EDUCATION COUNCIL
December 16, 2020 Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 9:00AM CT
This meeting will be conducted entirely over videoconferencing (Executive Order 20-36).
Members of the public or media may e-mail tom.rolfes@nebraska.gov if interested in joining the meeting.
The Zoom link will be provided by request only.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mr. Burke Brown, District OR-1
Mr. Andrew Buker, Alt. for University of Nebraska
Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02
Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School
Dr. Dan Hoesing, Schuyler Community Schools
Mr. Chuck Lenosky, Creighton University
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
Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: Ms. Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Public Schools; Dr. Mike Baumgartner and Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE); Mr. Gregg Robke, ESU 04; Mr. Derek Bierman, Doane University; and Ms. SuAnn Witt, Nebraska Department of Education.

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools; Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 03; Ms. Carla Streff, Northeast Community College; Ms. Ling Ling Sun, NET; and Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO.

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

Mr. Lenosky called the meeting to order. There were 11 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** on December 14, 2020. The meeting agenda was posted to the **NITC Web site** on December 14, 2020

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 16, 2020 MEETING*

Mr. Brown moved to approve the December 16, 2020 agenda as presented. Mr. Kelly seconded. Roll call vote: Brown-Yes, Buker-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hoesing-Yes, Lenosky-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Needham-Yes,

Niemiec-Yes, and Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-11, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE 8/26/2020 MEETING*

Dr. DeTurk moved to approve the August 26, 2020 meeting minutes. Dr. Turman seconded. Roll call vote: Roll call vote: Brown-Yes, Buker-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hoesing-Yes, Lenosky-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, and Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-11, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Mr. Hamersky and Mr. Peters joined the meeting.

NITC UPDATE

11/15/2020 Progress Report to the Governor and Legislature. Mr. Rolfes informed the Council that the Office of the CIO has submitted the biennial progress report to the Legislature on November 15th and encourage members to review the report.

Next NITC Meeting: On or about 3/11/2021. The NITC will be meeting again in March. The Commission is interested in a Council report regarding COVID-19 preparation and data. Discussion followed regarding what type of data should be collected and the need for data sets and definitions. It was recommended to gather the data by semesters. Stories to supplement the data would be beneficial. Mary Niemiec, Chuck Lenosky and Dan Hoesing volunteered to serve on a Task Group to develop the criteria.

K-12 CARES ACT UPDATE--HIERARCHY OF DIGITAL LEARNING NEEDS

Infrastructure: NDE Map and Internet Service Provider Directory

Since March, the Council has been very involved with the Department of Education in developing the Hierarchy of Digital Learning Needs and the Service Provider Request for Information. The meeting agenda provided a link to Service Provider converage maps and Service Provider Directory, in an effort to connect school administrators and parents with internet service providers. Long-term planning is underway. Districts have been encouraged to collect data regarding unserved and underserved students and enter data into the NDE ADVISER dashboard to document household addresses. There are two solutions available to districts: 1) the provider directory to determine if there is a provider in their area, what services do they provide, etc.); and 2) if there is not provider, can the school self-deploy internet services for that area. Nebraska can

potentially receive $100 million for broadband development. Approximately 185 schools have submitted data. Providers were contacted and participation was voluntary.

Computing Devices: ESUCC GEER fund Ordering Process

Approximately $16 million in CARES Act funding was allocated to the Governor's Education Emergency Relief (GEER) fund to address equitable access challenges. Seventy-five (75%) was designated for devices. District that responded to requests for device needs will receive resources. Some districts opted not to respond. Districts and schools were supposed to submit their requests by July 1st. Mr. Needham indicated that the state is allowing districts that did not have devices as of December 1st to resubmit requests. Requests were due yesterday.

Software Systems: NDE/ESU2 Canvas Statewide Consortium

The Canvas Statewide Consortium initiative is a joint contract between the ESU's and the Nebraska Department of Education using federal funds. ESU 2 has a consortium of schools already using canvas. Interested school districts can purchase Canvas at a reduced rate. Currently, negotiations with Instructure/Canvas are underway. It is anticipated to be completed by January. For round one, there were 144 districts interested. Round two has just started.

Digital Content: Nebraska OER Toolkit

Digital Resources is the 4th layer of the hierarchy. Mr. Needham reported that discussions are occurring to identify the critical needs for content and supplemental content.

Professional Development: NRCSA ESUCC Remote Learning Teacher Support

The Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) and the ESU Coordinating Council is another partnership working and collaborating on this effort. Prior to the pandemic, remote/hybrid learning was occurring in about 5% of the schools. Now, it is a greater percentage. Mr. Brown commented that this is an amazing time with so much being done for K12 and educational institutions. It has brought everyone together to help improve educational practices.

NETWORK NEBRASKA STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Future of Network Nebraska: RFP 6206 & Special Construction Matching Fund RFP 6454

RFP 6206 is not totally completed. There are a couple of circuits not connected but 250 other circuits will provide faster and more affordable bandwidth. The 2019 circuit map will be updated with 2020 data. The Special Construction matching fund program was approved by the Public Service Commission in May 2020. This matching fund program

will incentivize new fiber to public libraries and schools. Mr. Rolfes shared the Bayard Library success story. The library will be paying $30/month for 500Mbps internet service after E-rate.

Communications: Draft Brochure from ESU 11

In response to local discussions, ESU 11 developed a brochure to communicate the value and services of Network Nebraska. ESU 11 is willing to share it to promote Network Nebraska. It was recommended to share this with a few administrators to get their input on the pamphlet. Sixteen percent (16%) of Nebraska K12 administrators are new this academic year. Dr. Hoesing recommend sending the pamphlet to Jack Moles at NRCSA, as someone who could provide input on brochure. Members were asked to send Mr. Rolfes their recommendations and feedback about the pamphlet.

Advanced Services: OCIO/Network Nebraska Cybersecurity Survey

A Cybersecurity Work Group has been established by the Office of the CIO. A cybersecurity survey was released and has a goal to get 100% feedback. DDoS attacks have been increasing this past year. Prior to this year, the ESUs had very few attacks. All attacks have been mitigated. Expanding the DDoS capacity for Network Nebraska would necessitate an increase in the Participation Fee and that will be discussed by the Network Nebraska Advisory Group (NNAG).

Advanced Services: eduroam for Nebraska Proposal to Internet2

The statewide Support Organization (S.O.) pilot proposal will have a K12 and Higher Education component. There is a lot of collaboration on this project. The first year pilot costs will be covered by the State Board of Education. For the second year and future sustainability, discussions will be needed to determine the source of funding.

DIGITAL EDUCATION STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Disseminate Information: Digital Learning Guidance from NDE

Reports and technology best practices are available through the Launch Nebraska-**Digital Learning Guidance**.

Disseminate Information: Higher Ed CARES Act Response Survey

Surveys were sent to higher education institutions regarding COVID-19 response activities. The resulting data can be woven into the NITC report about K-20 pandemic response activities

Equity of Access: Governor's Rural Broadband Remote Access Grants

Mr. Rolfes provided a link to the Governor's press release announcing the grant awards. The challenge for Nebraska and the Governor will be to assure the monies get to the most underserved and needed areas. Mr. Rolfes will get updates to members electronically.

Equity of Access: CARES Act Wireless Pilot Projects

Under the infrastructure layer, there are wireless pilot projects. Discussion occurred regarding the role for school districts being a provider. ESU 05 is helping transport Tri-County Public Schools internet to the village of Plymouth, which is five miles away. Plymouth citizens and students have never experienced broadband and the public library has created hotspots that share internet across the village. This could be a role model for other communities. The Northeast Nebraska Tribal Educational Broadband Services project is reaching over 700 homes across five school districts and providing internet over 2.5GHz, specifically reserved for tribal communities.

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

University of Nebraska. Ms. Niemec announced that May 11, 2021 is the selected date for the Annual Pedagogy Symposium. It will be a virtual event and combined with the Women in IT Symposium. Educause is partnering with UNL. The event will be open to those outside the University. As a system, the University is reviewing non-credit professional offerings across all campuses and hope to have a single catalog via NU Connect. There will be a press release in January. It will use the same LMS as Canvas but will be separate from the general student population. It will be its own application, registration, and payment processes. The federal government has established regulations regarding certification degrees. Annual report has been published for last academic year. Mr. Buker reported that the University is reviewing their IT related security policies. The annual report will be released at the end of January. Zoom usage has increased significantly. A network refresh is underway, but the Medical Center is not included.

Nebraska State Colleges. Dr. Turman reported that there is a lot of interest from educators for professional development courses in remote instruction. Mr. Dunning reported that Wayne State has been working on a student data project, as well as COVID-19 preparations through better coordination of information technology systems.

Nebraska Community Colleges. No report.

Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities. Mr. Lenosky and Mr. Bierman reported that this year 90% of courses were in person/hybrid with 10% remote learning. The colleges are focusing on security and identity management.

Public K-12 and ESUs. Mr. Kelly reported that Hastings Public Schools' new eLearning has helped make it through this semester. Mr. Brown expressed interest in the placement of the radius servers for eduroam and are looking at options for greater Nebraska schools. Ms. Joseph reported that her school is using Google classroom. Dr. Hoesing reported that they are using a mixture of remote and in-class. Three tenths (3/10) of 1% of their student population has tested positive for COVID. There are no staff currently out with COVID. The abundant technology in our schools has helped families. Dr. DeTurk indicated that coordinating efforts are underway for administering vaccinations in the community, as well in the schools. Mr. Needham reported they are starting a new E-rate Category 2 RFP. Mock phishing training is being provided.

Private/Denominational K-12. Mr. Hamersky reported that they have been prepping teachers on on-line courses.

Nebraska Educational Television. No report**.**

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Dr. Fimple reported that Nebraska Wesleyan is joining SARA (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement). Wesleyan has received state approval and are now waiting for national approval. SARA is an agreement between states that addresses reciprocal "licensure" and federal government requirements.

Nebraska Department of Education. No report.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no "Other" business.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 2/17/2021 MEETING

Agenda items for the next meeting included the following:
- Legislative update
- COVID report to the NITC

CONSIDER LOCATION(S) FOR THE 2/17/2021 MEETING

Due to the pandemic and social distances, the OCIO staff will update the Council as the Governor issues Executive Orders regarding public meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn. Dr. hurman seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

The meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Tom Rolfes, Education I.T. Manager, OCIO/NITC.