EDUCATION COUNCIL
Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. CT
Host Location: NET Board Room; 1800 N. 33rd Street; Lincoln, Nebraska
Remote Location 1: ESU 13, Computer Lab; 4215 Avenue I; Scottsbluff, Nebraska
Remote Location 2: Bennet Elementary School; Room 107; 50 Dogwood Street; Bennet, Nebraska
Remote Location 3: Creighton University, Old Gym Room 100; 2431 Burt Street, Omaha, Nebraska
Remote Location 4: Schuyler Community Schools; Supt's Office; 401 Adam Street; Schuyler, Nebraska
Remote Location 5: Central Community College, Admin Offices Room 66; 3134 W. Hwy 34; Grand Island, Nebraska

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mr. Burke Brown, District OR1-Palmyra/Bennet (Zoom)
Mr. Andrew Buker, Alt. for Bret Blackman, University of Nebraska-Omaha
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools (Zoom)
Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02
Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross High School
Dr. Dan Hoesing, Schuyler Public Schools (Zoom)
Mr. Leonard Kwapnioski, Alt. for Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools
Mr. Chuck Lenosky, Creighton University (Zoom)
Mr. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09
Ms. Mary Niemiec, University of Nebraska
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College (Zoom)
Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: Alternate Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Public Schools; Ms. Ling Ling Sun, NET: Ms. SuAnn Witt, NDE; Dr. Mike Baumgartner, CCPE.

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Ms. Carla Streff, Northeast Community College; Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 03Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO.

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

Co-Chair, Mary Niemiec, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. CT. Roll call was taken. A quorum existed to conduct official business with 13 Members or Alternates present. The meeting notice was posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on February 6, 2020. The agenda was posted to the NITC Web site on February 6, 2020.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 18, 2019 MEETING*
Dr. Turman moved to approve the February 19th agenda as presented, Mr. Dunning seconded. Roll call vote: Brown-Yes, Buker-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hoesing-Yes, Kwapnioski-Yes, Lenosky-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, Peters-Yes, Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-14, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE 12/18/2019 MEETING*
Mr. Maschman moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Buker seconded. Roll call vote: Brown-Yes, Buker-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hoesing-Yes, Kwapnioski-Yes, Lenosky-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, Peters-Yes, Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-14, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments at the main or remote sites.

ELECTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION CO-CHAIR

Co-Chair Mary Niemiec asked for nominations from the higher education members for the role of Co-Chair to represent higher education.

Mr. Buker nominated John Dunning to fill the role of Higher Education Co-Chair to succeed Mary Niemiec. Dr. Turman seconded. There was no discussion. The Higher Education caucus voted by voice to forward the nomination of John Dunning to be Co-Chair. Vote: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-1. Motion carried.

Ms. Niemiec moved to approve John Dunning as the Higher Education Co-Chair to serve for 1.5 initial years. Mr. Buker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Brown-Yes, Buker-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Abstain, Hamersky-Yes, Hoesing-Yes, Kwapnioski-Yes, Lenosky-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, Peters-Not Voting, Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-13, No-0, Abstained-1. Motion carried.

RURAL BROADBAND TASK FORCE (RBTF) UPDATE

Mr. Rolfes reported on the RBTF outcomes. Added details were presented on NUSF-117 and the use of NUSF funds to match building new fiber construction to libraries and schools to take advantage of FCC matching funds in the E-rate program. Currently public schools have not commented and need to do so in order to take advantage of this matching program.

LB 992 embodies the RBTF recommendations presented in the 11/1/2019 bi-annual report. The bill was assigned to the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee to hold a hearing, and is awaiting an Attorney General's opinion on dark fiber leasing. The public library technical support fiscal note may be too costly and may be removed from the bill.

Additional discussion revolved around the prospect of low earth satellite services being offered in Nebraska and the projected bandwidth and monthly cost. Members asked about the prospect of 5G in rural areas.

NETWORK NEBRASKA OPERATIONAL UPDATE
Mr. Rolfes reported that State RFP 6206 opened on February 14 and the awards will be announced (Intent to Award) by February 28. Initial impressions are that this is the best pricing seen to date. Very competitive pricing was proposed where little competition exists.

The RBTF GIS mapping project of all Network Nebraska circuits is getting close to beta test to show where bandwidths are inequitable and the high cost areas.

Members were reminded that the State must accept lowest cost – and all vendors must accept the legal and technical requirements to be considered for bidding. The State does not use a subjective rubric.

NETWORK NEBRASKA 2018-2020 ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Needham proposed the following slate of Network Nebraska Action Item changes to be considered by the Education Council members:

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

     Targets/Deliverables:

     1.1. COMPLETED The NNAG Participant Criteria subcommittee and OCIO staff will accommodate and enforce affiliate connections into Network Nebraska.

          1.1.1. Measurable: A) List the types and quantities of affiliate and hosted entity connections to the network.

1.2. PARTIALLY COMPLETE / DISCONTINUE REMAINDER: The Network Nebraska support team will use automated tools to monitor network utilization (COMPLETE) and uptime and develop a web-based graphic for real-time depiction (DISCONTINUE) of WAN circuits, backbone and Internet.

    1.2.1. Measurable: A) Regularly present utilization statistics to NNAG and to the Network Nebraska membership in an annual report.

1.3. PARTIALLY COMPLETE / CHANGE to 2.4 The Network Nebraska support team will implement incident management (COMPLETE) and change control frameworks (COMPLETE BUT NOT COMMUNICATED -- moved to Action Item 2) appropriate to the staffing of Network Nebraska.

    1.3.1. Measurables: A) Implementation of a ticketing system that allows interaction with supported users. B) Advance communication of planned outages / upgrades that affect membership. C) Documentation of past changes to core network systems.

1.4. CONTINUE UNCHANGED NNAG and CAP will guide Office of the CIO (OCIO) decisions regarding network capacity, services, and reliability.

    1.4.1. Measurables: A) NNAG co-chairs will attend monthly CAP meetings and share information. B) CAP liaisons will attend bi-monthly NNAG meetings and share information.

1.5. ADD DELIVERABLE Evaluate the effectiveness of the current Network Nebraska fee structures and address changes related to the associated business models as related to core function and additional services.

2. MODIFIED TO INCLUDE NN SUPPORT STAFF Action: The Education Council, OCIO/NITC staff, and Network Nebraska Support Staff will sufficiently and appropriately communicate in support of existing and potential new Network Nebraska Participants.

Targets/Deliverables:

2.1. CONTINUE UNCHANGED Develop and implement a communications strategy.

    2.1.1. Measurables: A) Specific data and reports in an online newsletter or other form of communication to members outside of the annual fee memo. B) Designated representatives send timely notifications of changes in procedures affecting member relations with the Network Nebraska Support Team.

2.2. CONTINUE WITH CHANGES Conduct a *periodic* survey of Participants to guide direction and service development.

    2.2.1. Measurables: A) Survey is conducted, and data from the survey is compiled for sharing with NNAG, CAP, and the NITC Education Council.

2.3. ADDITION: Develop, maintain, and publish a catalog of Network Nebraska services comprised of services offered directly by Network Nebraska as well as member-offered services to other members.
    2.3.1. Measurable: Catalog of services is published and updated at least annually.

2.4. ADD / REVISE FROM 1.3 Enhance communications regarding change control events affecting Network Nebraska membership.

3. Change to Andrew's verbiage below ** Action: Review the NITC IT Security Initiative and cloud computing components of the State Government IT Strategy Initiative as drafted by the NITC State Government Council.

3.1. Develop applicable practices and strategies for security and cloud applications in educational environments

    3.1.1. Measurables: A) Formulation of a Strategy document

3.2. Determine how to incorporate the applicable strategies within services of Network Nebraska.

    3.2.1. Measurables: A) Additional services or security practices added to NN services list or provided by member "centers of excellence."

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

Lead: Education Council; CAP; NNAG; NU-ITS staff

Participating Entities:

Timeframe: 2020-22

Funding: Additional funding and/or resources will be required for this action item out of the Network Nebraska Participation Fee, which is a participant-funded budget, or from consumption-based billing.

1. Develop applicable practices and strategies for advanced services to be delivered across Network Nebraska in educational environments and determine how to incorporate them into the Network Nebraska business model.

    1. Measurables: A) Formulation of a Strategy document.

2. Select and implement additional services for Network Nebraska members.

    1. Measurables: A) Additional services added to Network Nebraska services list or provided by member "centers of excellence" through the Network Nebraska framework.

Mr. Dunning moved to approve the Network Nebraska Action Item changes as presented by the Network Nebraska task group and recommend them to the NITC for their consideration. Dr. DeTurk seconded. Members discussed the important aspects of the proposed changes and the need for Network Nebraska to shift to a value-added services organization. **Roll call vote: Brown-Yes, Buker-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hoesing-Yes, Kwapnioski-Yes, Lenosky-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, Peters-Not Voting, Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-13, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

DIGITAL EDUCATION 2018-2020 ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Niemiec proposed the following slate of Digital Education Action Item changes to be considered by the Education Council members:

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.

Targets/Deliverables:

1.1   Conduct a collaborative project to identify the scope and usage of digital education across all levels of education across the state of Nebraska.

1.2   Identify the metrics and measure the impact of the use of digital education in student academic preparedness.

1.3   Evaluate the effectiveness of the use of flexible learning technologies and create a guide for effective practices in the use of flexible learning technologies (e.g flipped classroom, blended learning, OER, fully online instruction, etc…).

2) Expand awareness and address the need for equity of access as it relates to digital education.

Targets/Deliverables:

2.1 Education Council will work in collaboration with other Nebraska stakeholders, such as the Community Council Broadband Initiative, to find solutions for available, accessible, reliable, secure and affordable Internet access as related to academic success.

2.2 Identify and promote the use of accessible products and services in achieving equity of access and serve as a communication hub for the work of the Rural Broadband Task Force—Homework Gap recommendations.

2.2.1   Measurables: A) Explore alternative technologies for student home access for educational purposes.

Mr. Dunning moved to approve the Network Nebraska Action Item changes as presented by the Digital Education task group and recommend them to the NITC for their consideration. Mr. Maschman seconded. Members discussed the important aspects of the proposed changes and the vital role that Digital Education activities could play in insuring equity for every digital learner. **Roll call vote: Brown-Yes, Buker-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hoesing-Yes, Kwapnioski-Yes, Lenosky-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, Peters-Not Voting, Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-13, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Rolfes thanked the Council members for assembling a thoughtful slate of Action Items to be reviewed and acted upon by the NITC at their March 12 meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Suggested agenda items for the April meeting included the following:
- Legislative Update
- Future Ready Plan Updates
- Alternate Technologies Update
    - TV White Space
    - Zoom call with StarLink
- Tribal College and Tribal Government Application for EBS
- Catalog of Services from the Network Nebraska Task Group

LOCATION FOR THE 4/15/2020 MEETING

Ms. Niemiec will check on the availability of Varner Hall for a face-to-face meeting. Mr. Rolfes will inform members. Thanks to NET for hosting the meeting and offering tours of the media development and broadcast facilities following the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dunning moved to adjourn. Mr. Buker seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. CT.

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