

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Nebraska Information Technology Commission

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 2:00PM CT

Varner Hall Lower Level Board Room, 3835 Holdrege St, Lincoln NE

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Burke Brown, Palmyra District OR-1

Mr. Andrew Buker, Alt. for University of Nebraska (Zoom)

Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools (Zoom)

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 (Zoom)

Mr. Chuck Lenosky, Creighton University (Zoom)

Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools

Mr. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University (Zoom)

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 (Zoom)

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: *Mr. Derek Bierman, Doane University (Zoom); Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE); Mr. Gregg Robke, ESU 04 (Zoom); and Ms. Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media (NPM)*

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:

Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 03; 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 at 2:04pm CT. There were seven members present at the time of roll call. A quorum did not exist to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on June 15, 2021. The agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) on June 15, 2021.

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

Co-Chair, Gary Needham

No motion due to lack of a quorum.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE [MINUTES](#) FROM THE 4/21/2021 MEETING*

Co-Chair, Gary Needham

No motion due to lack of a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Co-Chair, Gary Needham

There was no public comment.

NITC EC Membership

Tom Rolfes

Mr. Rolfes provided the [preliminary slate](#) of new and renewing Education Council members for the NITC's consideration at their July 8 meeting. The Council co-chairs recognized Mary Niemiec for her many years of service to the NITC and for serving as the Co-Chair for Higher Education. The council co-chairs also recognized Chuck Lenosky for his 18 years of service as a member and alternate on the Education Council. Both Mary and Chuck will be retiring at the end of June 2021.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tom Rolfes

Mr. Rolfes provided an update on the status of [LB 83](#), [LB 338](#), [LB 388](#), and [LB 528](#). All of these bills were approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in May.

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.

[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. 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 in computing device and hotspot funding available for applications in the July to August time frame.

[U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund](#). (a) APPROPRIATION \$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 July.

NETWORK NEBRASKA AND DIGITAL EDUCATION ACTION ITEMS UPDATE

Tom Rolfes

Mr. Rolfes reported that Network Nebraska will be extending its backbone to Northeast Community College in Norfolk in the 2021-22 year. Cybersecurity initiatives are in development and the eduroam pilot project is off to a great start. Ed Toner's "Annual Fee Memo" will be sent to Participants in late July and the OCIO is projecting a slight increase in the Participation Fee due to the cost of doubling the capacity of the network DDoS protection and mitigation.

Mr. Rolfes shared that he and Ron Cone of ESU 10 were invited to make digital equity presentations at the Future Ready Nebraska virtual conference held on June 14-15. Mr. Cone's presentation featured home internet data gathering and mapping, and Mr. Rolfes's presentation dealt with school districts arranging internet to unserved student households.

SUBSECTOR REPORTS--

Co-Chair, John Dunning

University of Nebraska. Ms. Niemec reported that NU is conducting a search to fill her position, as well as several high-level leadership positions. Ms. Niemec thanked the Council members for their efforts with Network Nebraska and Digital Education and wished them well after she retires. She reiterated how unique the Education Council is, nationally, with its public and nonpublic, K-12 and Higher Education representation, all speaking in one voice on critical issues.

Nebraska State Colleges. Mr. Dunning reported that the state colleges will be pursuing a greater cybersecurity emphasis and partnership with Palo Alto. Dr. Turman announced the new Peru State College President, Michael Evans, and that the three colleges are reporting positive preparations for the fall semester.

Nebraska Community Colleges. Mr. Peters reported additional security activities were convening with the multi-college collaborative group.

Nebraska Independent Colleges. Mr. Lenosky reported that Identity Management and cybersecurity are top priorities for Creighton University. The campus reopened to the public on June 1. Mr. Lenosky said that he had enjoyed his time serving on the Education Council.

Public K-12 and ESUs. Mr. Brown reported that one of the ESU 4 schools' top issues for fall will be Chromebook security. Mr. Needham reported on activities from NDE and the PSC. Dr. Hoelsing and Dr. DeTurk said that ESSER III budgeting is in full swing for

Nebraska K-12. Mr. Kelly has been focusing on professional development with teachers for Google applications and administration and protecting Chromebook devices.

Private/Denominational K-12. Mr. Hamersky reported GEER and ESSER funding applications have been commanding his attention, and was concerned that older devices still in use by students may be more vulnerable to cybersecurity attacks.

Nebraska Public Media. Ms. Sun reported that the NSF grant proposal to research advanced wireless technologies and STEM activities for K-12 schools is still awaiting a funding decision. NPM is looking to partner with NDE and OCIO to test out high tower, high power TV White Space on the KHNE-TV tower near Giltner.

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Dr. Fimple reported that NC-SARA was nearing 100% participation by member states. New reports and resources are available at the NC-SARA [website](#).

Nebraska Department of Education. Mr. Rolfes reported that the OCIO and ESUCC staff have been continually working with NDE on technology guidance and funding for K-12 school districts and private schools.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Rolfes

NITC Meeting on 7/8/2021. The next NITC meeting will be held in Varner Hall.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 8/18/2021 MEETING

Co-Chair, John Dunning

Agenda items requested for the August 18 and October 20 meetings included:

- Federal funding update
- Action Items update
- Cybersecurity initiatives
- eduroam update
- Marketing/promotional brochure
- NUSF fee changes (Cullen Robbins, PSC, guest presentation)

LOCATION(S) FOR THE 8/18/2021 MEETING

Co-Chair, John Dunning

Dr. Hoelsing volunteered Schuyler as a location for the August meeting. Mary Niemiec offered Varner Hall again, as an alternate.

ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair, John Dunning

Co-chair John Dunning adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

The meeting minutes were recorded by Tom Rolfes, Office of the CIO/NITC.