

**EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
Wednesday, February 15 at 9:00AM CT  
Host Location: Virtual ([Zoom Link](#))  
**MINUTES**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Derek Bierman, Doane University  
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools  
Mr. Gregg Robke, ESU 4 (Alt. for Dr. Ted DeTurk)  
Mr. Nick Muir, Wayne State College  
Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Schuyler Community Schools  
Mr. Michael Oltrogge, Nebraska Indian Community College (Alt. for Edward Koster)  
Mr. Jeremiah Ourada, Nebraska Wesleyan University  
Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools  
Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09 (Host site)  
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College  
Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System

**LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education  
Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media  
Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Public Schools, and  
Christina Struebing, Nebraska Department of Education

**MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:**

Mr. Burke Brown, Palmyra District OR-1  
Mr. Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska (Alt. for Bret Blackman)  
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School  
Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University  
Leonard Kwapnioski, Columbus Public Schools  
Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska  
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 9:01 a.m. The Meeting Notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on February 9, 2023. The agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) on February 9, 2023. There were 10 voting members present. A quorum was present to conduct official business.

Ms. Stacy Jolley was introduced to the Council. The Nebraska School Association has nominated her Alan Moore's membership vacancy. Ms. Cheri Polenski was also introduced. Dr. Turman has designated her as his Alternate.

## **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 15, 2023 MEETING\***

**Mr. Kelly moved to approve the February 15, 2023 meeting agenda. Mr. Ourada seconded. Vote tally: Bierman-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Robke-Yes, Muir-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Oltrogge-Yes, Ourada-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

## **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE**

**Mr. Kelly moved to approve the [June 15, 2022 Meeting\\*](#), [August 03, 2022 Meeting\\*](#), and the [October 19, 2022 Meeting\\*](#) minutes as presented. Mr. Ourada seconded. Vote tally: Bierman-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Robke-Yes, Muir-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Oltrogge-Yes, Ourada-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **VOTE FOR NOMINATED HIGHER EDUCATION CHAIR\***

Due to quorum issues and a meeting cancellation, the Council has been without a Higher Education Co-Chair. The Higher Education Caucus met during the October 2022 meeting and nominated Dr. Paul Turman to serve as Co-chair of the Education Council but quorum was not available to hold a vote. Dr. Paul Turman accepted the nomination during the February 2023 meeting while quorum was present.

**Dr. Hoelsing moved to approve the nomination of Dr. Paul Turman to serve as the higher education Co-Chair of the Education Council. Mr. Kelly seconded. Vote tally: Bierman-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Robke-Yes, Muir-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Oltrogge-Yes, Ourada-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

Dr. Turman assisted Mr. Needham with conducting the rest of the meeting.

## **OPEN MEETINGS OVERVIEW**

The Council has not had a quorum the past few months due to members leaving, the NITC school. The Open Meetings Act has gone through revisions. Some of the changes includes:

- Meeting minutes can be posted electronically. Hard copies are no longer required.
- Virtual meetings can now be “virtual” no physical location is required to host a meeting.
- The virtual meetings cannot be more than 50% of the number of meetings.

## **NITC UPDATE**

**Statewide Technology Plan.** The Council's action items were approved by the NITC at their November meeting. The NITC Councils can update the statewide technology plan. The NITC would approve the recommended changes to include Cybersecurity Action Items.

**Progress Report.** The report was submitted to the Legislature on November 15<sup>th</sup>. A large majority of the K12 is on Network Nebraska or eduroam. Omaha Public Schools is interested in eduroam for the teaching staff.

## **NETWORK NEBRASKA UPDATE**

Participation Fee Review Committee. The restructuring of the participation fee has been under discussion for a few months now. The Network Nebraska Advisory Group (NNAG) wanted the Education Council's participation and input. The following Education Council representatives met with **Ron Cone and Corey Dahl: Trent Kelly, Gary Needham, and Cheri Polenski**. Network Nebraska currently has the same rate for everyone despite size of school. It was proposed the base the fee on the size of the school district. After Mr. Dahl had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the benefits of Network Nebraska for the cost, he agreed that the cost was cost effective and should remain the same. The NNAG committee voted to keep the rates the same. Since there were no changes to the fees, the Council did not need to approve a change.

**RFP 2022**, Kingery. The smaller RFP was released in early November with a 45- day window deadline which is an extension of previous years' 28 day window. The notice of intent to award should be out today. The Special B Construction RFP was released as well. Out of the 32 sites, only 14 had a correct bid. Next year's RFP will be serving a larger area and entities. Plans are to begin developing the RFP in the early fall.

**Marketing Update, Chris Struebing.** A brochure has been developed but it was recommended to have a new logo. There has been some discussion of having a school competition and have a student design the new logo.

## **DIGITAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

Mr. Needham reported that the Department of Economic Development is convening regional digital equity planning committees as part of their broadband initiative for the state. The South Central Regional Committee invited the ESU Administrators to participate. Mr. Needham was invited to attend. A statewide plan is being developed. They want input from different stakeholders, entities and populations.

## **TASK GROUP REORGANIZATION REVIEW\***

In October, discussions began regarding the formation of task groups per the 6 action items. Members had commented that six would be too many task groups. Members and alternates do not need to be on the same committee. The Task Force meetings are not subject to the Open Meetings Act. Task Force membership should come from the Council itself but can invite experts in specific areas to share information. The Co-Chairs and Ms. Kingery met and are recommending the following Task Groups:

#### Communication Task Group Network Nebraska

Network Nebraska Action Item #2 “The Education Council, OCIO/NITC staff, and Network Nebraska support staff will sufficiently and appropriately communicate to, and in support of, current and potential Network Nebraska Participants.”

Deliverables: communication strategy; conduct periodic participant survey

#### Digital Education Task Group

Digital Education Action Item #1 “Help ensure the success of Nebraska digital education” Deliverables: inventory current use, future promotion of effective practices, connect constituencies to promote improvement

Digital Education Action Item #2 “Expand awareness and address the need for equity of access as it relates to digital education”

Deliverables: identify solutions to lack of accessibility of reliable, secure internet; address equitability of access off campus

#### Network Nebraska Services Task Group

Network Nebraska Action Item #1 “Prepare for the future of Network Nebraska as a statewide, secure, multipurpose, high capacity, scalable telecommunications network that shall meet the demands of state agencies, local governments, and educational entities as defined in section 791201.01.” Deliverables: liaison with NNAG and CAP to provide insight and guide decision-making regarding services, and associated business models

Network Nebraska Action Item #3 “Identify needs and deliver advanced services to Network Nebraska members, including security, cloud computing, and education infrastructure, to meet the growing needs of its membership.”

Deliverables: develop strategies for the delivery of advanced services; incorporate developed strategies into the Network Nebraska business model; implement additional value-add services

#### Security Task Group

Network Nebraska Action Item #4 “Promote the adoption of statewide cybersecurity practices for Nebraska K-20 education.” Deliverables: promote cybersecurity best practices within K-20 community; encourage participation in cyber-related industry events to spread education/awareness

**Mr. Kelly moved to approve the Task Group Reorganization. Mr. Ourada seconded. Vote tally: Bierman-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Robke-Yes, Muir-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Oltrogge-Yes, Ourada-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Needham-Yes, and Turman-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

Ms. Kingery will be sending this information out to members and soliciting their involvement to serve on the Task Groups.

## **LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW**

[LB635](#): “To provide powers and duties to school districts, schools, and the Nebraska Library Commission relating to an educational resource database provided to students in kindergarten through grade twelve”

Committee: Education

Any educational research databases provided by school districts, schools, and the Nebraska Library Commission must provide filtering, or block access to all materials deemed “obscene or harmful” to minors, unique accounts must be created for each student provided by the school district with credentials provided to parents/guardians.

Becomes operative August 1, 2023.

Declared Emergency: Yes

Scheduled Public Hearing: Not Applicable

[LB638](#): “To adopt the Nebraska K-12 Cybersecurity and Data Protection Act”

Committee: Education

Establishment of a cybersecurity team by the ESU Coordinating Council to conduct statewide needs analysis to determine appropriate cybersecurity measures for utilization by ESUs and their member school districts.

Declared Emergency: Yes

Scheduled Public Hearing: Not Applicable

[LB650](#): Addendum to 84-712.05: “To allow certain records relating ty cybersecurity to be withheld from the public”

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Amended to include records relating to the nature, location, or function of cybersecurity by the State of Nebraska or any of its political subdivisions to existing law pursuant to restrictions from public disclosure with exceptions for open administrative meeting, open meeting, or open court, etc. Appoints adoption and promulgation of rules and regulations for specific provision to the NITC.

Declared Emergency: Yes

Scheduled Public Hearing: Not Applicable

[LB651](#): To adopt “an act relating to appropriations for cybersecurity; ... and to provide funding for enhancing political subdivisions’ cybersecurity”

Committee: Appropriations

Appropriate \$20M of General Funds annually beginning in 2023-24 to the Department of Administrative Services Information Management Services Division for the purpose of supporting the following: cybersecurity preparedness activities; procurement of tools, hardware, etc. for cybersecurity defense; increase cyber incident response capabilities; expand vulnerability monitoring; support cybersecurity workforce development within the state; etc.

\$3M of appropriated funds (with \$1M for salaries/per diems) for: security of cybersecurity vulnerabilities within vendor ecosystems; provide access to observable cybersecurity vulnerabilities; notification of state executive agencies' vendors of specific vulnerabilities.

\$8M of appropriated funds for: upgrades to critical IT infrastructure.

\$4M of appropriated funds for: software and services.

\$4.5M of appropriated funds (with \$250k for salaries/per diems) for: negotiation of contracts

Declared Emergency: Yes

Scheduled Public Hearing: March 16, 2023

### **SUBSECTOR REPORTS** (if time permits)

University of Nebraska. No Report

The following council members provided a subsector report: Nebraska State Colleges; Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities; Public K-12 and ESUs; Nebraska Public Media; and the Nebraska Department of Education.

### **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Kingery reminded Council members that they need to designate an Alternate and provide Ms. Kingery with the name and contact information. For some members, the sub-sector association makes the recommendation.

### **CONSIDER LOCATION(S) & AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The next Education Council meeting is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Turman will check on a meeting room at the office of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. The room has video conference ability if needed.

A couple of the agenda items for the next meeting included the following:

- Presentations – Future Ready
- Task Groups Update

Members were asked to send their agenda items to Ms. Kingery or one of the Co-Chairs.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Muir moved to adjourn. Mr. Peters seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Becca Kingery, Office of the CIO.