

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 30, 2023, 9:00 a.m. CT
Nebraska Public Media Conference Room
1800 N 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Co-Chair, Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09
Mr. Derek Bierman, Doane University
Mr. Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools
Mr. Paul Feilmeier, Northeast Community College
Ms. Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Public Schools
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School
Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools
Ms. Kate McCown, University of Nebraska (Alt. for Dr. Jaci Lindburg)
Mr. Nick Muir, Wayne State College
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College
Ms. Cheri Polenske, Nebraska State College System (Alt. for Dr. Paul Turman)
Mr. Gregg Robke, ESU 4 (Alt. for Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 2)

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Mr. Ryan Dorshorst, Doane University
Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
Ms. Christina Struebing, Nebraska Department of Education
Ms. Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:

Mr. Jeremiah Ourada, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Ms. Stacey Jolley, Nebraska Association of School Boards
Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO

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

Mr. Needham called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. There was a quorum present to conduct official business. The meeting notice and agenda was posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on August 23, 2023.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 30, 2023 MEETING*

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the August 30, 2023 agenda. Mr. Hamersky seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Bierman-Yes, Robke-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Feilmeier-Yes, Joseph-Yes, Kelly-Yes, McCown-Yes, Muir-Yes, Needham-Yes, Peters-Yes, and Polenske-Yes. Results: Yes-13, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF [MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 19, 2023 MEETING*](#)

Co-Chair Needham pointed out a few typographical errors in the minutes.

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the April 19, 2023 meeting minutes as corrected. Mr. Chrisman seconded. Roll call vote: Polenske-Yes, Peters-Yes, Needham-Yes, Muir-Yes, McCown-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Joseph-Yes, Feilmeier-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Robke-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Bierman-Yes, and Buker-Yes. Results: Yes-13, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CANVAS UPDATE

Dorann Avey, Digital Learning Director, Nebraska Department of Education

Ms. Avey provided the Canvas Update presentation. There are currently 188 public and non-public school districts involved in the project. For the next 2 years, the project will pay for the Canvas application for school districts. After the 2 years, the districts will need to pay. In addition, free training would be provided.

Ms. Avey entertained questions from the council members.

CAUCUS FOR CO-CHAIRS*

The council members broke up into two caucuses to select their Co-Chairs – higher education and K-12. Mr. Needham stated that he would be willing to serve if the caucus chooses.

Mr. Kelly announced that K-12 Caucus nominated Gary Needham to serve as the K-12 co-chair. Ms. Polenske announced that the Higher Education sector has nominated Andrew Buker and the Co-Chair representing higher education. They both accepted the nomination.

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the nominations of Gary Needham and Andrew Buker to serve as the Education Council Co-Chairs. Dr. Bierman seconded. Roll call vote: Polenske-Yes, Peters-Yes, Needham-Yes, Muir-Yes, McCown-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Joseph-Yes, Feilmeier-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Robke-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Bierman-Yes, and Buker-Yes. Results: Yes-13, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

NITC UPDATE

Ms. Kingery reported that at the NITC meeting the following memberships were approved:

- Mr. Paul Feilmeier, Representing Community Colleges (replacing Ed Koster)
- Ms. Cheri Polenske, Representing State Colleges (previous alternate replacing Dr. Turman who is now an alternate)
- Ms. Cassandra Joseph, Representing Teachers (previous alternate replacing Burke Brown)

NETWORK NEBRASKA UPDATES

Network Nebraska Update. The OCIO is just weeks away from releasing the next RFP, lovingly referred to as the "megaRFP". It's comprised of our entire leased backbone and approximately 90% of our existing lit circuits. Currently, it encapsulates approximately 225 site bids and backbone segments. It's the combination of 3 separate RFPs with contracts expiring in 2024 and other contracts on their final renewal. Spectrum has not been bidding for several years and identified some redline issues in the MSA that they wanted us to consider. This has led to a re-evaluation of the MSA and there are likely to be changes made for a 4th version prior to a new MSA document in 2024. There are also requests to include point-to-point bids, which will also need to be added. Future plans are to submit an internet RFP and a potential special construction RFP that will be primarily comprised of libraries. The Office of the CIO has hired a replacement for Monica. Her name is Callie and she will be starting on September 11th. Network Nebraska and the University might be hosting the upcoming I2 CAP Retreat in late October. Details are still being worked out.

Mr. Needham provided historical background on the NITC, Education Council, Network Nebraska, NNAG, and Statewide Technology Plan.

TASK GROUP UPDATES

Communication, Gregg Robke. Wade Gibson, ESU 11, has joined the task force. The Task Group researched what has been accomplished so far. Mr. Gibson had done some work on a tri-fold publication for Network Nebraska. The Task Group developed a new version of the pamphlet. It will be shared with the council at a future meeting. The group also talked about having a Network Nebraska booth or informational sessions at educational conferences.

Digital Education, Steven Hamersky. The group has not met. Ms. Kingery will get the Task Group membership lists to Council members.

Network Nebraska Services, Andrew Buker. The group has not met since the last Education Council meeting. At that meeting, the group began to discuss how to get the word out about Network Nebraska and its services. Expanding Network Nebraska's membership was also discussed.

Security, Cheri Polenske. The group has not met since the last Education Council meeting. At that meeting, discussion centered on trends in cybersecurity and grant opportunities.

Mr. Needham encouraged the groups to meet regularly. The task groups assist the council in meeting its goals and the statewide technology plan.

SUBSECTOR REPORTS (IF TIME PERMITS)

University of Nebraska, Andrew Buker. President Carter will be resigning at the end of the year. A search committee has been established. The University is preparing for budget cut shortages. Ms. McCown informed the Council about Open Nebraska. This program allows students and their parent/guardians to see which NU courses use free or reduced-cost course materials at the time of registration to make well-informed choices. So far this initiative has already exceeded the target \$10 million in savings and is nearing \$20 million. Council member asked about the "Each student will have an internship" initiative. Ms. McCown was not familiar with this initiative but will get information.

Nebraska State Colleges, Cheri Polenske. Security initiative and IT strategic plan. Have been conducting phishing exercises, have work to do in this area.

Nebraska Community Colleges, Tom Peters. The NCCA (Nebraska Community College Association) will be meeting in November at MidPlains Community College. One of the topics of discussion will be the recent legislation regarding taxes and what that means to the colleges. The institution is facing challenges filling IT positions. Mr. Feilmeier, Northeast Community College, reported that they have moved to the cloud with their financial and core systems. Ms. Kingery reported that Northeast Community College will be listed as an aggregation point for Network Nebraska for the first time in the upcoming RFP. She hopes to see a downward trend in costs in the northeast part of the state.

Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities, Derek Bierman. The institution is exploring and studying the cost of the cloud. There is a lot of frustration with "cloudflation". Some colleges are reporting up to a 60% increase. Hopefully there will be more information available at the Educause Conference in October.

Public K-12 and ESUs. Mr. Kelly reported that they have been working with MFA, as well as getting school started. Mr. Chrisman reported they have also been experiencing staffing issues as well. Mr. Robke reported that several ESUs have submitted a grant for cybersecurity funding but have not heard anything. Mr. Scott Isaacson is a member of the public on the cybersecurity grant review committee in attendance of the meeting. Nebraska's statewide plan along with the grant projects need to be reviewed and approved by FEMA. It is anticipated that the notification letters will go out to applicants at the end of the August. Mr. Needham stated that with the recent legislative funding issues, schools will have a difficult time not knowing what funding will look like in three years.

Private/Denominational K-12, Steve Hamersky. Discussions have been occurring regarding moving to the cloud. The diocese is working with community colleges to offer dual credit courses. Discussion occurred regarding MFA in higher education versus K-12 students. MFA would be difficult to implement in grade schools. Further discussion arose regarding higher education GLBA compliance and impact on dual credit offerings. Mr. Needham stated that the Education Council is the group to discuss and address GLBA as it relates to K-12 and higher ed working together to continue dual credit via distance learning.

Nebraska Public Media, Ling Ling Sun. NET Radio Network will be expanding our Radio services serving Falls City, Columbus, and McCook communities. NET Radio Network will be launching Radio services in Broken Bow. We are currently building a full power Radio transmitter in Falls City to replace our existing Radio translator.

Department of Education, Christina Struebing. The new Commissioner, Dr. Brian Maher, started in July and is already addressing the agency's priorities and initiatives.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Nebraska Cybersecurity Conference is going to be held on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at the Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center in Lincoln. The registration deadline is September 12th.

Ms. Kingery announced that the Public Service Commission recently had a hearing on E-Rate Special Construction. In addition to a project's 10% match, the Public Service Commission is considering both extending the program and adjusting their match portion to ensure everyone has their build out costs covered.

CONSIDER LOCATION(S) AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Ms. Kingery will work on a meeting location. Members were asked to send the Co-Chairs any agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Peters moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bierman seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

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