

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Nebraska Information Technology Commission

Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 9:00AM CT

This is a virtual meeting of the NITC Education Council conducted pursuant to Neb. Exec. Order No. 21-02 (<http://govdocs.nebraska.gov/docs/pilot/pubs/eofiles/21-02.pdf>).

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Burke Brown, Palmyra District OR-1
Mr. Andrew Buker, Alt. for University of Nebraska
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools
Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02
Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School
Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Schuyler Community Schools
Mr. Chuck Lenosky, Creighton University
Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools
Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 03
Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09
Ms. Mary Niemiec, University of Nebraska
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College
Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: Ms. Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Public Schools; Dr. Mike Baumgartner and Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE); Mr. Gregg Robke, ESU 04; and Ms. Ling Ling Sun, NET

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Mr. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Ms. Carla Streff, Northeast Community College; and Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO.

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

Mr. Needham called the meeting to order. There were 11 members present at the time of roll call. A quorum existed to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on April 16, 2021. The agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) on April 15, 2021.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 21, 2021 MEETING*

Co-Chair, Gary Needham

Mr. Brown moved approval of the April 21, 2021 agenda as presented. Mr. Kelly seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Brown-Yes, Lenosky-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Turman-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Moore-Yes, and Needham-Yes. Results: Yes-11, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Dr. Dan Hoelsing and Ms. Mary Niemiec joined the meeting.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE [MINUTES](#) FROM THE 12/16/2020 MEETING*

Co-Chair, Gary Needham

Two corrections were made to the December meeting minutes. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Gary Needham and in the motion to adjourn Dr. Turman's name was misspelled.

Mr. Dunning moved approval of the minutes with the two corrections. Mr. Brown seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Brown-Yes, Lenosky-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Turman-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Moore-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Neimec-Yes. Results: Yes-13, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Co-Chair, Gary Needham

There was no public comment.

NITC MARCH 11 MEETING UPDATE

Tom Rolfes

Mr. Rolfes provided the [EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORT](#) to the NITC at their March meeting which included a review and update of the Council's Network Nebraska and Digital Education action items.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tom Rolfes

[LB 83](#)-- LB 83 would amend the Open Meetings Act in Chapter 84, Article 14, to: 1) modernize the way public bodies hold virtual meetings; and 2) create the statutory framework for public bodies to hold virtual meetings during a declared emergency by the Governor, Mayor, Village Board Chair or County Board Chair. Section 15 of LB 83 has the emergency clause so the bill would take effect when passed and approved according to law, except for subsection 7 of section 84-1413 which has an effective date of July 31, 2022.

The bill has had a series of amendments. ESU's, as well as schools, are mentioned. The number of meetings that can be held virtually will not be changed.

[LB 338](#)— A bill for an act relating to telecommunications and technology; to amend sections 86-330 and 86-1102, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020; to change provisions relating to universal service funding for unserved or underserved exchanges; to provide for community-based plans as prescribed; to provide duties for

the Public Service Commission; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections. The bill will also enable the Public Service Commission to reallocate funding for certain technologies.

[LB 388](#)— LB 388 creates the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act within the Public Service Commission. The Act provides \$20 million in grants annually to increase access to high speed broadband across the state. Eligible areas to receive the grants are prioritized into three categories; (1) unserved areas that have not been targeted for project funding, (2) unserved areas that are receiving federal support for construction that will not be completed within 24 months, and (3) underserved areas that have developed a broadband and digital inclusion plan.

ESSER AND FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE

Tom Rolfes

[Overview of Federal Funding](#). Mr. Rolfes provided an overview of federal funding being provided for K-12 entities, with some funds allowing more flexibility.

CARES Act, CRRSA, & the American Rescue Plan

Programs	CARES Act	CRRSA	American Rescue Plan
Total US ED Allocation	\$30.75 billion	\$81.88 billion	\$169.5 billion
Bureau of Indian Education	\$153 million	\$409.4 million	\$850 million
Outlying Areas	\$153 million	\$409.4 million	\$850 million
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	\$13.2 billion	\$54.38 billion	\$122.8 billion
Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund	\$3 billion	\$1.3 billion (LEAs, IHES, other educational entities)	
Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS)		\$2.75 billion (via GEER II)	\$2.75 billion
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)	\$14.25 billion	\$21.2 billion	\$39.6 billion
Discretionary Grant Programs	\$180 million		

[ESSER I, II, III Eligible Uses](#). ESSER is providing billions in funding for state and local educational agencies to spend on allowable activities to respond to COVID-19. In their information, there was a side-by-side chart showing the allowable activities for each pool of funding. Mr. Rolfes pointed out two sections that may be of interest to the Council members: Purchasing educational technology and Planning and implementing summer learning and supplemental afterschool program activities, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months.

[FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund](#). There will be \$7,171,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2030, for (i) the provision of support under the covered regulations; and (ii) the Commission to adopt, and the Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company to administer, the covered regulations. And in addition, \$1,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030, for the Inspector General of the Commission to conduct oversight of support provided under the covered regulations.

[U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund](#). (a) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$10,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, for making payments to States, territories, and Tribal governments to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID–19). Rules and guidance are expected to be published in early June.

CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVES

Co-Chair, John Dunning

Mr. Dunning stated that there has been excellent multi-agency collaboration in Nebraska regarding cybersecurity and then proceeded to introduce the speakers.

University of Nebraska (Rick Haugerud). In 2017, in a collaborative effort with other higher education institutions, work began around firewalls. There was desire to collaborate and drive down the costs. Work expanded with a Palo Alto collaborative that included Omaha Public Schools, Southeast Community College, Doane University, Creighton University, Clarkson College, and ESU 9. An advantage in collaborating with smaller and bigger institutions is the variety and different IT skill levels to assist each other with threat response, and to review large sums of threat data. Mr. Dunning, Mr. Needham and Mr. Haugerud shared success stories. Questions and discussion followed.

Cybersecurity Education [Program](#) (Patrick Wright). Mr. Wright thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak to the members and liaisons about the Network Nebraska Security Awareness Program Proposal. Collaborative communities are being created in higher education, K-12 and state agencies. It would be great to have all communities collaborate to address cybersecurity. The goal of this program is to provide virtual information security education and training to every adult staff member and administrator to inform and educate them about the risk of cyber threats to their school. The program costs were explained to the council members. The program is being developed and organized through Network Nebraska but will be administered and maintained on a district level with aggregated metrics being reported back to Network Nebraska in order to gauge success of the program. Questions and discussion followed.

SUBSECTOR REPORTS--INFRASTRUCTURE AND/OR APPLICATION ADJUSTMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Co-Chair, John Dunning

University of Nebraska. Ms. Niemec reported that NU is conducting a search to fill her position. Campuses will have a blend of in-person and online courses for the fall. The NU Amplify Conference will be held virtually on May 11th (<https://nebraska.edu/amplify>). Mr. Buker reported that the eduroam agreement is nearing approval by the University of Nebraska. There are eduroam pilot programs currently underway.

Nebraska State Colleges. Mr. Dunning reported that there is an internal network group forming, as well as a Nebraska Student Information System data project. The institution has been focusing on the administration of vaccines to students and staff.

Nebraska Community Colleges. Mr. Peters had nothing new to report but was looking forward to returning to “normalcy” with the fall semester.

Nebraska Independent Colleges. Mr. Lenosky reported that hybrid courses will be offered for the fall. Creighton University will be opening its Phoenix Campus in June with a nursing program.

Public K-12 and ESUs. Mr. Brown reported that K-12 was well represented at the LB 388 hearing. Mr. Needham reported growth in the statewide Canvas agreement with over 144 school districts participating. He also stated that a former colleague who moved to another state complimented the Education Council on its unique K-20, public and private, collaboration, which is rare in other states. Mr. Moore reported on the remodeling of ESU 3’s data center. Dr. Hoelsing said that ESSER III budgeting is the next “big thing” for Nebraska K-12.

Private/Denominational K-12. Mr. Hamersky reported that cybersecurity concerns are front and center among private schools.

Nebraska Educational Television. Ms. Sun reported on a partnership with UNL on an NSF grant to research advanced wireless technologies and STEM activities for K-12 schools.

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Dr. Baumgartner reported that LB 529 is in its second reading. There will be more scholarship monies in the bill, including new scholarships for DHHS YRTC students and ACE Dual Credit Scholarships.

Nebraska Department of Education. Mr. Rolfes reported that SuAnn Witt has retired after 40+years in Education. The agency is in the process of filling her position. The OCIO and ESUCC staff have been working with NDE on technology guidance and funding for K-12 school districts and private schools.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Rolfes

Special Construction Matching Fund (NUSF-117) [Program Update](#).

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to consider implementing a program to incentivize new fiber construction for E-Rate eligible entities.

Mr. Rolfes shared 2021-22 applicant information with the Council members which includes the public libraries in Bayard, Bancroft, Beatrice, Clay Center, North Bend, Verdigre, and Wymore, and the Indianola Elementary School.

Rural Broadband Task Force Meeting on 5/17/2021. The next meeting will be held at the Atrium, 2nd floor conference room, with Ron Cone representing K-12 schools and Andrew Buker representing higher education.

Network Nebraska Brochure. Mr. Needham shared the draft of the Network Nebraska brochure that ESU 11 developed. He asked members to review it and provide feedback. He also asked the members to give some thought as to whether the Council should include cybersecurity in their action items or whether this should be an issue better addressed by Network Nebraska.

AGENDA ITEMS AND LOCATION(S) FOR THE 6/16/2021 MEETING

Co-Chair, John Dunning

One agenda item requested was an Update and follow-up on the Cybersecurity Proposal. After discussion, it was decided to use Zoom for the June meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair, John Dunning

Mr. Brown moved to adjourn. Mr. Lenosky seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

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