

EDUCATION COUNCIL

December 15, 2021 Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 9:00AM CT
Host Location: Zoom Videoconferencing

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. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools
Mr. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education; Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education; and Steve Dow, Nebraska Wesleyan University;

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Mr. Derek Bierman, Doane University; Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School; Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Schuyler Community Schools; Mr. Edward Koster, Southeast Community College; Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska; Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 03; Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System; Ms. Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media; 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. There were nine voting members present at the time of roll call. A quorum was present to conduct official business. Meeting Notice Posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar December 13, 2021. Agenda Posted to the NITC Web site December 13, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no guests present and no public comment.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 15, 2021 MEETING*

Mr. Dunning would like to add a discussion about current cyber threats. Mr. Rolfes indicated it could probably be discussed during agenda item 7.B. Cybersecurity Awareness and Training.

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the December 15, 2021 agenda as amended. Mr. Brown seconded. Roll call vote: Brown-Yes, Buker-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Peters-Yes. Results: Yes-9, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES*

Mr. Dunning moved to approve the October 13, 2021 minutes as presented. Mr. Kelly seconded. Roll call vote: Peters-Yes, Needham-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Dunning-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Brown-Yes, and Buker-Yes. Results: Yes-9, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments

PRESENTATION: MHEC CREDENTIAL ENGINE

Mr. Dunning introduced Emily Rafal and Jeanette Kidwell, from Credential Engine. Ms. Rafal reviewed a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Achieving State and Regional Goals through Credential and Skill Transparency. She will share the presentation with the Council members. Discussion and questions occurred during the presentation.

FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE

Mr. Rolfes acknowledged and thanked Anne Byers, NITC Manager, for collecting federal funding information for the Rural Broadband Task Force. Members were encouraged to review the information and serve as advocates. The U.S. Treasury Capital projects were pointed out as potential sources of funding for Network Nebraska and public libraries. Nebraska will be receiving cybersecurity funding. This is funding available from the infrastructure bill signed by President Biden. The State of Nebraska will need to assemble a multi-sector advisory council who will be responsible for developing a cybersecurity plan.

Patrick Wright, State Security Officer, joined the meeting. The cybersecurity grant will be implemented over the course of 4 years. The funding will be received at the end of next year. A Steering Committee must be established to develop a plan and to address how the State is addressing threats and how the State plans to prevent and mitigate future cyber threats. The committee must be representative of education, tribal, local and state government. Eighty percent (80%) of funding must go to rural communities and 20% to communities. It is preferred that the committee consist of persons with technical background/experience.

Network Nebraska serves 450,000 digital education users each day. The OCIO will continue to monitor to see when the broadband funding becomes available. A

Broadband Coordinator is supposed to be hired on 7/1/2022 and housed within the Office of the CIO. One of the focuses of this position will be community and county engagement.

Discussion occurred regarding the current cyber threats and statewide communication and coordination when the threat is actually happening more quickly and efficiently. It was suggested to use Network Nebraska as a means of communication. There are already organization/vendor groups that send cyber alerts, and it was recommended that ESUs participate and join these groups. Members recommended a security position within Network Nebraska to help communicate these threats and coordinate threat mitigation.

NETWORK NEBRASKA

Council members were asked to volunteer for one of the Task Groups. The action items developed by the Task Groups are part of the Statewide Technology Plan.

ConnectED Nebraska, powered by eduroam, is serving approximately 36 districts. Allo has been providing eduroam to 10 non-profit agencies in the Lincoln area. There are school district customers have signed up but have not yet implemented the service.

Cybersecurity Awareness and Training. The Education Council needs to have involvement and input in the statewide notification. As federal monies for cybersecurity become available, the Education Council would like to have representation on the advisory council. These initiatives will be occurring over the next two to three years.

Upcoming State RFP. The RFP has been delayed but hope to have it released by the end of December.

DIGITAL EDUCATION

Device Equity. The Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative has been charged with developing a plan to spend the remaining GEER funding from 2021. Unexpended funding needs to be spent by September 30, 2022. A proposal for budget revisions is being considered by the Governor's office and NDE is awaiting the decision.

Mr. Kelly left the meeting.

Equity of Internet Access. The Council Co-Chairs reminded members to volunteer to serve on either the Network Nebraska or Digital Education Task Group. By the February Council meeting, the task groups should be established. In addition, the Co-chairs will be meeting prior to February to discuss the purpose and future of the two task groups. Mr. Rolfes will send the task group information to the Council members and request for volunteers for each task group.

SUBSECTOR REPORTS

University of Nebraska, Andrew Buker. Information was already provided in earlier agenda items.

Nebraska State Colleges, John Dunning. The State College System is in the process of hiring a Chief Information Officer. He asked members to encourage qualified candidates to apply. The State College System is also working on collaborative cybersecurity activities and alignment of each college's academic support services.

Nebraska Community Colleges, Tom Peters. No report but is scheduling a meeting in the near future for the higher education CIOs.

Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities, Greg Maschman. The Council of Independent Nebraska Colleges Foundation held a meeting where Mr. Maschman talked about the Education Council and Network Nebraska. York College may be interested in becoming a Network Nebraska participant.

Public K-12 and ESUs, Burke Brown and Ted DeTurk. There is a concern that the decision-making for cybersecurity and awareness training is taking too long. In addition, there is concern regarding ongoing costs after federal funding runs out.

Private/Denominational K-12, No report

Nebraska Public Media, No report

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Dr. Kathleen Fimple reported that the SARA Steering Committee have concerns regarding the governance and oversight provided by the national SARA office. The National Office is acting as a governing body rather than a coordinating entity. Requirements have been put in place without consultation from the regional Steering Committees. Nebraska will continue to participate in SARA.

Nebraska Department of Education. Mr. Rolfes reported that Dr. Kristin Yates has taken the position formally held by Dr. Dean Folkers. Dr. Yates was very involved with higher education initiatives and institutional research at the University of Nebraska. SuAnn Witt's former position is still not filled. In the absence of a State E-rate Coordinator, the Council acknowledged and thanked Mr. Rolfes and Becca Kingery for their work in support of E-rate.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rural Broadband Task Force meeting will be held on March 18, 2022 at 1:30 pm.

The NITC Meeting will be held in early March 2022.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 2/16/2022 MEETING AND CONSIDER LOCATION(S) FOR THE 2/16/2022 MEETING

Suggestions for agenda items included the following:

- Discussion with Matt Hastings of the NSWERS center.
- Continue discussion of education community cybersecurity activities
- Review and refresh the NITC Action Items within Network Nebraska and Digital Education

Mr. Rolfes will see if Varner Hall or NET are available for a face-to-face meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DeTurk moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brown seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

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