

TECHNICAL PANEL
June 12, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Varner Hall-Board Room
3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Walter Weir, CIO, University of Nebraska, Chair
Christy Horn, University of Nebraska
Jayne Scofield, Alt. for Brenda Decker, CIO, State of Nebraska
Kirk Langer, Lincoln Public Schools
Michael Winkle, NET

ROLL CALL, MEETING NOTICE & OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Mr. Weir called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. There were four members present at the time of roll call. A quorum existed to conduct official business. Meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on June 6, 2012. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on June 6, 2012. The Open Meetings Act was posted on the South wall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MAY 8, 2012 MINUTES

Mr. Langer moved to approve the May 8, 2012 minutes as presented. Mr. Winkle seconded. Roll call vote: Scofield-Yes, Langer-Yes, Weir-Yes, and Winkle-Yes. Results: Yes-4, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

ENTERPRISE PROJECTS - PROJECT UPDATES

Department of Education - Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA- Reading, Math, and Science)
This item was moved to later in the agenda.

ENTERPRISE PROJECTS - DASHBOARD

Skip Philson, Office of the CIO

Access Nebraska. The project will provide a close-out report to the Technical Panel at the July meeting.

Network Nebraska. The tight timeline is reason for the yellow status. The cutoff of July 2nd is nearing for the internet and backbone services. Weekly calls have been made with vendors. There is an alternate plan to provide for month-to-month service with current vendor.

Public Safety Wireless. The Office of the CIO (OCIO) will be meeting with Motorola next week to discuss equipment and coverage sites. They will be replacing damaged antennas during the storms.

Interoperability Project. The ring testing in Scottsbluff failed. The OCIO is in the process of verifying when the grant monies expire. An extension has been granted twice. The project will be invited to report at the August meeting.

Adjudication Re-engineering. The project is waiting on judges to make decisions on standardization of language on Release of Liability pleading.

Mr. Philson informed the panel that he will be retiring on July 20th. Andy Weekly will be providing future Enterprise Project Updates.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES – REQUEST FOR WAIVER, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Rick Becker, Office of the CIO

In December 2010, the Technical Panel granted an 18-month waiver from the password standard to the Department of Labor to allow for alternate requirements for external users. At that time, the Technical Panel requested that the Security Architecture Work Group review the password standard and provide recommendations for a revised standard to address this issue. The Work Group has yet to make its recommendations. Mr. Becker's recommendation was to grant a 12-month waiver extension.

Mr. Winkle moved to grant the Department of Labor a 12-month extension. Mr. Langer seconded. Roll call vote: Winkle-Yes, Weir-Yes, Langer-Yes, and Scofield-Yes. Results: Yes-4, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

REGULAR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND WORK GROUP UPDATES

Learning Management, Kirk Langer. Since the last Technical Panel meeting, Mr. Langer has not met with Mr. Blomstedt. Mr. Rolfes reported that Mr. Blomstedt has been working with the agency requesting the funding but not sure how far it has progressed.

Ms. Horn arrived to the meeting.

Accessibility, Christy Horn. A workshop is being developed to start doing training on web accessibility for web specialists and faculty. The equipment is in place and it is now ready for installation. The office has been doing research on screen readers other than JAWS. ENVITA does the same thing as JAWS but is much easier to learn. After the research has been completed, Mr. Weir recommended that the NITC publish this type of info on the NITC website. He stated that he serves on review board for GIS project grants. At the review meeting, the question has been raised regarding GIS and accessibility with mobile devices. Mr. Horn stated that there are GPS programs for mobile devices with voice activated detailed turn-by-turn voice directions for persons with disabilities.

Security Architecture Work Group – Mr. Weakly was not present to report.

Intergovernmental Data Communications, Tim Cao. Mr. Cao was not present to report.

PROJECT UPDATES - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, NEBRASKA STATE ACCOUNTABILITY (NESA- READING, MATH, AND SCIENCE)

John Moon

Mr. Moon reviewed some of the percentage data submitted with his project report. Online testing results are available right away for the schools. School Districts have to wait a bit for the distractive online testing results. The Project is working on resolving over 7,000 duplicate record errors due to testing being offered both online and paper. ELL and Accessibility students usually take the paper test. Amendments had been made to the contract and a new contract is being negotiated with a new vendor. In addition, a new RFP is being developed that will hopefully be released in this Fall. Technical Panel members were given an opportunity to ask questions. The new Department of Education's I.T. Director, Valorie Foy, will be starting July 1st.

Ms. Horn expressed continued concerns regarding accessibility issues for students with disabilities.

Mr. Langer stated that Lincoln Public Schools is exploring the use of alternative device technologies better suited to instructional use and markedly more cost-effective than traditional computers. Mr. Langer gave examples that included Apple and Android tablets, and Google Chromebooks. The current online testing environment is not available for mobile devices due to its reliance upon both Flash and Java code.

At a time when school district revenues are continuing to decline, they are looking at those technologies that deliver productivity at a price point less than traditional options that include greater potential but are

not affordable. Mr. Langer pointed out that at this point in time the financial realities of school districts, and their need for cost-effective technologies, is incompatible with the intransigent technology demands of the NeSA test that require more expensive options. Mr. Langer stated that because of this school district officials can't submit a budget request to school boards for cost-effective technologies like tablet devices.

In addition, Mr. Langer repeated previously expressed concerns regarding the NeSA scores reporting timeline. The real data is not available until mid to late August which makes it hard for teachers to develop IP plans for the school year. Instructional decisions are dependent upon test score data that is not provided in a timely manner with the online testing despite the greater efficiency afforded to the state by putting the tests online. Mr. Moon indicated that schools have immediate access to the raw data and that so long as there are paper tests being administered, the reporting timeline will be slow. NeSA writing scores are not available yet but will be available next year. Mr. Langer and Mr. Winkle expressed concerns that adjustments were made to the contract but none of them included the Technical Panel's concerns regarding accessibility, mobile devices, reporting timelines, and an administrative decision to proceed with a contract that was out of compliance with stated requirements. Mr. Langer implored the Department of Education to broaden input in the development of a forthcoming RFP in the interest of addressing these issues as well as considering the total cost of implementation including the burden placed upon school districts to significantly improve their student-to-computer ratio.

Members wished to continue the discussion with the agency at the next meeting. Mr. Moon will also invite Ms. Foy to attend. Staff will ask Matt Bloomstedt from the ESUCC to attend as well.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next NITC meeting will be held mid to late August.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Langer moved to adjourn. Ms. Scofield seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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