

**State Accreditation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2018**

The Nebraska State Accreditation Committee met at the Courtyard by Marriott Lincoln, Downtown/Haymarket. Travis Miller, acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., declared a quorum present, and established the legality of the meeting.

Members present were the following: Mary Anderson, Elizabeth Boyle, Luke Bretscher, Susan Christopherson, Dale Fornander, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Mitch Kubicek, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Gerry Osborn, Monsignor Perkinson, Kevin Riley, Joe'l Ruybalid, Dan Schnoes, Amy Shane, John Skretta and Jane Stavem.

Members absent: Josie Floyd, Jed Johnston, and Mike Sieh (Chair)

NDE staff members present during all or some of the meeting were the following: Commissioner Matt Blomstedt, Deputy Commissioner Deb Frison, Brad Conner, Cory Epler, Dean Folkers, Valorie Foy, Gale Hamilton, Melody Hobson, Don Loseke, Kevin Peters, Kim Snyder, Diane Stuehmer, and Scott Summers.

Following greetings and introductions, Travis Miller reviewed the agenda. Dale Hafer moved to approve the agenda and Gerry Osborn seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Mary Anderson, Elizabeth Boyle, Luke Bretscher, Susan Christopherson, Dale Fornander, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Mitch Kubicek, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Gerry Osborn, Monsignor Perkinson, Kevin Riley, Joe'l Ruybalid, Dan Schnoes, Amy Shane, John Skretta, and Jane Stavem.

Voting no: none

Approval carried 18-0 with 3 absent.

Members reviewed the minutes of the May 18, 2017, meeting. Troy Lurz moved to accept the minutes and Gerry Osborn seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Mary Anderson, Elizabeth Boyle, Luke Bretscher, Susan Christopherson, Dale Fornander, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Mitch Kubicek, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Gerry Osborn, Monsignor Perkinson, Kevin Riley, Joe'l Ruybalid, Dan Schnoes, Amy Shane, John Skretta, and Jane Stavem.

Voting no: none

Approval carried 18-0 with 3 absent.

Travis Miller reviewed with members the purpose of Rule 10 (equity of opportunity, quality of learning, and accountability) and the Committee's role.

### **Making Connections and Supporting Schools**

Dr. Blomstedt reiterated the importance of the Committee and the purpose of Rule 10. This is our opportunity to think about what we want to do and recommend and how we want to inform and guide. We have serious work to accomplish and the Department cannot accomplish it on its own.

### **2018 Legislative Update**

The Commissioner updated the Committee on LB803 (Change provisions related to kindergarten, early childhood education, and the Step Up to Quality Childcare Act) and LB1110 (Require annual reporting of school performance scores and classifications).

### **Kindergarten Hours**

Melody Hobson shared that by 2019-2020 all school districts shall offer the same minimum hours of instruction in kindergarten as all other elementary grades.

### **Strategic Plan – Commissioner**

The Commissioner talked about strategic vision and direction, giving an overview of the Operational Approach, NDE Accountability, Service Accountability, and School and District Accountability along with the various roles of the NDE:

- Champion
- Regulator
- Capacity Builder
- Connector
- Change Agent

### **Support of Needs Improvement Schools**

1. Dr. Blomstedt talked about the NDE goals and the issues we have around improving schools that fall into *needs improvement* across the state including:

- Native American Communities
- Rural Nebraska
- Demographically shifting communities
- Urban population centers

Dr. Blomstedt stressed that we have to spend time in places that need additional help to improve.

2. Diane Stuehmer shared that Federal Programs is still in the infancy of developing what *needs improvement* is going to look like under ESSA. They will be identifying schools for comprehensive school improvement next fall and hope to be able to help every school identified. There is no decision on how funds will be distributed and she asked for the

Committee's help in the future on developing what we need to be requiring from schools identified for comprehensive school improvement.

3. Don Loseke shared that the Special Education team (SPED) has been working closely with accreditation and school improvement. Their role has changed in the services that they provide and they are working hard to provide services to all kids.

4. Cory Epler reported as content areas continue to be revised, they are asking for State Board approval. This sends a signal that the standards the State Board approves in content areas create a framework for quality teaching and learning in our schools. The Standards timeline is posted on the NDE website and Cory asked you to send him any comments you may have. Moving forward, NDE needs to provide guidance and focus around instructional materials and curriculum and support districts in selecting high-quality instructional materials.

5. Dave Ludwig gave an overview of the systems of support provided by ESUs. It is about communication, coordination, and the ability to listen, hear, and lead. This includes working closely with school districts, the NDE, and the Continuous Improvement Process.

### **Public Comment Period**

None

### **Update on Rule 10**

Kim Snyder provided committee members a handout of suggested revisions or additions for Rule 10 and invited input from the membership. At the present time, Rule 10 is not in front of the state board for consideration regarding revision or adoption.

### **Virtual Programs in Schools**

Dean Folkers talked about virtual schools vs. programs within a school. In May of last year, there was an official virtual school located at Omaha Public Schools. As of July 1, the virtual school became a virtual program within the Omaha Public School district. Virtual schools and virtual programs are operated differently. Currently there is one virtual school, The University of Nebraska High School (UNHS), accredited by the state. There is one virtual program operated by the Omaha Public School district. Scott Summers noted that NDE's position on option enrollment for virtual programs is that the student must be enrolled full-time in the district that controls the program.

### **Statewide Assessment**

Valorie Foy presented an overview of information on the Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS). Included in the current State Contract:

1. Formative Assessment (TestWiz-C4L)
2. Interim Assessment - MAP Growth
3. Summative Statewide Assessment
4. Professional Development

Dr. Foy also noted upcoming discussions for the 2018-2019 school year.

### **Certification Updates**

Kevin Peters reviewed anticipated rule revisions:

- Rule 24 - Revised and eliminated Endorsements
- Rule 23 - Allow a candidate to meet the basic skills testing requirement with a composite score of 468 or greater on all three Core Skills Tests (Core) without the previous qualifier regarding performance on an individual test.
- Rule 21 – Substitute teaching, working with ESUs to form consortiums with local colleges; creation of a Military Teaching Permit; acceptance of community college and college teaching to renew a Nebraska certificate; taking basic skills test out of certification.

Dr. Peters also reviewed the definition of a permit (allows you to do something for a specific time *only* because you have deficiencies) and certification (right to teach as long as you maintain the certificate.)

### **Rule 10 Media Specialist and Guidance Counselor**

Brad Conner noted it can be difficult for some districts to meet the requirements of Media Specialists and Guidance Counselors. A handout of the current Rule 10 requirements was shared with the members.

Kim Snyder also noted that an electronic process will be available to assist administrators in tracking provisional staff members' progress towards certification.

### **NSAA and School Leadership Development and Supports (SLDS)**

Kim Snyder gave a report on NSAA and their message statement that a school culture of racism is not acceptable and briefly went over a handout that included information on Nebraska Statewide System of Coordinated Supports for PK-12 Principals.

### **Continuous Improvement**

1. Don Loseke reported on the Collaboration and numbers of participants for the five 2017 School Improvement Workshops that were held across the state this past fall.

Sept. 18-19	Gering	128
Sept. 25-26	York	54
Oct. 9-10	Norfolk	95
Oct. 19-20	Kearney	96
Oct. 24-25	La Vista	183
Total		556

2. Gale Hamilton reported on the Committee for the Coordination of Systemic Improvement (CCSI), which has worked to put together a school improvement process that has as its foundation the tenets of AQuESTT.

This group is also working towards streamlining requests for school improvement plans and working with ESUs, staff and contractors to build a system to create something we can scale up in our work with priority and needs improvement schools.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.