

## **EDUCATION COUNCIL**

Wednesday, December 18th at 9:00AM CT

Host Location: [Eppley Administration Building Rm 110A](#), University of Nebraska at Omaha, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182

### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Co-Chair, Mr. Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska  
Co-Chair, Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09  
Mr. Derek Bierman, Doane University  
Mr. Gregg Robke, ESU 4 (Alt. for Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 2)  
Mr. Brandon Eckman, Northeast Community College (Alt for Paul Feilmeier)  
Ms. Elizabeth Kumru, Nebraska Association of School Boards  
Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools  
Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska  
Mr. Nick Muir, Wayne State College  
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College  
Ms. Cheri Polenske, Nebraska State College System  
Mr. Dean Tickle, Loup City Schools

### **LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Dr. Matt McCarville, State of Nebraska, Chief Information Officer  
Ms. Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media  
Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System  
Ms. Christina Struebing, Nebraska Department of Education  
Ryan Dorhurst, Alt. for Derek Bierman

### **MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:**

Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education  
Ms. Kathleen Fimple, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education  
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools  
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School  
Ms. Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Public Schools  
Mr. Jeremiah Ourada, Nebraska Wesleyan University

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

Co-chair Andrew Buker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. There was a quorum present to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on December 16, 2024. The meeting agenda was posted to the NITC Web site on December 16, 2024.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 18, 2024 MEETING\***

**Ms. Kumru moved to approve the December 18, 2024 agenda as presented. Mr. Muir seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Needham-Yes, Bierman-Yes, Robke-**

**Yes, Eckman-Yes, Kumru-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Lindburg-Yes, Muir-Yes, Peters-Yes, Polenske-Yes, and Tickle-Yes. Results: Yes-12, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF [MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 28, 2024 MEETING\\*](#)**

**Mr. Muir moved to approve the August 28, 2024 minutes as presented. Ms. Kumru seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Needham-Yes, Bierman-Yes, Robke-Yes, Eckman-Yes, Kumru-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Lindburg-Yes, Muir-Yes, Peters-Yes, Polenske-Yes, and Tickle-Yes. Results: Yes-12, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **INTRODUCTION BY DR. MATTHEW MCCARVILLE**

Dr. McCarville introduced himself and provided information about his educational background as well as his work experience. A couple of the areas of focus are AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Data Management for the state. The OCIO just hired the State's first Data Administrator, Prabhakar Vijayarangam. He likes to go by the name of Vijay. His vision for the State of Nebraska is to have a modernized data platform that treats data as a strategic asset, empowering citizens/agencies to make trusted, secure, reliable, and governed data-driver decisions. One of tasks will be to organize an AI State Committee to assist the OCIO. He suggested that Vijay present his vision to the council.

Dr. McCarville entertained questions from the Council members.

#### **INTRODUCTION TO THE NEBRASKA JOINT SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER (JSOC)**

Patrick Wright, Chief Information Security & Privacy Officer, was introduced to the Council. "The vision is to serve as a trusted and collaborative hub that empowers state and local government, K-12 schools, and higher education institution to protect their digital environments. By fostering innovation, sharing intelligence, and implementing proactive defense strategies, we aim to build a resilient cybersecurity framework that ensures the safety, privacy and integrity of our communities' most vital data and services." Mr. Wright informed the Council about the up-and-coming JSOC (Joint Security Operation Center). The OCIO has hired some staff but are in the process of hiring more. The JSOC will be housed in the lower level of the 501 Building. This endeavor will involve collaboration and partnerships. In addition, Mr. Wright plans to organize committees: Leadership, Education Sub-Committee, Agency Sub-Committee, and a Vendor Sub-Committee.

Mr. Wright entertained questions from the Council members.

## **NITC UPDATE**

Commissioner Nate Watson was introduced. He spoke about his role as a NITC Commissioner and shared his thought about AI and cybersecurity. He plans on attending the Education Council meetings.

Mr. Watson entertained questions from the Council members.

## **NETWORK NEBRASKA UPDATES**

RFP Updates. Ms. Kingery report that there one site that is not operating due to a vendor issue. The contract is being negotiated. The next RFP will include 20 sites. Federal court cases surrounding the constitutionality of the Universal Service Fund (USF) could potentially impact the federal E-Rate program. This could cause issues for K12 and higher education. Last mile costs continue to be an issue for rural educational institutions.

GIS Map. One of the tasks taken on last year was to work with the GIS team. Ms. Kingery demonstrated the proposed GIS Network Nebraska Map which is still under development. Members recommended updating the Network Nebraska website, as well as the Network Nebraska brochure.

## **TASK GROUP UPDATES**

**Communication:** Gregg Robke. Mr. Robke, Ms. Kumru, and Mr. Ourada met and discussed staffing assistance with Network Nebraska's communications effort. The podcast was done and is on the ESU website. The brochure that was done last year is out-of-date. The brochure does help school boards and staff understand what Network Nebraska has to offer. The Task Group recommended doing another customer survey. The last survey was done right before Covid. The Network Nebraska website could use a refresh and update. It was also suggested to explore conferences where Network Nebraska could be present with an informational booth. Ms. Kingery has spoken with the OCIO about possible funding for assistance with the brochure and the purchase of Network Nebraska memorabilia to take to conferences, etc. Ms. Kumru indicated that the issue of cyber security was also discussed. School boards and administrators would benefit from this information.

**Digital Education:** Nick Muir. Mr. Muir and Ms. Stuebing have met and spent most of the meeting time on Action Item #1 and understanding the definition. A draft was developed and shared with the task group members; feedback is welcome. Next steps would focus on identifying available data and data that might be needed, more specifically to identify what is being offered and how many are taking advantage of the courses. Next would be to develop improvements based on data.

**Network Nebraska Services:** Andrew Burker. Fee structure was discussed, will conclude in the spring.

**Security Task Group:** Derek Bierman/Cheri Polenske. The Task Group to reconvene in January. Plan is to identify attainable action items (providing cyber security best practices in the community and attending events). Could be collaboration with the Network Nebraska Services Group with development of the JSOC.

### **SUBSECTOR REPORTS (IF TIME PERMITS)**

**Public K-12 and ESUs:** Gary Needham. Two grants were written by Nebraska ESUs for year two of the grant cycle. They are attempting to align direction of the grant; could potentially select the same vendor or agreeing on the same major direction. NVIS site was updated by ESUCC; could likely provide the quantities of students participating in distance learning with potential to provide more detailed information.

**Nebraska Public Media:** Ling Ling Sun. On October 1<sup>st</sup> NPM offered its first free broadcast enabled streaming channel on KPPM Fox 42 in Omaha. This is part of next gen tv effort; people can receive free over the air signal, NPM provides UHD and HDR quality of video. Also, Ms. Sun was elected to serve on the Advanced Television Systems Committee Board of Directors.

### **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None discussed.

### **CONSIDER LOCATION(S) FOR THE FEBRUARY 19, 2025 MEETING**

Gary Needham suggested Sandy Creek Public Schools as an optional site for the meeting, with the potential of a tour of their Nebraska CAPS facility. The meeting would still be held virtually for those unable to travel.

### **CONSIDER AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY 19, 2025 MEETING**

Micro credentialing topics could be presented cooperatively with the NCAPS tour.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Muir moved to adjourn. Ms. Kumru seconded. All were in favor.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

The meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Becca Kingery of the Office of the CIO