

NITC EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 9:00AM CT

This meeting was conducted over videoconferencing. Members of the public may e-mail tom.rolfes@nebraska.gov if interested in joining the meeting. The Zoom link will be by request only.

Host Location: DAS Lower Level Training Room; 1526 K Street; Lincoln, NE
Remote Location 1: ESU 13, Computer Lab; 4215 Avenue I; Scottsbluff, NE
Remote Location 2: Wayne State College, Campus Service Bldg 129; 704 Lindahl Drive; Wayne, NE
Remote Location 3: UNO Eppley Admin Bldg 110A; 6001 Dodge Street; Omaha, NE
Remote location 4: Schuyler Community Schools, Supt's Office; 401 Adam Street; Schuyler, NE
Remote location 5: Central Community College, Admin Offices Room 66; 3134 West Hwy 34; Grand Island, NE
Remote location 6: ESU 02; 2320 Colorado Avenue; Fremont, NE
Remote location 7: ESU 04; 919 16th Street; Auburn, NE
Remote location 8: ESU 16; 1221 W 17th Street; North Platte, NE

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Burke Brown, District OR-1
Andrew Buker, 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. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools
Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09
Ms. Mary Niemiec, University of Nebraska
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE); Ms. Ling Ling Sun, NET; Gregg Robke, ESU 4; and Scott Jones, ESU 16

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Mr. Chuck Lenosky, Creighton University; Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 03; Ms. Carla Streff, Northeast Community College; Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System; Ms. SuAnn Witt, Nebraska Department of Education; 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 nine 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](#) August 20, 2020. The meeting agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) 08/20/2020

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 26, 2020 MEETING*

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Mr. Dunning seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Kelley-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Peters-Yes. Results: Yes-9, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE 4/15/2020 MEETING*

Mr. Dunning moved approve of the April 15, 2020 minutes as presented. Mr. Peters seconded. Roll call vote: Peters-Yes, Needham-Yes, Kelley-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Dunning-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, and Buker-Yes. Results: Yes-9, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NITC JULY 9 MEETING UPDATE

The Commission is requesting a report of what K12 and higher education did in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Infrastructure, devices, and application data has been collected for K12 via the Nebraska Department of Education but more information is needed from the higher education sectors. Efforts will be made to solicit this data in time for the November NITC meeting. A higher education survey has been developed but it needs more participation from higher education. All sectors should have anecdotal stories to share. The October Education Council meeting will be used to review any IT-related budget proposals if any are submitted. If there are no budget requests, then the council will work on action items.

2020-22 Statewide Technology Plan. Mr. Rolfes reminded council members that the NITC approved the Statewide Technology Plan action items as presented, but the action items can be further developed or updated at any time.

Higher Ed CARES Act Response Survey. Mr. Rolfes reminded members to complete the survey created by John Dunning, Wayne State College.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Rolfes informed the Council members of the following legislative bills.

LB 992--Adopt the Broadband Internet Service Infrastructure Act. Senator Curt Friesen introduced the bill. The bill clarifies and stipulates dark fiber leasing and easement requirements for utilities and broadband providers; creates the position of State Broadband Coordinator in the OCIO on 7/1/2022; creates the Nebraska E-rate Special Constructions Matching Fund Program; and defines “served” as 25/3 and “underserved” as any speeds below 25/3.

LB 996--Create the Broadband Data Improvement Program. Encourages crowdsourcing of data in an attempt to improve broadband.

LR 438--Monitor the activities of the Rural Broadband Task Force. Monitors the activities of the Rural Broadband Task Force. Review status of the RBTF and progress on 11/1/2019 recommendations; study the effects of the Governor’s CARES act broadband grants; and progress of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (Phase 1) Auction.

LR 429--Examine issues related to mapping broadband coverage throughout Nebraska. Examine issues related to mapping broadband coverage throughout Nebraska.

NETWORK NEBRASKA OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Scott Jones shared that the number of Zoom licenses is rapidly increasing in response to the pandemic. There were 7,800 accounts in 2016-17, 2020-21 in excess of 35,000 licensed accounts. In under five years the number of licenses has increased 500%, projecting 50,000 for 2021-22.

RFP 6206 circuit update. Twenty-four of the 260 circuits are still awaiting upgrades from the April 2020 orders. Network Nebraska circuit map shows 2019 circuit data for Nebraska K-12 circuits, the cost per Mbps, Kbps per student, name of the provider and name of the location served. An eduroam pilot project is being considered for Network Nebraska.

Network Nebraska circuit map. The OCIO GIS team rendered a map of Network Nebraska circuit data. The GIS team created layers of data. Council Members were encouraged to look at the map and provide suggestions. This same type of map could be developed with higher education institutions but will need to have the data provided.

Network Nebraska Annual Fee Memo. The Annual Fee Memo from Ed Toner has been to all participants. Internet costs decreased by 30%. The Network Nebraska Participation Fee cost increased by 1%.

Burke Brown arrived to the meeting.

Eduroam functionality for the future. Mr. Buker provided a brief overview of eduroam. eduroam provides federated authentication for end users when away from their home institution. This is an opportunity that comes out of Internet2. The University of Nebraska has used eduroam for many years. A statewide K-12 pilot is now possible, if approved, with a \$65,000 startup fund from NDE. Value to K-12 is be considered a priority. There is another Govroam initiative being considered by Internet2.

Mr. Burke moved that the Education Council support the installation of eduroam on Network Nebraska for K12 for 2020/21 and beyond. Mr. Kelly seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Kelley-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Peters-Yes. Results: Yes-9, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Mary Niemec (non-voting) joined the meeting.

CARES ACT FUNDING & ACTIVITIES/GEER UPDATE

Digital Learning Guidance from NDE. Mr. Rolfes called attention to the information given out by NDE regarding the Hierarchy of Digital Learning Needs: Professional Development and Training; Digital Content; Software Systems; Devices and Infrastructure. NDE has adopted Canvas as the supported Learning Management System and are offering to subsidize the implementation fee for districts. Districts are encouraged to opt in.

Higher Ed CARES Act Response Survey. Mr. Rolfes reminded the higher education sector to respond to the survey and to forward to others. Mr. Rolfes will work with the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to promote the survey.

Governor's Rural Broadband Remote Access Grants. The Governor allotted \$40 million for rural broadband projects to be administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. There were over 90 projects submitted. A public announcement will be out soon. The Form 477 25/3 mapping data disqualified quite a few of the applicants. The funding has to be spent by 12/30/2020.

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

University of Nebraska, Andrew Buker and Mary Niemec. There is a continuation of remote classes for the summer semester. This is the first week of classes on premise. The University is continuing to see an increase in the use of Zoom, as well as laptop and hotspot checkouts. The University President has laid out a 5-year strategic plan. Ms. Niemec reported that there are a large number of classes online. On the University High School side, the University is seeing lots of interest from around the world.

Nebraska State Colleges, John Dunning. The college is focusing on flexibility for faculty and students with remote learning. There has been an investment of laptops for

faculty. Classes are in the second week of face-to-face instruction. There has been a real effort to collaborate with local health care providers to provide a safe and rapid testing environment.

Nebraska Community Colleges, Tom Peters. Community Colleges are experiencing the same situations and needs as other institutions. A meeting with the other community colleges is being planned for September.

Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities, Greg Maschman. They are experiencing the same things as other higher education institutions. Social distancing is being practiced.

Public K-12 and ESUs, Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Trent Kelly and Burke Brown. Teachers are struggling with providing in classroom and remote learning at the same time. Canvas has been very helpful. Having enough devices is an issue. Dr. Hoelsing reported that his rural elementary schools are now on fiber instead of fixed wireless and that has been a big improvement.

Private/Denominational K-12, Steve Hamersky. He also stated teachers are finding it difficult and challenging to do a combination of in-class and on-line. The archdiocese is working closely with the County Health department in terms of school closings.

Nebraska Educational Television, Ling Ling Sun. A Nebraska Studies series has been launched. It is also being provided in Spanish. Starting in August, on the last Thursday of every month, the NET IT team will conduct online training sessions on how to use NET's resources, teacher information, and connected teaching. NET, with the collaboration of the OCIO and NDE, will be providing assistance to the Northeast Nebraska Tribal Educational Broadband Services.

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Dr. Mike Baumgartner and Dr. Kathleen Fimple. The CCPE budget allows dual credit and career scholarships, etc. Institutions will be submitting their budget proposals as well. SARA is accommodating deadlines due to COVID. SARA and the US Department of Education has a requirement that the state must provide licensure information to students for all programs that require a license, even if they live out-of-state.

Nebraska Department of Education, Mr. Rolfes. An RFI (Request for Information) will be released soon by NDE. The RFI is to solicit internet service providers to provide educational discount pricing for K-20 households. NDE will publicize information on their website for families to learn about potential services.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Construction Matching Fund (NUSF-117) Program has been approved. Nebraska was the 25th state to be approved and recognized by the FCC.

Rural Broadband Task Force Meeting on 9/11/2020. This meeting will be broadcast on Zoom. A Homework Gap panel presentation will be shared with RBTF members. Education Council members are encouraged to watch the webinar.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 10/21/2020 MEETING

Suggested agenda items for the October meeting included:

- Eduroam Update
- Eduroam Security Elements
- Action Items (Task Groups)
- NITC Report - Subcommittee effort

CONSIDER LOCATION(S) FOR THE 10/21/2020 MEETING

The next two Council meetings must be face-to-face. Mr. Rolfes will poll the members and alternates for potential meeting rooms large enough to allow for social distancing.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kelley moved to adjourn. Ms. Niemec seconded. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

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