

EDUCATION COUNCIL

February 21, 2024, 9:00 a.m. CT

[ZOOM](#)

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Co-Chair, Mr. Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska
Mr. Derek Bierman, Doane University
Ms. Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Public Schools
Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 2
Mr. Jeremiah Ourada, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Ms. Kate McCown, University of Nebraska (Alt. for Dr. Jaci Lindburg)
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College
Ms. Cheri Polenske, Nebraska State College System
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools
Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools
Ms. Stacey Jolley, Nebraska Association of School Boards

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
Mr. Brandon Eckmann, Northeast Community College
Mr. Gregg Robke, ESU 4

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:

Ms. Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media
Co-Chair, Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09
Mr. Nick Muir, Wayne State College
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School
Ms. Kathleen Fimple, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
Ms. Christina Struebing, Nebraska Department of Education

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

Mr. Buker called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. There were 11 voting members present. A quorum was present to conduct official business. The meeting notice and meeting agenda were posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) and the [NITC Web site](#) on February 14, 2024.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 21, 2024 MEETING*

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the February 21, 2024 agenda as presented. Mr. Peters seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Bierman-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Jolley-Yes, Joseph-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Lindburg-Yes, Ourada-Yes, Peters-Yes, and Polenske-Yes. Results: Yes-11, No-0, Abstained-Yes. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 20, 2023 MEETING*

Mr. Peters moved to approve the December 20, 2023 minutes as presented. Mr. Peters seconded. Roll call vote: Polenske-Yes, Peters-Yes, Ourada-Yes, Lindburg-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Joseph-Yes, Jolley-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Bierman-Yes, and Buker-Yes. Results: Yes-11, No-0, Abstained-Yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NETWORK NEBRASKA UPDATE

The Intent to Award for ethernet transport should be released shortly for the RFP for approximately 350 circuits; fourteen vendors submitted bids for the four appendices. Some sites were facing high build out costs, amortization will need to be finalized when the contract is awarded. Overall, the project is seeing a significant drop in ethernet transport prices.

The part two of the 2023 RFP was internet connection for both Network Nebraska and the University of Nebraska System, results are being tabulated.

Ms. Kingery informed the NITC Education Council that Ed Toner has retired as CIO for the State of Nebraska; there is a national search. Currently, Mark Neemann will serve as the interim CIO.

NITC STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY PLAN - STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The NITC March meeting has been cancelled. The deadlines for approval of the Statewide Technology Plan will occur at the November meeting instead of the July meeting. The Council will need to review the current Network Nebraska and Digital Education initiatives and action items. The council will need to decide to continue or discontinue the current action items and/or develop new ones. The Council's deliverables will need to be completed are ready for the NITC's review and approval at the July 12th NITC meeting.

CURRENT LEGISLATION

LB61: Authorize leasing of dark fiber and eliminate certain powers of the Public Service Commission
Potential Impact: Would allow certain public entities to license dark fiber and amended regulations surrounding the purchase, lease, and license of such infrastructure. Notes: Carryover, priority bill, advanced to E&IR Initial Floor

Debate Date: 2/15/24

LB865: Require annual reports to the Nebraska Broadband Office.

Potential Impact: On or before July 30, 2024, and by July 30 each year thereafter, each provider operating in this state shall submit a report to the Nebraska Broadband Office that provides specific information regarding each standard Internet service plan advertised by the provider and the rates associated with each such plan. Notes: Carryover

Hearing Date: 1/11/24

LB1031: Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund, dark fiber leases, and broadband telecommunications services.

Potential Impact: Speeds must be capable of 100/20 Mbps to qualify for support from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Notes: Emergency declared, made priority bill

Hearing Date: 1/22/24

LB1063: Require approval by the voters of the school district prior to expenditure of special building funds as prescribed.

Potential Impact: Requires a vote approval for improvements or the purchase of equipment for any existing school property to appear on any Special Election or General Election ballot. Notes: Hearing Date: 2/23/24

LB1300: Adopt the Pacific Conflict Stress Test Act and the Foreign Adversary Contracting Prohibition Act.

Potential Impact: Outlines provisions and potential restrictions related to equipment or investments that might be at elevated risk from foreign adversaries. Notes: Emergency declared, made priority bill.

Hearing Date: 2/8/24

LB1302: Adopt the Cybersecurity Preparedness Act Potential Impact: Rewrite of LB651 from the 2023 term that reduced the fiscal note. Notes: Emergency declared.

Hearing Date: 2/8/24

LB1336: Change provisions of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act and transfer certain powers and duties to the Nebraska Broadband Office.

Potential Impact: Transfers certain responsibilities from the PSC to the Broadband Office Notes:
Emergency declared.

Hearing Date: 2/12/24

LB1389: Provide for a personal property tax exemption for broadband equipment as prescribed.

Potential Impact: Allows the exemption of broadband equipment from personal property tax under specific circumstances.

Hearing Date: 2/23/24

LB1417: Create, eliminate, terminate, and provide, change, eliminate, and transfer powers, duties, and membership of boards, commissions, committees, councils, task forces, panels, authorities, and departments and change and eliminate funds.

Potential Impact: Creation of Commission for K-12 Education/Elimination of the ESU CC. Elimination of the NITC Tech Panel with duties passed on to the NITC. Elimination of the Rural Broadband Task Force. Notes:

Hearing Date: 2/29/24

Carryover Bills from Last Term with No Updates in 2024:

LB238: Include virtual school students in the state aid to schools formula General File: No

LB635: Provide requirements regarding access to digital and online resources provided for students by school districts, schools, and the Nebraska Library Commission General File: No

LB638: Adopt the Nebraska K-12 Cybersecurity and Data Protection Act General File: No

LB650: Allow certain cybersecurity records to be withheld from the public General File: Yes

Council members also suggested to monitor the follow legislative bills:

LB 1112: To provide duties and 1 restriction for any local governing entity that issues permits for 2 placement of communications infrastructure on poles and towers as 3 prescribed; to define terms; and to provide for applicability.

LB 1284: To provide state funding to help fulfill the Computer Science & Technology graduation requirement passed under LB1112 in 2022. This would create the Computer Science and Technology Education Fund and provide for a one-time transfer of \$1.5 million. After this one-time transfer, the Legislature would transfer \$500,000 each year contingent upon matching private funds of such amount.

SUBSECTOR REPORTS (if time permits)

University of Nebraska, Dr. Jaci Lindburg. The University has implemented Open Nebraska, digital courses degree programs. This has saved money for students. The Canvas catalogue is still under development. The search is still on going for the new President of the University.

Nebraska State Colleges, Sheri Polenske. Security strategic road map items are being developed. In addition, vendors are being evaluated on vendor's security.

Nebraska Community Colleges. Brandon Eckman. The agency is still looking for a CIO and encouraged members to spread the word about this career opportunity.

Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities. Derek Bierman. There is now more vendor competition in Northeast Nebraska.

Public K-12 and ESUs, Ted DeTurk. There have been some internet rate issues. The work continues for the IJJA/Cybersecurity grant.

Private/Denominational K-12. There were no sector representatives present to report. Mr. DeTurk informed the council that the Nebraska Department of Education provided Rule 58 as a grant opportunity with a March 14th deadline. Mr. DeTurk will send info to Ms. Kingery to share with the Council. Mr. Tickle commented that schools' technology budgets will be smaller with the proposed changes in property taxes.

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Mike Baumgartner. The Commission has a new scholarship program for career readiness. Information will be released soon.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no other business.

CONSIDER LOCATION(S) AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 17, 2024 MEETING

Mr. Peters will host the next meeting at ESU in. The Co-Chairs will work with Ms. Kingery on the agenda. Members were asked to let them know if there were any items they'd like on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting. Ms. Polenske moved to adjourn. Mr. Kelly seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

The Council broke into Task Groups to work on action items for the Statewide Technology Plan.

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