

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Host Location:

Office of the CIO, Conference Room 4B, 501 S 14th St, Lincoln, NE

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Co-Chair, Mr. Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska
Co-Chair, Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09
Mr. Greg Robke, ESU 4 (Alt. for Dr. Ted DeTurk)
Ms. Elizabeth Kumru, Nebraska Association of School Boards
Ms. Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Schools
Mr. Jeremiah Ourada, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College
Ms. Cheri Polenske, Nebraska State College Systems
Mr. Dean Tickle, Loup City Schools

LIAISONS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Dr. McCarville, State of Nebraska, Chief Information Officer
Dr. Paul Thuman, Nebraska State College Systems
Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Post Secondary Education
Mr. Leonard Kwapnioski, Columbus Public Schools
Mr. Bryce Swiggum, Nebraska Wesleyan University

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:

Mr. Trent Kelley, Hastings Public Schools
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchel Secondary School
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School
Mr. Brandon Eckmann, Northeast Community College
Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska
Mr. Nick Muir, Wayne State College
Ms. Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media

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 .m. There was no quorum at the time of roll call. The meeting proceeded with informational items until quorum was reached. The meeting notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on February 13, 2025. The meeting agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) on February 12, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NETWORK NEBRASKA UPDATE

The RFP has been posted. This is the final week of posting. This RFP has 22 sites on it. The contracts should be in place by 2nd week of March. Mr. Buker indicated that the University IT team is working on an optical refresh for Network Nebraska. There is no definite scheduled date set yet.

SUPREME COURT CASES POTENTIALLY IMPACTING E-RATE

Ms. Struebing informed the Council that a hearing on USAC, USF, legal abilities and rights is scheduled for March 26th.

The Co-Chair, Gary Needham, joined the meeting.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 19, 2025 MEETING*

Mr. Peters moved to approve the February 19, 2025 meeting agenda. Mr. Ourada seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Robke-Yes, Kumru-Yes, Joseph-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Ourada-Yes, Peters-Yes, Polenske-Yes, and Tickle-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 18, 2024 MEETING*

Mr. Robke moved to approve the December 18, 2024 minutes as presented. Ms. Kumru seconded. Roll call vote: Tickle-Yes, Polenske-Yes, Peters-Yes, Ourada-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Joseph-Yes, Kumru-Yes, Robke-Yes, and Buker-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

POWERSCHOOL BREACH

Mr. Needham updated the council on the PowerSchool issue. Their IT support team was not able to get into the database that was downloaded. Teacher's databases were affected. The database may or may have not included social security numbers. PowerSchool has been posting updates. Emails are being sent to customers, but some customers are thinking it is a spam email because they are coming from a third party like Experian. The emails are legit from Experian. For some school district, their insurance companies are not covering this incident. Mr. Needham reminded members about the safety precautions that should be done for email – encryption, multi-factor authentication, backup and recovery procedures, etc.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Some of the legislative bills that the Office of the CIO, as well as Council members are monitoring are as follows:

LB 31 (Conrad) requires that, beginning May 1, 2026, each school board must adopt a written policy to be implemented at the start of school year 2026-27 that provides for standards and guidelines for the purchase and use of tools of mass surveillance. The policy must include procedures and provisions in conformance with the minimum standards set forth in a model policy developed by the State Board of Education and may include any other procedures and provisions the school board deems necessary to conform with the spirit and intent of the legislation.

LB 34 (Hunt) Provide for year-round daylight savings time

LB 140 (Sanders) Require school policies relating to use of electronic communication devices by students

LB 241 (Hallstrom) provides that a private entity may not be liable in a class action resulting from a cybersecurity event unless the cybersecurity event was caused by willful, wanton, or gross negligence on the part of the private entity. The bill defines “cybersecurity event” as an event resulting in unauthorized access to, or disruption or misuse of, an information system or nonpublic information stored on an information system. The bill was advanced from General File by a 33-9 vote and may receive another significant debate when it comes up for second-round consideration.

LB 389 (Murman) Eliminate the levy authority of educational service units and provide state funding to educational service units

LB 390 (Murman) requires each public school district to implement a policy that ensures parents, guardians, or educational decisionmakers can access specific school library information. The policy must include an online catalog of all books in the district's libraries, organized by school, accessible to parents, guardians, or decisionmakers and a notification system to inform parents or guardians when their student checks out a book, including the book's title, author, and due date. Notifications can be received via a website, app, or email, with the option to opt in. On select file

LB 296 (Arch) requires NDE to create a centralized education records system by July 2026 for students under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system, ensure the prompt transfer of education records for students to other educational providers through the system, and award academic credit when needed. This bill seeks to amend various provisions related to education, with a focus on improving support for students under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, enhancing high school diploma issuance processes, and modifying NDE's Improvement Grant Program. The bill further requires the Commissioner to employ registrars to manage and oversee the system as prescribed in the bill. Finally, the bill provides the Commissioner with authority to grant a statewide diploma for students, under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as outlined in the bill.

LB 599 (DeBoer) will require state board of education a policy referring to cybersecurity event, hearing will need to be rescheduled.

Mr. Buker shared a link with the members of a tool the University utilizes:
<https://www.educause.edu/higher-education-community-vendor-assessment-toolkit>

Mr. Watson, NITC member, stated that the NITC did develop an AI guideline that agencies should follow. The link was shared with the Council members.

SUBSECTOR REPORTS (if time permits)

The following sectors provided updates: University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Nebraska State College Systems; Nebraska Community Colleges; Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities; Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, and the Nebraska Department of Education.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The NETA (Nebraska Education Teachers Association) Spring Conference will be held on May 1-2, 2025, in Kearney. The registration is open.

The Fall Ed Tech Conference is set for November 3 in Kearney.

Mr. Tickle posed a question about phone providers and SMS policies, he asked if other members had experience with similar policies. Mr. Buker stated UN switched vendors and shared that information with the council, Mr. Peters stated they used the same vendors and have had success.

CONSIDER LOCATION(S) FOR THE APRIL 16, 2025 MEETING

Due to the weather, the Council was not able to meet at Sandy Creek schools. This will be location for the next meeting. Having a quorum may be an issue. Ms. Kingery will check with the OCIO Legal Counsel regarding hosting a meeting with two different meeting sites is allowed. If not, we'll look at a location in Lincoln. Ms. Kingery will poll the members about the location and start time of the next meeting.

CONSIDER AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 16, 2025 MEETING

Legislative Update
Update on JSOC
Task Group Updates

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Peters moved to adjourn. Ms. Polenske seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

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