

## EDUCATION COUNCIL

Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 9:00AM CDT

Location: Varner Hall, Lower Level; 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE

### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Burke Brown, District OR1-Palmyra/Bennet  
Mr. Andrew Buker, Alt. for Bret Blackman, University of Nebraska-Omaha  
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools  
Mr. Steve Dow, Alt. for Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University  
Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02  
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross High School  
Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Schuyler Public Schools  
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. Tom Peters, Central Community College

**LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:** Alternate Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System; Alternate Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Public Schools; Alternate Leonard Kwapnioski, Columbus Public Schools; Dr. Mike Baumgartner and Dr. Kathleen Fimple, CCPE; Ms. SuAnn Witt, NDE; and Ms. Ling Ling Sun, NET

**MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:** Mr. Derek Bierman, Northeast Community College; Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College; Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 03; and Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO.

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

Co-Chair, Mary Niemiec, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Roll call was taken. There were 12 voting members present. A quorum existed to conduct official business. Meeting Notice Posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) 10/20/2019  
Agenda Posted to the [NITC Web site](#) 10/20/2019

#### CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 23, 2019 MEETING\*

Mr. Hamersky moved to approve the October 23, 2019 meeting agenda. Mr. Peters seconded.  
Voting Yes: Brown, Buker, Chrisman, Dow, DeTurk, Hamersky, Hoelsing, Hotovy, Kelly, Needham, Niemiec, Peters. 12-YES, 0-NO, 0-ABSTAIN. Motion carried.

#### CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE 08/21/2019 MEETING\*

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the August 21, 2019 minutes as presented. Ms. Hamersky seconded.  
Voting Yes: Brown, Buker, Chrisman, Dow, DeTurk, Hamersky, Hoelsing, Hotovy, Kelly, Needham, Niemiec, Peters. 12-YES, 0-NO, 0-ABSTAIN. Motion carried.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### EDUCATION COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Rolfes reminded members that the Council currently has vacancies. Mr. Bierman and Mr. Carpenter have left their positions. The State College System has a new Administrator, Dr. Paul Turman. Mr. Hotovy will become an alternate. In addition to fill the member vacancies, members must appoint

alternates to serve on their behalf if absent. Approval of the Council's membership recommendation will be an action item at the November 14<sup>th</sup> NITC meeting.

## **NEBRASKA RURAL BROADBAND TASK FORCE UPDATE**

[Report, Appendices, and Subcommittee Comments](#) and [Homework Gap Findings and Recommendations](#)

The Rural Broadband Task Report is due to the Legislature by November 1<sup>st</sup>. The draft report is available on the task force's website. The definition of rural was retained as originally proposed by the Task Force as open countryside and municipalities fewer than 2,500 population. There were lots of public comments. The LR 166 public hearing is set for December 4<sup>th</sup> in front of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee to accept public testimony about the Report.

Discussion followed regarding libraries, E-rate, Wi-Fi on buses, economic development, student's family income, connectivity and speed:

- Most rural public libraries are not applying for E-rate support and their internet speed is not always adequate.
- Schools have control of education 8am-4pm with ample technology and internet access, but are confounded by the lack of home connectivity and parental support from 4pm to 8am.
- "Canvas" schools require students to watch videos at home. Some (15-20%) students have no internet at home. Educators will come in early or stay late to give kids access to watch the videos.
- Extending the school day option is being discussed in some school districts.
- In Schuyler, public schools are focusing on "parents in education". The school's population is 80% immigrant. The better parents understand education, the better their students will do, and language is a major barrier.
- Education is the key to economic development.
- Poverty is about education, access to education, and access to experience. The level of poverty aligns with lower ACT scores.

Mr. Rolfes stated that he will not be able to testify at the hearing but welcomed council members to testify about their experience with digital education and its reliance on internet access away from school and campus. The senators need to be informed about digital education and the rapid conversion to Chromebooks and internet-based textbooks and resources. Mr. Needham stated that education is not all about technology but that there are other factors influencing student success. Ms. Niemec commented that she is pleased with the "holistic" approach that the Rural Broadband Task Force has taken in regards to the Homework Gap Findings.

By group consensus, the Council will be submitting an Education Council Letter of Support to the Task Force.

## **BLUEPRINT NEBRASKA PRESENTATION**

Jim Smith, Executive Director

[Summary Report](#); [Full Report](#)

Jim Smith, former senator and current executive director of Blueprint Nebraska presented information to the Education Council members.

Blueprint Nebraska Vision:

The blueprint defines our vision for 2030: Growing the Good Life. Our people, land, and location will propel Nebraska to be the most welcoming Midwest state for youth, talent, investment, and commerce and a national model for continuous growth and prosperity.

Aspirations. Blueprint Nebraska translates this vision into five aspirations – goals we must meet to realize our vision.

- Jobs: Retain our workforce talent and prepare our workers for today's and tomorrow's jobs by leading peer states in overall job growth.
- Quality of Life: Provide high quality of life that makes Nebraska attractive to a qualified workforce by leading peer states in the quality-of-life ranking.
- Young Population: Attract new residents to the state by leading peer states in building the population of 18-34 year-olds.
- Income: Enable the creation of high-paying jobs for Nebraskans in high-growth sectors through productivity improvements by leading peer states in net, or cost-of-living-adjusted, median income growth.
- R&D Investment: Accelerate the adoption of technology across industries and unlock innovation that creates growth by leading

Mr. Smith indicated that the Nebraska State Chamber of Commerce has adopted the Blueprint Nebraska plan. Members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

The Education Council Co-chairs offered the council's assistance and collaboration to support the Blueprint Nebraska initiative, particularly the work of the Education Attainment Industry Council.

#### **NETWORK NEBRASKA 2018-2020 ACTION ITEMS**

Future Network deliverables. Communication Hub deliverables. Security Initiative deliverables

At the November 14<sup>th</sup> NITC meeting, the Statewide Technology Plan's Strategic Initiatives will be reviewed and approved. Approval of the completed plan will be done at the March NITC meeting. In preparation, the Councils will need to review, update, and recommend their action items to the NITC.

Mr. Buker recommended to elaborate and further develop Action Item 3. It pertains to the future of Network Nebraska. It was also suggested to implement benchmarks for the action items. The task group will need to meet and review and/or change the Network Nebraska action items.

#### **DIGITAL EDUCATION 2018-2020 ACTION ITEMS**

Student Transition deliverables and Equity of Access deliverables

Ms. Niemec reported that the task group has lost some of its members. The group has not met since the last meeting but hopes to get a few more members and call a meeting soon. She thanked the Rural Broadband Task Force for addressing some of the action items.

#### **SUBSECTOR REPORTS**

University of Nebraska, Mary Niemec. The University of Nebraska will be announcing the new President on Friday. The Interim President, Susan Fritz, has been moving forward with the Work Force Adult Learner Initiative including Alternative Credentials. The University will be working with Blueprint Nebraska. Collaboration will be needed. Andrea Childress, University of Nebraska-Kearney, is the new CIO and Assistant Vice President for Information Technology. RFPs have been released for network hardware, and overhauling data center environments.

Nebraska State Colleges, Steve Hotovy. Dr. Turman was introduced and provided an overview of his technology experience. In August, a draft security compliance guideline document was shared with faculty and staff at the three state colleges. Recommendations were submitted and implemented. It will be on the agenda as an action item for the November 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Once approved, the colleges will be working towards meeting security compliance. A 5-year IT Strategic Plan was approved and will involve approximately 30 faculty and staff. The Board is very supportive.

Nebraska Community Colleges, Tom Peters. The Nebraska Community Colleges are meeting on December 3rd and 4th. Mr. Peters has been instrumental in bringing all of the CIO's from higher education institutions to the table to discuss issues. Mr. Rolfes would like to assist in supporting and formalizing the higher education group as a value-add of Network Nebraska. There is a shared services effort happening in the Midwest community colleges and the Nebraska community colleges would like to expand this effort. They will be meeting in November and will bring a report back to the Council.

Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities. No report was given.

Public K-12 and ESUs, Ted DeTurk, Dan Hoelsing, and Gary Needham. A couple of initiatives being worked on include a statewide bid for Network Nebraska circuits and the implementation of Canvas and Fortinet. There is currently a Legislative interim study on the purpose and role of the ESUs. A hearing was held and it was mostly positive. Mr. Needham reported that the ESUCC is discussing student data policies. Schuyler Public Schools is working collaboratively with the community and organizations on a new housing project.

Private/Denominational K-12, Steven Hamersky. He was asked by his school to research E-sports.

Nebraska Educational Television. No report.

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Mike Baumgartner. CCPE has been working on a dual credit working group and making sure students and parents understand the meaning of "transfer" credit. SARA data was submitted in May. The data would normally be available at this time but will not be available until November when the report is done. Nebraska is one of 3 states in the country that service more students online than it exports.

Nebraska Department of Education. No report.

## **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The NITC will be meeting on November 14, 2019. Mr. Rolfes will be presenting the membership nominations and an update on the Network Nebraska and Digital Education action items. The NESA statewide testing project has been designated for closure as an enterprise project but the commissioners requested that the project will continue to be monitored by the Technical Panel.

Legislative Hearing on Interim Studies LR 166 & LR 175 will be held on December 4, 2019. Members were reminded that they are welcome to testify on their institutions or personal behalf about digital education. If interested, members were asked to contact Mr. Rolfes or one of the Co-Chairs.

## **AGENDA ITEMS & CONSIDER LOCATION FOR THE 12/18/2019 MEETING**

Agenda items will include Action Items report and discussion from the task groups. Members were asked to get any other agenda items to Mr. Rolfes.

The meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> can be held via videoconferencing. Ms. Niemec will check to see if Varner Hall can host as the main site.

Mr. Needham challenged both task groups to review the strategic initiatives and action items. In addition, more members should be recruited to serve on the task groups.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Hamersky moved to adjourn. Mr. Brown moved. All were in favor. Motion carried.**  
The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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