MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mr. Derek Bierman, Northeast Community College
Mr. Bret Blackman, Alt. for Mark Askren, University of Nebraska
Mr. Burke Brown, Palmyra School District OR1
Mr. Mike Carpenter, Doane University
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools
Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College
Mr. Steve Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School
Dr. Dan Hoesing, Schuyler Public Schools
Mr. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09
Ms. Mary Niemiec, University of Nebraska
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College
Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 3 Board Member

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:
Ms. Cassandra Joseph, Alt. for Mr. Matt Chrisman; Mr. Steven Stortz, Alt. for Mr. Steve Hamersky; Mr. Gary Targoff, NET; Ms. SuAnn Witt, NDE

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02; Dr. Kathleen Fimple, CCPE; Mr. Steve Hotovy, Nebraska State College System; Dr. Mike Lucas, York Public Schools; 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 9:02 am CT. Roll call was taken and found 13 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 August 17, 2016. The agenda was posted to the NITC Web site on August 19, 2016. The Open Meeting Law document was located on the south wall of the Board Room.

Members and guests introduced themselves.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 31, 2016 MEETING*

Mr. Dunning moved to approve the August 31, 2016 agenda as presented. Mr. Carpenter seconded. All were in favor 13-0-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE 4/26/2016 MEETING*

In the K-12 Private Sector report, Mr. Needham made a correction to the acronym COPA. It should be COPPA (Child Online Privacy and Protection Act).

Mr. Dunning moved to approve the April 26, 2016 minutes with the stated correction. Mr. Brown seconded. All were in favor 13-0-0. Motion carried.

NITC UPDATE

Mr. Rolfes proceeded to give a brief history about the NITC and its six advisory councils: The Community Council, Education Council, eHealth Council, GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Council, State Government Council and the Technical Panel.

At the July 14 NITC meeting, the Education Council's recommendation for two new members, Tom Peters of Central Community College and Alan Moore of the ESU 3 Board, was approved. Whenever the Council has a resignation or a term expires, the council sector organization or entity is contacted to recommend a nominee to represent their sector.

The Education Council is taking the lead for two of the NITC's Statewide Technology Plan Initiatives: Network Nebraska and Digital Education. Work groups have been established to develop action items for these initiatives. In order to save time and cost of travel, the groups may meet via phone conference calls or video conferencing in addition to the regular Education Council meetings.

Council members and alternates were asked to consider which of the two initiative work groups they would like to serve. Members were asked to send Mr. Rolfes their preference.

Timeline for NITC review of I.T. Project Proposals. Every biennial year, agencies have an opportunity to submit IT project proposals as part of the biennial budget process. The Technical Panel recruits technical reviewers to assist with the reviews. Council members may be asked to serve as reviewers depending on their expertise. The Technical Panel will provide a technical score and comments for each submitted project and each of the advisory groups will have an opportunity to recommend prioritization of the projects under their purview. The information is compiled and then presented to the NITC for their review and recommendation to the Governor and Legislature by November 15, 2016. The agency proposal submission deadline is September 15, 2016. IT project proposal reviews will be the main order of business at the October 19 Education Council meeting. A face-to-face meeting would be preferred.

Mr. Rolfes stated that the NITC and the legislature do take the advisory groups' recommendations very seriously. A few years ago, it was the Council's recommendation for the University and State College systems to work together on one Student Information System rather than seek funding for two separate systems, if feasible, and if it proved to be a cost savings and more efficient project for the taxpayer. The NITC and Governor listened, the project was funded, and the two entities collaborated and the project was a success. In addition, Ms. Niemec commented that the Education Council has the most wide and inclusive institutional representation of any other educational group in the state.

The NITC will be meeting on November 10 to review the I.T. project proposals and to carry out their statutory responsibilities.

NETWORK NEBRASKA AND DIGITAL EDUCATION ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Walter Weir and Mr. Rolfes explained the roles of the NITC, Technical Panel, Education Council, NNAG (Network Nebraska Advisory Group), and CAP (Collaborative Aggregation Partnership)

Walter Weir was recently appointed by the Governor to serve on the NITC (Nebraska Information Technology Commission). He recently was named as Senior Advisor to the University President. The new Chief Information Officer for the University system is Mark Askren.

In the past, the Lieutenant Governor served as Chair of the NITC. The current Governor appointed the State CIO, Ed Toner, to serve as Chair of the NITC. Other members of the NITC include the following:
- Senator Curt Friesen, Nebraska Legislature
- Shane Greckel, Greckel Farms LLC
- Dr. Terry Haack, Bennington Public Schools
- Dorest Harvey, Offutt AFB
- Randy Meininger, Mayor, City of Scottsbluff

- Dan Shundoff, CEO, Intellicom
- Daniel Spray, President, Precision Technology
- Gary Warren, President of Services Corporation, Hamilton Telecommunications

Mr. Weir has served as the Chair of the Technical Panel since 1999, and he has been with the University of Nebraska for 21 years. The Technical Panel is responsible for the technical review of IT project proposals and monitoring enterprise projects for the NITC. In addition, the Panel reviews, approves and recommends Standards and Guidelines to the NITC. Any of the advisory groups can develop and recommend Standards and Guidelines to the NITC via the Technical Panel.

Network Nebraska is unique in that no other state has taken the same approach with development of their statewide networks. Mr. Weir commended Mr. Rolfes for all his work and contributions to Network Nebraska. Other states get funding, hire staff to develop the network but have not had as much success as Network Nebraska. Network Nebraska was created with no state funding, voluntary participation and a self-funded budget. Through collaboration and cooperation, entities contributed to its development to provide affordable Internet and distance education opportunities to educational entities. The Office of the CIO handles the administrative aspects of Network Nebraska and the University of Nebraska Computing Services Network (UNCSN) handles the technical operations and infrastructure responsibilities. Since the OCIO and UNCSN use shared employee services, the cost reduction to education entities is significant.

In the pre-Legislative phase of Network Nebraska, the CAP (Collaborative Aggregation Partnership) group was established. Rick Golden, who has since retired from the University of Nebraska, and Jerry Hurley, who has since retired from the State, architected the basic network topology. The University wrote a National Science Foundation grant to help construct the redundant component for the eastern part of the state. The CAP group meets on the second Wednesday of every month at Varner Hall. The Education Council members were invited to attend any future meetings.

In 2009, the Education Council chartered a policy group for Network Nebraska which created NNAG (the Network Nebraska Advisory Group). This group is made up of key stakeholders who advise the CIO on budgetary and policy issues. The group holds a videoconference meeting every other month. Any Network Nebraska Participant and staff can attend NNAG meetings.

Current discussions regarding Network Nebraska are focused on "where do we go from here"? Mr. Weir, along with Mr. Toner and Senator Friesen, believe that the Legislature needs to hear and learn about the success of Network Nebraska, including case studies.

NETWORK NEBRASKA INITIATIVE UPDATE

1.1 Accommodating community affiliate connections

Mr. Rolfes reported that the City of Lincoln and Lincoln Public schools are researching how to provide Internet to the homes of high poverty students who do not have Internet and who have brought home a district-owned computer. There is very little data as to how many homes this would entail for any school district.

1.2 Automated tools to monitor the network

Recommended to table this item until the Network Nebraska backbone RFP has been awarded later this fall.

1.3 Incident management and change control

The Work Group would like to see some of the incident and change control to occur within Network Nebraska. One of the reasons that the circuit upgrade deadline was not met on time by several Providers was because the service providers wanted to commit to only 95% reliability as a performance metric. This was not acceptable to the State. Fortunately, this was negotiated and the circuit upgrade project is

almost complete. Incident management and change control metrics would demonstrate to providers that their circuits are more reliable and have less down time than perceived.

As Network Nebraska considers future statewide transport, there will be a need to consider dark fiber capacities which would entail a more complex RFP process to qualify for E-rate.

1.4 NNAG, CAP guide OCIO's network decision making

This will be discussed as part of agenda item #5

1.5 Update security services and practices

This is a large undertaking and will possibly have more information at the December meeting. Two security events are upcoming: Nebraska Cyber Security Conference on September 28-29 to be held at Southeast Community College in Lincoln, and the NETA Fall Conference Security Workshop on October 6 to be held at the Younes Convention Center in Kearney.

2.1 Implement a communications strategy

Network Nebraska outage and maintenance communications have been improving. The ESUs are getting notifications regarding outages just as soon as the schools are informed. The group stated that Network Nebraska needs to be more proactive with describing its own successes and value. It was suggested to develop a one-page executive summary geared towards specific audiences of Network Nebraska: Administrators, School Superintendents, higher education CIOs, IT technical staff, etc.

Dr. Hoesing informed the council that he is involved in a project with the "Nebraska Loves Public Schools" group that uses Flood Communications for multi-lingual outreach. This group could be a free media outlet to communicate to parents, including Spanish speaking families.

Mr. Rolfes suggested involving Holly West who has been hired as the Public Information Officer for the OCIO on this concept. She is currently working with the Governor's office to develop a press release for Network Nebraska. It was also suggested to develop a 2-3 minute public service announcement for Network Nebraska. When developing these informational materials, Network Nebraska needs to be seen as a strategic initiative with demonstrated cost savings to the State and its citizens and reach more audiences than the State CIO's "Annual Fee Memo" that reaches all Participants.

2.2 Conduct annual survey of NN Participants

The Work Group is developing a new format for the annual survey. It needs to look differently than it did back in 2009.

DIGITAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE UPDATE

1.1 Partner with K-20 entities to establish communities of practice

The work group distributed a handout of conferences and/or courses as a starting point.

2.1 Collaborative research project of infra-structure 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

Mr. Dunning and other work group members met with Malcolm Brown to discuss collaborating with EDUCAUSE. The meeting evolved from working with the State of Nebraska to doing a multi-state research project. On a national level, the work group is interested in collecting information about the Next

Generation Digital Learning Environment (NGDLE) which includes the development of standards, learning management systems, and digital landscaping. Discussions will continue. The work group is also looking at creating a guide to learning technologies and equity of access. Ms. Niemec stated that the work group also discussed using institutional collaboration to meet goals.

3.1 Joint study group to advance students' equity of access

It was recommended to use the Lincoln Public Schools and the City of Lincoln project as a case study for public awareness.

3.2 EC/CC collaboration for affordable and accessible Internet access

The Education and the Community Councils met together at the April meeting to discuss broadband availability and affordability. Increasing demands of digital education resources is causing more demand for Internet at home. Although more and more students are using mobile devices, the digital divide is still very real when it comes to broadband. The advancement of technologies will always create new challenges to equity.

3.3 Promote accessible products and services to achieve equity of access

Special needs students and "accessibility" needs to be front and center when selecting products and services. Mr. Weir suggested inviting Christi Horn to the December Education Council meeting to discuss accessibility.

The Work Group had a long discussion regarding IT "terminology". One of their projects is to get a list of terminology that the institutions are using. Then create some type of matrix to get consensus and adoption of key terms. It will help facilitate discussions across the state, if all are talking about the same subject. Ms. Niemec has staff doing research on this topic and will bring it back to the work group.

Council members were asked to review the work groups and send Mr. Rolfes their preferences. The alternates were asked to do the same.

OTHER BUSINESS

As RFPs are awarded, Mr. Chrisman stated that he hopes the State keeps western Nebraska in mind and its increasing needs for Internet services.

Mr. Rolfes reported that NNAG had decided on a statewide video conferencing tool and scaled an existing UNK contract with Zoom to promote cost savings and increased adoption. The service cost recovery is conducted through Network Nebraska. The cost has decreased substantially to $2/per user and over 15,000 licenses are being purchased for 2016-17.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 10/19/2016 MEETING

- Budget Proposals
- Presentation-Accessibility, not October but next meeting

CONSIDER LOCATION(S) FOR THE 10/19/2016 MEETING

The meeting should be a face-to-face meeting in October with a guaranteed quorum but if needed we could video conference, allowing members to participate in the discussion but would not be able to vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Hoesing moved to adjourn. Mr. Burke seconded. All were in favor 13-0-0. Motion carried.

The Education Council meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

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