

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Wednesday, April 17th, 9:00 A.M. CT

Host Location: Nebraska Public Media Board Conference Room
1800 N 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Co-Chair, Mr. Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska

Co-Chair, Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09

Mr. Ryan Dorshorst, Doan University (Alt. for Derek Bierman, Doane University)

Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 2

Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School

Mr. Nick Muir, Wayne State College

Mr. Brandon Eckman, Northeast Community College (Alt for Paul Feilmeier)

Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools

Ms. Kate McCown, University of Nebraska (Alt. for Dr. Jaci Lindburg)

Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College

Mr. Dean Tickle, Loup City Schools

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Mr. Gregg Robke, ESU 4

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:

Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools

Ms. Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Public Schools

Ms. Stacey Jolley, Nebraska Association of School Boards

Mr. Jeremiah Ourada, Nebraska Wesleyan University

Ms. Cheri Polenske, Nebraska State College System

Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System

Ms. Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media

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 was a quorum present to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar April 10, 2024. The meeting agenda was posted to the NITC Web site on April 10, 2024.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 17, 2024 MEETING*

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the April 17, 2024 meeting agenda as presented. Mr. Muir seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Dorshorst-Yes, DeTurk-Yes,

Hamersky-Yes, Eckmann-Yes, Kelly-Yes, McCown-Yes, Muir-Yes, Needham-Yes, Peters-Yes, and Tickle-Yes. Results: Yes-11, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF [MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 21, 2024 MEETING*](#)

Mr. Peters moved to approve the April 17, 2024 meeting agenda as presented. Mr. DeTurk seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Dorshorst-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Eckmann-Yes, Kelly-Yes, McCown-Yes, Muir-Yes, and Needham-Abstained, Peters-Yes, and Tickle-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-1. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NETWORK NEBRASKA UPDATE

Ms. Kingery reported that RFP 6847 (internet and network) has closed. The RFL includes 390 total sites. The contract was finalized and the erate filing was submitted on time. There will be lots of activity with new build out orders and upgrades. The megabits cost went from \$2.81 to \$1.33 per megabits. Hopefully with NITA monies, these costs will be come down a bit. There has been no official announcement about the new CIO. He will begin his new position on Monday, April 22nd.

[CURRENT LEGISLATION](#)

Ms. Kingery reviewed a few of the legislative bills that the council members may want to monitor: LB61 regarding dark fiber lease, LB1300 regarding potential restrictions related to equipment, and LB650 regarding potential restrictions to cybersecurity records. Council members are concerned about informing the new senators about the Council, Network Nebraska and cybersecurity.

[STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY PLAN ACTION ITEMS*](#)

Network Nebraska. Mr. Robke reported that two members will be resigning from the Communications task group so the task group will need assistance. The brochure has been helpful in spreading the information about Network Nebraska but still need more efforts in spreading awareness. Mr. Needham commented that the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) was very instrumental in developing the first brochure, as well as assisted with the survey. It was recommended to contact Chris Struebing, with NDE, to see if she would be willing to serve on the Task Force.

The remaining task groups wanted to make the verbiage easy and simple to understand for continuing and new action items After discussion and adjustments to wording, the proposed changes were agreed upon by group consensus.

Digital Education. Speed testing initiatives have been discussed and are being developed. Privacy and security are issues. There is an inventory information pilot program underway that may be an informational source. The program will look at where does the state have inefficiencies, how many students are using the devices, what tools are the students using, what applications are being used to understand the current state of digital education. The Department of Education created "Teach Nebraska" which is free and a source of educators. After discussion and fine tuning the wording, the proposed changes were agreed upon by group consensus.

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the Network Nebraska and Digital Education Action Items as amended with the caveat that the Co-Chairs have the approval to further edit if needed. Mr. Muir seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Dorshorst-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Eckmann-Yes, Kelly-Yes, McCown-Yes, Muir-Yes, Needham-Yes, Peters-Yes, and Tickle-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

SUBSECTOR REPORTS (if time permits)

University of Nebraska, Katie McCowen. The University is dealing with vendor price increases while dealing with budget cuts. The new University president has been visiting campus.

Nebraska State Colleges, Nick Muir. State colleges are also dealing with vendor prices and budget cuts.

Nebraska Community Colleges, Tom Peters. There are several vacant IT positions vacant. The IT leadership is also changing.

Public K-12 and ESUs, Gary Needham and Gregg Robke. Schools are also dealing with costs and unsure of how the legislative funding will affect schools. The ESUs also have some leadership leaving as well. The NITA grants will be available soon. Mr. Robke announced that Rich Molettiere, who was very involved in NETA, recently passed away. Mr. Needham commented that the teacher certification reciprocity program, across the state may have an impact on how K12 distance learning across state lines.

Private/Denominational K-12, Steven Hamersky. There has been difficulty finding IT personnel to fill positions.

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Dr. Mike Baumgartner. The agency has been receiving application for the new grant program applications have been received. There are federal changes to the reciprocity agreement coming July 1st. States will be able to participate in SARA, but it may affect independent colleges participation. He is working with Midwest institutions on this issue, more to come later. The Department of Education has some guidance on this issue. LB1284 will provide funding for training for educators.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no other business.

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

There is normally no meeting in June. Due to the start of school, the Education Council meeting will be held on August 28th. There are some council memberships that will be up to renewal. She will be in contact with those members and have recommendations for approval by the NITC at their July meeting.

The Council members asked if the new CIO could be invited to the next Council meeting.

Members suggested holding the August meeting at Varner Hall. Doane College also offered to host the August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

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