

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. CDT
Varner Hall, Lower Level Board Room
3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Andrew Buker, Alt. for Bret Blackman, University of Nebraska-Omaha
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross High School
Mr. Steve Hotovy, Nebraska State College System
Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools
Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09
Ms. Mary Niemiec, University of Nebraska
Mr. Gregg Robke, ESU 04

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: Dr. Kathleen Fimple, CCPE; Ms. SuAnn Witt, NDE; and Ms. Ling Ling Sun, NET

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Mr. Burke Brown, District OR1-Palmyra/Bennet; Mr. Derek Bierman, Northeast Community College; Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02; Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College; Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Schuyler Public Schools; Mr. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University; Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 03; Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College; and Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO.

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

Co-Chair, Gary Needham, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Roll call was taken. There were 8 voting members present. A quorum existed to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on August 19, 2019 and the agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) on August 19, 2019.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 21, 2019 MEETING*

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the August 21, 2019 meeting agenda. Mr. Hamersky seconded. Roll call vote: Hotovy-Yes, Buker-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, and Robke-Yes. Roll call vote: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE 04/17/2019 MEETING*

Mr. Hotovy moved to approve the April 17, 2019 minutes as presented. Ms. Niemec seconded. Roll call vote: Robke-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, Needham-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Buker-Yes, and Hotovy-Yes. Roll call vote: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NITC UPDATE

The NITC met on July 25, 2019 at Hamilton Communications in Aurora, Nebraska. The Education Council update report was presented by Tom Rolfes. All eight membership nominations were approved by the Commission. The NITC advisory councils will need to review and revise their action items for approval by the NITC at their March 2020 meeting.

One of the NITC action items was the closure of the following enterprise projects:

- Oracle Fusion project, Department of Administrative Services
- Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) project, Department of Education; and
- Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) project, Nebraska Council of Regions.

Commissioners had concerns regarding the NRIN and NeSA enterprise projects. The Commission voted to not close these two projects and to have the project staff report at the November NITC meeting.

NRIN has not completely covered the whole state with public safety access points. In regards to NeSA, there was concern that the data is not being returned to the school districts in a timely manner. In addition, there are still technical issues occurring during testing. Network Nebraska would like to trace the data flow during fall testing to determine the most effective transport routes and will need schools to volunteer. Mr. Kelly volunteered the Hastings Public Schools.

NEBRASKA RURAL BROADBAND TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Rural Broadband Task Force was established by LB 994 and has been meeting since September 2018. A report is to be submitted to Legislature by November 1, 2019. The Task Force formed subcommittees which have been meeting and discussing their legislative tasks:

- Nebraska Universal Service Fund
- Broadband Data
- Broadband Technologies
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Homework Gap

Andrew Buker serves on the Rural Broadband Task Force and the Homework Gap Subcommittee. The group has developed six preliminary recommendations which he read to the Council members to get feedback. These will be published as part of the Rural Broadband Task Force Report.

Council members provided their feedback. Discussion followed regarding what role will the Education could play as the Task Force proceeds.

- Submit a letter of support to the Task Force.
- Provide testimony at the September 20th Rural Broadband meeting
- Provide input on the Final Report.
- Assist with the Homework Gap Subcommittee recommendations
- Provide testimony and share stories at the December 4th Legislative Hearing

Mr. Rolfes reviewed the Homework Gap teacher survey results. The survey was sent to 23,000 K-12 Nebraska educators and had over 6,900 responses, a 30% return rate. Mr. Rolfes will send the Council members the URL link to view the survey results and comments.

Mr. Kelly moved to draft a letter of support to be presented at the Rural Broadband Task Force September 20th meeting from the NITC Education Council that represents Nebraska's K-20 students. Mr. Hamersky seconded. Roll call vote: Robke-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, Needham-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Buker-Yes, and Hotovy-Yes. Roll call vote: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Council members recommended to include in the letter that the teacher survey did not include higher education faculty and adult learners. In addition, the use of OER (Open Educational Resources) requires students to have internet away from campus to access the digital resources.

The September 20th Rural Broadband Task Force meeting will be open for public comment. It will be available on Zoom for streaming only, but no participation. Mr. Rolfes invited members to use the Rural Broadband Task Force website to submit comments as well. Mr. Needham will plan to present the letter at the September 20th meeting.

NETWORK NEBRASKA 2018-2020 ACTION ITEMS

Future Network deliverables. Progress was made this summer regarding incident management. The University enhanced their ticket system and implemented a ticketing procedure for changes during outages. Mr. Needham asked Mr. Buker to relay “thanks and kudos” to the University of Nebraska team.

Communication Hub deliverables. The Network Nebraska survey was tentatively scheduled to go out in September but will not be ready. The Council will need to review the survey before it is released.

Security Initiative deliverables. Cyber security has been identified by technology administrators as the number one issue facing K-12 school districts. The Council will need to develop action items to address possible cyberattacks.

DIGITAL EDUCATION 2018-2020 ACTION ITEMS

Student Transition deliverables. The task group would like to conduct a research study of Nebraska activities related to secondary/postsecondary transition. With Mike Carpenter’s resignation, the task group will need to recalibrate. Ms. Niemiec’s office offered to pay for the research study.

Equity of Access deliverables (Rural Broadband Task Force Meeting, 9/20/2019). The Digital Education Task Group is in support of the Rural Broadband Task Force. The group has discussed conducting an equity of access study but will wait until Rural Broadband Task Force report is completed.

Mr. Needham provided a brief history of the development of the action items for the new Council members.

SUBSECTOR REPORTS

University of Nebraska, Mary Niemiec/Andrew Buker. The OER initiative was mentioned earlier in the meeting. The new Interim President, Susan Fritz, is very supportive of OER. The NU Online collaborative has been working on access, affordability, and choices for opportunities for bachelor and graduate degrees. There are currently 135 programs that are fully online. There was a study done to determine which states had fewer than 33% of their residents taking courses outside of their state. The data collected was from the Fall Census data. There were only three states that met that criterion: Nebraska, New Hampshire and Arizona. For Nebraska, it shows the State’s collaborative partnerships - kudos to Nebraska. Ms. Niemiec will share the data with the Council members. Mr. Buker reported that there have been several IT leadership changes at the University. Mark Askren, formerly CIO, is now a Senior Advisor to the President. Bret Blackman is Vice President for Information Technology and the new CIO. Heath Tuttle has become the Assistant Vice President for ITS and UNL CIO. Deb Schroeder, UNK CIO, has resigned and her position has been posted. There are two infrastructure projects underway: University of Nebraska partnership for a 100Gbps connection through Fargo, ND for Internet2 and NU is working on an RFP to standardize equipment. The goal is to have the RFP completed by January or February. Due to Ms. Schoeder’s resignation, the NNAG (Network Nebraska Advisory Group) will need to elect a new higher education Co-Chair.

Nebraska State Colleges, Steve Hotovy. Paul Turman was introduced as the new Chancellor of the State College System. He shared that his background and work experience include technology. The agency is developing a strategic plan for the three colleges. Security standards have been developed and they are in review by faculty and staff. The agency appreciates collaboration with the University.

Nebraska Community Colleges. No report.

Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities. No report.

Public K-12 and ESUs, Trent Kelly/Greg Robke. Mr. Kelly would like to share the Homework Gap survey data results at the September NATA meeting. Mr. Rolfes indicated that the full report should be

available by then and will share the link with the Council members. Mr. Robke announced that Kraig Lofquist has started his position as the executive director of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council.

Private/Denominational K-12, Steve Hamersky. Mr. Hamersky is interested in STEM issues. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has been sponsoring programs that are moving away from printed textbooks and more OER. He will try to do an informal digital education survey of needs to get feedback from his sector on OER, copyright, and fair use.

Nebraska Educational Television, Ling Ling Sun. The Nebraska Broadcasters Conference was held last week. NET has been working on a Tornado Alley Project which will provide tornado alerts and program mobile data.

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Kathleen Fimple. The CCPE was asked to serve on the National OER Committee. Ms. Fimple will serve on the committee. The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) has a new President and CEO, Lori Williams. SARA has been going through legal issues regarding the complaint process and federal funding. California is the only state that has not adopted SARA. Beginning in 2019, there will be no need for individual disclosure.

Nebraska Department of Education, SuAnn Witt. The department is promoting OER to school districts through its Nebraska Hub website. A review of Rule 10: Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools has been initiated. There are some federal legislative bills being introduced that may be of interest, such as Wi-Fi on school buses.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Task Group Membership list was distributed to members. Council members were asked to inform Mr. Rolfes about their participation preference.

The Rural Broadband Task Force Meeting will be held on September 20, 2019 at University of Nebraska-Varner Hall in Lincoln.

The 14th Annual Nebraska Cyber Security Conference will be held on October 22, 2019. There is a special educational registration rate of \$79.

The Legislative hearing to review the Rural Broadband Task Force report will be held on December 4th, 1:00 p.m. Members can testify on behalf of their institutions or from personal experience.

The Women in IT Leadership Conference will be held on November 6, 2019 at the University of Nebraska Innovation Campus. The University is partnering with EDUCAUSE. There are only 435 registrations available. Link to conference information: <https://its.unl.edu/conference/>

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 10/16/2019 MEETING

Agenda items for the October meeting included the following:

- Strategic Initiative and Action Items
- Blueprint Nebraska – Presentation
- Future Ready Nebraska Update

Due to the EDUCAUSE Conference being held on October 16th, several members will not be able to attend the Education Council meeting. Mr. Rolfes will look at an alternate date for the October meeting.

CONSIDER LOCATION(S) FOR THE 10/16/2019 MEETING

Varner Hall has worked out well and was suggested as the meeting location.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hotovy seconded. All were in favor by voice vote. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

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