

EDUCATION COUNCIL
August 2, 2017, 9:00 A.M. CDT
Nebraska Educational Television-Board Room
1800 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Mark Askren, University of Nebraska
Mr. Derek Bierman, Northeast Community College
Mr. Burke Brown, Palmyra School District
Mr. Mike Carpenter, Doane University
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools
Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College
Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Schuyler Public Schools
Mr. Steve Hotovy, Nebraska State College System
Mr. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 3 (Via telephone conference, non-voting)
Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09
Ms. Mary Niemiec, University of Nebraska
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: Ms. Cassandra Joseph, Alt. for Derek Bierman; Ms. SuAnn Witt, NDE; Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO; and Mr. Gary Targoff, NET

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02; Dr. Kathleen Fimple, CCPE; Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School; Dr. Mike Lucas, York Public Schools

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

The Co-Chair, Gary Needham, called the meeting at 9:09 a.m. Roll call was taken and found 10 voting members present. A quorum was reached in order to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on July 26, 2017. The agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) July 26, 2017.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 2, 2017 MEETING*

The Chair indicated that item #7a was moved up in the agenda to assure quorum was present.

Mr. Dunning moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Hotovy seconded. Roll call vote: Askren-Yes, Brown-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Niemiec-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Yes-0. Motion carried.

Mr. Tom Peters arrived at the meeting.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE [MINUTES](#) FROM THE 4/10/2017 MEETING*

Mr. Hotovy moved to approve the April 10, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Askren seconded. Roll call vote: Peters-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, Needham-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Brown-Yes, and Askren-Yes. Results: Yes-11, No-0, Yes-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE & NITC REPORT

At the July 12th meeting, the NITC approved the Education Council's recommendation for membership renewals. This is the first time that all members renewed for another term with no changes. The NITC meeting was held at Northeast Community College. There was a lot of discussion about broadband and connectivity in Northeast Nebraska. At the meeting, the NITC directed the Education and Community Councils to work on action items for the broadband strategic initiative and equity of access. Mr. Toner shared that LR 176 was introduced by Senator Friesen to study this issue. If requested, the CIO and the NITC will most likely be involved. After the meeting, the commission heard presentations about IT efforts and challenges from the Norfolk Regional Hospital, Norfolk Public Library and Northeast Community College which was followed by a tour of the campus. Norfolk Public Library was one of the first in Nebraska to purchase and checkout WI-FI hotspots to their patrons to access broadband. Northeast Nebraska continues to have some of the highest monthly fiber costs in the state, at least to educational entities.

PRESENTATION: UNIVERSITY IT REORGANIZATION AND NETWORK NEBRASKA OPERATIONS

Michael Ruhrdanz, Assistant CIO for Network Services and Mike Askren,

Today, the President of the University, Hank Bounds, will be making an announcement this afternoon regarding UNL's budget cuts and efforts to consolidate and centralize services to save dollars. Budget reductions have affected UNL. IT services are being consolidated, but will continue to focus on supporting academic achievement. As the University explores budget reductions, President Bounds wants to focus on three areas: Continue to provide a high level of customer service, continue improving security, and work together to efficiencies and economies of scale.

The University of Nebraska One I.T. functional organizational structure will focus on the following main support areas: Network Engineering headed by Greg Gray, Network Architecture headed by Kent Eitzmann, Network Operations headed by Neil Brown, and the Operations Center headed by Christie Strain. Each area will have a functional lead. Some staff will overlap into other functional areas. All team members contribute significantly to the resolutions of any abnormal operating situation that may arise, and are expected to assist each other at all times. Support for Network Nebraska will not change, and may be enhanced because of access to more expert personnel.

As part of the Internet2 relationship, the University has a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) program which can scrub up to 1g of either good or bad data. Questions and discussions focused around how the consolidation efforts will assist with the following Network Nebraska action items:

- 1.2 Use automated tools to monitor the network
- 1.3 Implement incident management and change control

One of the consolidation efforts is to focus on change control. Automated IT monitoring is an investment in these budget cut times. A Network Monitoring team is now in place and are going through an evaluation process of the network tools that are currently in place. Some investments have been made in Security. Plans are to have a Change Control team established as well. UNL is looking at a notification list as a means of communication to inform participants of what "change" is being proposed. Another suggestion was to create a "community of practice" mail list serve, where someone can pose a question and get communication from the whole group. The Network Nebraska website has a One Call Now distribution list where persons can sign up to receive network updates, but not many were signed up. This tool is in place and could be more fully utilized. A question was asked about NeSA testing time and DDoS. After discussion, it was recommended that a meeting with UNL's engineers and the vendor would be helpful.

Council members thanked UNL for their collaboration, cooperation and work with Network Nebraska. It was suggested that as UNL develops their initiatives to share them with the Council to continue collaboration with the Education Council and Network Nebraska.

NETWORK NEBRASKA INITIATIVE UPDATE

Gary Needham, Task Group Chair

Consider approval of the updated NNAG Charter*

The question was posed to the Council whether the NNAG charter update should be done now or wait until other membership groups have been decided. It was suggested that if other entities will become participants of Network Nebraska that NNAG should be a designated Council or group directly under the NITC. After discussion it was determined to continue with the Charter update, and if membership is increased, to update the charter at that time.

Mr. Targoff arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Peters moved to keep the name Network Nebraska-Education and accept all the proposed changes. Mr. Brown seconded. Roll call votes: Askren-Yes, Bierman-Yes, Brown-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, and Peters-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Yes-0. Motion carried.

OCIO report and Task Group update

Mr. Rolfes indicated that the Network Nebraska report was for data collected as of June 30th. The final fee structure and rates will be sent to the participants in the annual Fee Memo from Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer.

The Office of the CIO will be doing a multi-step RFP process. The first RFP will involve Internet access out of Omaha. The second RFP will be to rebid WAN circuits to reach Network Nebraska. The third RFP will be to bid for a northeast extension to the Network Nebraska backbone. Three new contracts were signed to cover the Kearney to Scottsbluff, Scottsbluff to Omaha, and Grand Island to Omaha leased lit, backbone segments. The monthly costs went down 57%. In addition, this included updating the Grand Island segment to a 10Gbps capacity. All connections can be scaled to 20g.

An RFI was released by UNL to determine what type of assets and fiber are in Northeast Nebraska. An RFP will be released once the information has been evaluated. The OCIO will work with UNL to develop the technical aspects for the RFP. At some point, public points of presence will need to be determined. This could impact the overall cost for northeast Nebraska layer 2 circuits. Northeast Nebraska is the most costly part of the state to reach the Network Nebraska backbone.

Network Nebraska continues to receive new requests to join the network. The statute states, "Shall meet the demand of state government, local government and educational entities." For participation beginning July 1, 2018, several entities have expressed interest in joining Network Nebraska.

There has been some discussions concerning the Nebraska State Telehealth Network (NSTN) and whether the Network Nebraska support and infrastructure model merits their consideration. NSTN's first challenge would be to get stakeholder support to go to the legislature to direct the CIO to serve the NSTN.

The question was raised as to how Network Nebraska would be affected with a larger group of non-education entities. For example, in a crisis, who will take priority, an ESU or a hospital? Several members stated that the Council needs to remember the "core mission" of Network Nebraska was to serve educational entities.

After discussion, it was determined that the Network Nebraska Task Group establish another work group to discuss membership of municipalities, NRD's and telehealth and bring their recommendation to the Council. An email will be sent out to all council members asking for volunteers.

For action item 2.1 Develop a Communications Strategy, Mr. Hotovy has drafted several communication briefs but wants to make more progress before presenting to the task group.

Mr. Needham asked the Council for their input and consideration as the Office of the CIO prepares to take over the coordination of statewide E-rate filing and aggregated invoicing from vendors. Contract law requires that the customer be the legal entity enforcing the contract (privity). The OCIO cannot force vendors to abide by the state RFP without this change.

The Office of the CIO and Council's considerations and discussion points:

- Any circuit for which the OCIO is the customer of record will require e-rate filing as the OCIO, not the school. Service providers would send one invoice with multiple circuit lines to the OCIO rather than to each school. If the OCIO aggregates invoices, the service provider would bill the state on one invoice for several entities. Then the OCIO would rebill the participants after E-rate.
- OCIO will approve a list of consultants authorized to create E-rate forms on behalf of the school districts in the E-rate portal. Those consultants are likely to be current ESU area E-rate experts, and may include other reputable, in-state consultants already used by schools. Member schools and libraries, not the OCIO, will pay the consultant fees. E-rate filing for each entity would still be based on their discount standing.
- Future contracts require no RFP changes; only changes in the actual order and billing process.
- The process will remain voluntary and "opt in" by members.
- Unanimous change by all participants of the contract is not required on existing contracts, but future contracts are subject to vendor acceptance of proposed changes.
- By implication, higher educational institutions would receive the same service option.
- Not-yet-defined additional membership groups would also be included in these options as their membership groups are defined.

The State of Utah has been using this E-rate process for several years. It was stressed that OCIO will need to communicate this change to the participants as soon as possible. The state would need to have a memorandum of change from all participants.

Dr. Hoelsing moved to approve the following resolution:

The Education Council recommends that the OCIO communicate with all the K-12 Network Nebraska members regarding potential changes in the procurement and E-rate reimbursement processes, and proceed with these changes based upon members' voluntary participation.

Mr. Dunning seconded.

Discussion followed regarding including all Network Nebraska participants in the communication.

Dr. Hoelsing made a friendly amendment to the resolution to read as follows:

The Education Council recommends that the OCIO communicate with all the Network Nebraska members regarding potential changes in the procurement and E-rate reimbursement processes, and proceed with these changes based upon members' voluntary participation.

Mr. Dunning seconded the friendly amendment. Roll call vote: Peters-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, Needham-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Brown-Yes, and Bierman-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Network Nebraska [Action Items](#) and [Task Groups](#)

- 1.1 Develop strategy to accommodate community affiliate connections
- 1.2 Use automated tools to monitor the network
- 1.3 Implement incident management and change control
- 1.4 NNAG, CAP guide OCIO's network decision-making

- 1.5 Review and update security services and practices
- 2.1 Develop and implement a communications strategy
- 2.2 Conduct annual survey of NN Participants

DIGITAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE UPDATE

Mary Niemec, Burke Brown, Task Group Chairs

NDE Future Ready Nebraska Update

Dorann Avey, the new NDE Digital Learning Director, was present to provide information about the Future Ready Nebraska plan. The framework identifies 7 key categories, or gears, designed for Digital Learning visioning, planning, and implementation, focused on Personalized Student learning. These include:

- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- Use of Space and Time
- Robust infrastructure
- Data and Privacy
- Community Partnerships
- Personalized Professional Learning
- Budget and Resources
-

The Department of Education has established a 35-member council to begin working on the framework and they have already had their first meeting. Several Education Council members serve on their council. Co-Chair Niemec stated this work coincides with the NITC initiatives and Council's action items. Ms. Avey is willing to provide regular updates to the Council.

Mr. Brown reported that he has been working with a small group to address with service providers the equitable access for students in rural areas. He is also researching what other states have done and will bring his findings to the work group. Broadband access for students who are bused into schools is a related issue.

Ms. Niemec also reported that the Task Group would like to conduct a study. Mr. Dunning is developing a draft charter for the proposed study. It will go before the Task Group for review and approval and then to the Education Council. The study will explore what technological pieces are needed for digital education, will look at other states or other associations that may have already defined these pieces needed for the infrastructure, and whether these can be implemented within our state so that all pieces communicate in a standard way. Partnerships are going to be important and beneficial. Through the task group members' involvement in local and national associations, valuable partnerships will be developed. One of the national initiatives being reviewed is OER (Open Education Resources) for higher education. UNL is looking at accessibility software that may be able to be offered as an enterprise service.

The Co-Chairs directed the Task Groups to meet to review and approve action items before the October 18th meeting. The NITC will review and approve action items at their November meeting.

Action Items and Task Groups

- 1.1 Partner with K-20 entities to establish communities of practice
- 2.1 Conduct a collaborative research project of infrastructure and pedagogy
- 2.2 Identify opportunities for institutional collaboration
- 2.3 Identify and mitigate challenges for student transitions
- 2.4 Create guide of flexible learning technologies
- 2.5 Encourage vendors to implement data exchange standards
- 3.1 Form a joint study group to advance students' equity of access
- 3.2 EC/CC collaboration for affordable and accessible Internet access
- 3.3 Promote accessible products and services to achieve equity of access

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Niemec acknowledged and thanked Gary Targoff for his involvement and work with the Education Council over the past seven years. Mr. Targoff will be retiring from NET at the end of August. He wished the Council good luck with their goals and endeavors.

LOCATION AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 10/18/2017 MEETING

Due to the Women in IT Conference, several council members will not be able to attend the October 18th. Mr. Rolfes will send out a poll to determine the October meeting date. The October meeting can be held via video conference.

Agenda items for the October meeting included:

- Review and recommend the action items: Continued, revised, completed and/or add new ones for final approval by the NITC at their November meeting.
- Mid-biennial budget requests are a possibility

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

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