

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 1:00PM CT

Host Location: Zoom Videoconferencing

Meeting Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Burke Brown, Palmyra District OR-1

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

Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools

Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02;

Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College

Mr. Steve Dow, Nebraska Wesleyan University (Alt. for Greg Maschman)

Mr. Edward Koster, Southeast Community College

Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 03

Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09

Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education; and Ms. Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:

Mr. Derek Bierman, Doane University; Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School; Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Schuyler Community Schools; Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools; Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska; 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 1:05 p.m. There were seven voting members present at the time of roll call. A quorum was not present to conduct official business. The Meeting Notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on October 12, 2021. The meeting agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) on October 12, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no guests present and no public comment.

NEBRASKA BROADBAND BRIDGE PROGRAM

Cullen Robbins from the Nebraska Public Service Commission provided an update on the number and types of [applications](#) received on 10/1/2021 for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program. A total of 76 applications were received, with 54 coming from urban areas, 12 from purely rural areas, and 10 from mixed urban/rural areas. An estimated 16 of 76 applications were received to address “unserved” areas and 60 of 76 applications were received to address “underserved” areas. The next stage is for providers to submit challenges to posted applications and then evaluation can begin. The target date for announcement of all approved/funded applications is January 5, 2022.

Burke Brown arrived at the meeting.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 13, 2021 MEETING*

Mr. Brown moved to approve the October 13, 2021 meeting agenda as presented. Mr. Dunning seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Brown-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Koster-Yes, Dow-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES*

Mr. Brown moved to approve the 9/1/2021 meeting [minutes](#) as presented. Mr. Dunning seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Brown-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Koster-Abstain, Dow-Yes, Moore-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstain-1. Motion carried.

U.S. TREASURY CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDING FOR NEBRASKA

Mr. Rolfes provided a summary of the U.S. Treasury Capital Projects funding [guidance](#) destined for Nebraska. If Nebraska applies for the full amount, it will translate to \$128.7 million to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring within the presumptively eligible sub-projects of A) Broadband Infrastructure, B) Digital Connectivity Technology; and/or C) Multi-purpose Community Facility upgrades. The Governor or other designated entity must make application by December 27, 2021, and then a full detailed plan must be submitted by September 2022, and all funds must be expended by December 31, 2026.

NETWORK NEBRASKA UPDATE

Mr. Dunning and Mr. Needham led a discussion on the Network Nebraska Action Items from the Statewide Technology Plan. Progress is being made even though the Education Council subcommittee members have not been able to meet. The co-chairs requested a subcommittee lead to volunteer, and Andrew Buker said that he would take on this role. Additional comments and updates were shared about the initiatives of eduroam, cybersecurity, and the Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative (FRDLC).

DIGITAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Mr. Dunning and Mr. Needham led a discussion on the Digital Education Actions from the Statewide Technology Plan. Progress is being made even though the Education Council subcommittee members have not been able to meet. The co-chairs requested a subcommittee lead to volunteer, but no member stepped forward. Additional comments and updates were shared about the Digital Equity surveying and mapping by the Nebraska Department of Education, working in partnership with Education Superhighway.

SUBSECTOR REPORTS

University of Nebraska. Mr. Buker reported that University of Nebraska representatives testified during the interim hearing on ARPA funding which was held by the Legislature's Revenue Committee. Among the proposed projects was a new data center to be located on Innovation Campus. The University is focused on increased enrollment and retention of students.

Nebraska State Colleges. Dr. Turman shared that the State College Board testified before the LR 178 and LR 179 interim hearings. The State College Board shared information on possible cybersecurity and broadband initiatives that would benefit all three colleges. Mr. Dunning expressed that more work is being done on multi-factor authentication at all three colleges and that they were considering a statewide software system purchase. Mr. Dunning also reported that MHEC would be hosting an upcoming webinar on cybersecurity insurance.

Nebraska Community Colleges. Mr. Koster reported that the six community college areas shared concerns about multi-factor authentication and network security.

Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities. No Report.

Public K-12 and ESUs. Mr. Needham reported that the ESUCC survey on network security revealed a #1 priority placed on training. Mr. Brown reported that the statewide testing software had a new browser release that interrupted CAL testing. Dr. DeTurk reported that the ESUCC delegates to the Education Council may be changing with the

new membership of the Information Systems subcommittee, but that he hoped to continue serving until summer of 2022.

Private/Denominational K-12. No Report.

Nebraska Public Media. Ms. Sun reported that Nebraska Public Media will soon be advertising for a Director of Education position.

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Dr. Baumgartner reported that CCPE has received an MHEC grant to pay for OER memberships for several additional colleges. UNO, UNK, and Chadron State College were already participating.

Nebraska Department of Education. Mr. Rolfes reported about the Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative. NDE is also evaluating candidates for the Information Systems Officer position formerly held by Dr. Dean Folkers.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

RBTF meeting 10/18/2021. The next meeting of the Rural Broadband Task Force will be held at Varner Hall Board Room on October 18th at 9:30 a.m.

NITC [Meeting](#) on 11/4/2021. The next NITC meeting will be held at Varner Hall Board Room on November 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Other. Mr. Dunning asked the Council if they would be interested in a presentation from the Midwest Higher Education Consortium (MHEC). They are piloting a credentialing engine that transcribes and transfers students' academic records. He will work with Mr. Needham and Mr. Rolfes to get a presentation scheduled for the December meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS & LOCATION FOR THE 12/15/2021 MEETING

The meeting will be held via Zoom videoconferencing.

Agenda items for the next meeting:

- MHEC Credentialing Engine
- FRDLC, eduroam, and cybersecurity updates

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Brown moved to adjourn. Mr. Dunning seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm CT.

Meeting minutes were taken by Tom Rolfes of the Office of the CIO/NITC.