB1101 and LB914 on behalf of the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA).

Discussion followed regarding Nebraska Access databases, student passwords and providing passwords to parents, single sign-on, teachers being sued, granular level on broadband mapping, last mile funding and the funding of Network Nebraska aggregation points. NSEA has taken a keen interest in broadband legislation because of the potential effect on the student and staff homework gap.

FEDERAL FUNDING [UPDATE](#)

Information regarding federal broadband funding programs was provided to the Council members.

The Digital Inclusion and Middle Mile Grant Programs (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) and the Competitive Federal Grant/Loan Programs information was shared with the Council Members. The Treasury encourages recipients to prioritize broadband networks owned, operated or affiliated with local governments, nonprofits, and cooperatives

Mr. Rolfes informed the council that the Network Nebraska proposal to provide funding for the upgrade of Network Nebraska aggregation points and the statewide backbone was denied. Discussion followed regarding the broadband coverage map provided by the Public Service Commission. The data for the map is provided to the FCC by the service providers but is not completely accurate. Broadband grant funding will go to unserved and underserved areas, through projects proposed by the service providers.

NITC ACTION ITEMS

[Action Item Update](#). Every two years, the Nebraska Information Technology Commission updates and submits the Statewide Technology Plan. The strategic initiative and action items are developed by the NITC Advisory Councils and approved by the NITC. At their March meeting, the NITC will be get an update on the plan. Today, the Council will need to review the action items and recommend continuation or discontinuation on each action item.

Digital Education #1: Disseminate information in the form of reports, effective practices, qualitative and quantitative data, and national trends to ensure the success of Nebraska digital education.

The Council recommended to continue the action item but to possibly reword it as: **To identify areas of excellence and challenge in the delivery of digital education through the Nebraska P20 eco-system and make efforts to connect constituencies to improve the state of digital education in Nebraska.**

Digital Education #2: Expand awareness and address the need for equity of access as it relates to digital education.

The Council recommended keeping as is and to continue the effort. Discussion followed regarding speed testing devices.

Network Nebraska #1: Prepare for the future of Network Nebraska as a statewide, multipurpose, high capacity, scalable telecommunications network that shall meet the demands of state agencies, local governments, and educational entities as defined in section 79-1201.01.

The Council recommended to continue this action item as is.

Network Nebraska #2: The Education Council, OCIO/NITC staff, and Network Nebraska support staff will sufficiently and appropriately communicate to, and in support of, current and potential Network Nebraska Participants.

The Council recommended to continue and to continue all four sub-action items as presented.

Mr. Needham commented that there has been lots of progress on action item 2.4. Mr. Rolfes informed the council that the University has released an RFP to outsource the Network Operations Center. Members asked if there can be a provision where Network

Nebraska can have its own dedicated operations center or staff. Currently, Network Nebraska operates on a collaborative shared services model.

Network Nebraska #3: Identify the needs and deliver advanced services to Network Nebraska members, including security, cloud computing, and education infrastructure, to meet the growing needs of its membership.

The Council recommended to continue as is with understanding that it will be centers of excellence that will meet the growing needs.

Mr. Dunning encouraged members to keep the conversations going throughout and in between meeting times.

NETWORK NEBRASKA UPDATE

[ConnectED Nebraska](#), powered by eduroam. Mr. Rolfes reported that this pilot project is moving forward. There have been 99 sites that have signed up to be identity providers (IdPs). At the NETA Conference, CHI Health convention center has agreed to broadcast eduroam. There is funding for years 2 and 3 through December of 2023.

Cybersecurity Awareness and Training. This was included in the action items. The Proof Point licensing for all K12 staff project is about to be deployed. The Education Council will be providing oversight of this project. There have been concerns about Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) prevention and mitigation.

[RFP 6616](#) has netted a 50-75% reduction in fiber Ethernet transport costs for some schools, starting July 1st. The full cost proposal spreadsheet will be made available on the State Purchasing website. Appendix B is intended to get more fiber circuits to public libraries.

U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Funding. This information was included in the meeting materials information regarding federal funding.

DIGITAL EDUCATION UPDATE

The Nebraska Department of Education, the ESU Coordinating Council, and the State Office of the CIO staff have been meeting regularly as the Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative steering committee. There are a number of initiatives that may be funded using ARPA education funding.

The Speed Test and Mapping Initiative proposes installation of speed test software so that every district owned computing device can generate an automated speed test, along with location data, so that students' internet access could be mapped as unserved, underserved, or served.

The Cybersecurity Awareness and Training Initiative proposes a statewide purchase of software so that every adult staff member and high school student would have access and

ESUs and school districts would be able to configure the training program so that the frequency of ransomware attacks can be reduced or eliminated.

The eduroam pilot project, years two and three, proposes to have every school district, ESU, and nonpublic school on Network Nebraska to be broadcasting the eduroam SSID on their Wi-Fi networks and to commit to secure credentialing of every participant using the RADIUS server architecture.

SUBSECTOR REPORTS

Nebraska State Colleges, John Dunning. There is a unified contract for Canvas. Higher Education institutions will be utilizing CANVAS. The State College Systems have advertised for the position of Chief Information Officer. Members were asked to let people know who may be interested. An IT Summit will be held in April at Peru State College.

Nebraska Community Colleges, Tom Peters. The CIO group has not met for several months but will try to get them together before next meeting.

Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities, Greg Maschman. Jeremiah Ourada was re-introduced as a possible new Council member. Mr. Maschman's term will be expiring.

Public K-12 and ESUs. The Canvas contract is being negotiated with NDE. There are still issues with Power School's integration into Canvas.

Private/Denominational K-12, Stephen Hamersky. The Archdiocese is working on security insurance requirements and recommended a review of the Education Council charter to make sure that the group is operating within its intended purpose.

Nebraska Public Media, Ling Ling Sun. A new Education Director, Jessica Mitchell McCullen, has been hired and will hopefully come to the next meeting. Ms. Sun asked for a copy of the Operations Center RFP from UNL.

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Dr. Mike Baumgartner. He observed that there are only two education related bills in Committee. The new teacher pipeline is an issue being discussed. The Commission met with Legislature's Education Committee regarding credentialing initiatives. Dr. Baumgartner shared the following credentialing benchmark language for the legislative resolution: That the Legislature declare it is the goal of the State of Nebraska that at least 70% of 25 to 34 year-old Nebraskans have a degree, certificate, diploma, or other postsecondary or industry-recognized credential with economic value by 2030.

Nebraska Department of Education. Mr. Rolfes reported that the position of State E-rate Coordinator and Infrastructure Specialist closed a week ago. Interviews will occur soon and hopefully the position will be offered.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next NITC [Meeting](#) will be held on March 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the University of Nebraska Varner Hall Board Room.

The next Rural Broadband Task Force meeting will be held on March 18, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

There was no other business.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE TUESDAY, 4/19/2022 MEETING and CONSIDER LOCATION(S) FOR THE 4/19/2022 MEETING

The April 20 date did not work for the K-12 sector due to the NETA Conference convening in Omaha. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19. We will need quorum for a face-to-face meeting and will need a host location.

Mr. Rolfes will work on a location site. The following agenda items were proposed for the April meeting:

- Mission and Purpose of the NITC and Advisory Council Roles
- Action Items

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hamersky moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Needham seconded. All were in favor. Motions carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

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