

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 11, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

State Office Building, State Board Meeting Room, Lincoln, Nebraska

[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)

[Link to Video of Meeting](#)

Publicized notice of the work session and business meeting was given by posting notice on the Department's website, emailed to news media requesting notification, and posting a copy of the agenda in the Office of the Commissioner of Education, which gave the date, time, and location of the meetings.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** President John Witzel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1.1. Roll Call showed the following members present:

John Witzel	Maureen Nickels
Patricia Timm	Deborah Neary
Rachel Wise	Lisa Fricke
Patsy Koch Johns	Robin Stevens

Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

1.2 President Witzel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 President Witzel announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act information.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

2.1 Motion by Wise, second by Timm to approve the minutes of the December 6-7, 2018, State Board of Education meetings as published.

Voting Yes: Nickels, Stevens, Neary, Fricke, Wise, Koch Johns, Timm, Witzel

The motion passed.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

3.1 Commissioner Blomstedt recommended removal of Action Item 9.2, Approve the 2019-2021 NDE-NAPE/AFSCME Bargaining Agreement.

Motion by Wise, second by Timm to approve the Agenda for the January 11, 2019, State Board of Education meeting as recommended by Commissioner Blomstedt.

Voting Yes: Nickels, Stevens, Neary, Fricke, Wise, Koch Johns, Timm, Witzel

The motion passed.

4. **2019 ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

4.1 Election Process and Procedures

Motion by Wise, second by Fricke that the Commissioner, as Secretary of the State Board, will preside over the nomination and election process; secret ballots will be used during the election; that the results of each round of voting will be announced by the Teller and recorded in the minutes after which the Commissioner will declare the results; and that the ballots and tally sheets will be placed in the custody of the Commissioner, who will keep them under seal until the time period for a recount expires and then will destroy them.

Voting Yes: Nickels, Stevens, Neary, Fricke, Wise, Koch Johns, Timm, Witzel

The motion passed.

President Witzel appointed Scott Summers and Lora Sypal as Tellers to disseminate and count the ballots and the Commissioner will preside over the nomination and election process.

Commissioner Blomstedt opened nominations for President of the State Board of Education.

Maureen Nickels nominated John Witzel. There being no further nominations, the Commissioner closed the nominations and State Board Members proceeded to vote.

Reporting Teller, Scott Summers, read the vote results and delivered the tally to the Commissioner who announced the results of 8 votes for John Witzel as president.

Commissioner Blomstedt opened nominations for Vice President of the State Board of Education.

Patricia Timm nominated Maureen Nickels. There being no further nominations, the Commissioner closed the nominations and State Board Members proceeded to vote.

Reporting Teller, Scott Summers, read the vote tally and delivered the tally to the Commissioner who announced the results of 8 votes for Maureen Nickels as vice president.

President Witzel and Vice President Nickels offered words of appreciation to the Board members for their trust and confidence in their abilities to lead the Board.

President Witzel called for a break at 9:17 a.m. The meeting resumed at 9:24 a.m.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

5.1 There were no requests for appearance.

5.2 Other Public Comments

- Cindy Copich, Nebraska State Education Association, congratulating recently elected Board members and expressing appreciation for the work of the Board and Department
- Henry Burke, speaking to the Nebraska Social Studies Standards
- Wayne Smith, retired accountant, speaking to the Social Studies Standards revisions (handout)
- Rachel Pinkerton, speaking to dyslexia, elementary school suspensions, school to prison pipeline (handouts)

6. **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND AGENDA OVERVIEW**

6.1 Strategic Plan Discussion

Commissioner Blomstedt reflected on the efforts of 2018 and talked of direction for 2019. He noted it was the time for the Department and the Board to lead and use influence and power to continue toward the Board vision to lead and support the preparation of All Nebraskans for learning, earning and living.

President Witzel called for a break at 10:12 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:22 a.m.

9. **ACTION ITEMS**

9.1 Consider the Hearing Officer's Recommended Decision in NDE Case No. 18-15, Larry Davis v. Commissioner

Motion by Stevens, second by Timm to adopts the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and the Recommendation of the Hearing Officer, affirming the Commissioner's denial of Petitioner's application for a local substitute teaching certificate, and to adopt the Final the final Order proposed by Legal Counsel in Larry L. Davis v. Commissioner, NDE Case No. 18-15.

Voting Yes: Nickels, Stevens, Neary, Fricke, Wise, Koch Johns, Timm, Witzel

The motion passed.

6. **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND AGENDA OVERVIEW**

6.2 Legislative Priorities

Brian Halstead, Deputy Commissioner, provided a review of the Board's Regulatory and Legislative Priorities for the 106th Legislative Session. Halstead pointed out that when Senators call for information from the Department it does not denote support for the bill the Senator is proposing. Hearings on bills begins January 16, 2019.

6.3 Orientation

6.3.A. Annual policy and procedure orientation

Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, provided an overview of the policies and procedures the Board has developed related to the topics provided.

6.4 Consent Agenda Process

Commissioner Blomstedt reminded Board members to submit questions on Consent Agenda items to Legal Counsel, Scott Summers.

6.5 Report on Rules

Commissioner Blomstedt noted that Rules 91 and 92 are being reviewed by the Attorney General.

6.6 Board Priorities and Policy Research

No report.

9. **ACTION ITEMS**

9.2 Removed.

9.3 Grant the Commissioner the authority to contract for purposes of modernizing the Educator Licensing System

Motion by Timm, second by Wise to grant the Commissioner the authority to contract for purposes of modernizing the Educator Licensing System.

Voting Yes: Nickels, Stevens, Neary, Fricke, Wise, Koch Johns, Timm, Witzel

The motion passed.

10. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

10.2 Motion by Wise, second by Fricke to approve the Consent Agenda.

Voting Yes: Nickels, Stevens, Neary, Fricke, Wise, Koch Johns, Timm, Witzel

The motion passed.

12. **BOARD REPORTS, DATES, AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

12.2 Meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved

Motion by Timm, second by Nickels to approve meetings that took place in the past that were not previously approved for John Witzel and Lisa Fricke for attending the NCSA Legislative Conference on December 12, 2018.

Yes: Nickels, Stevens, Neary, Wise, Koch Johns, Timm
Abstain: Fricke, Witzel

The motion passed.

Motion by Wise, second by Nickel to approve meetings that took place in the past that were not previously approved for Lisa Fricke for attending the Open Sky Budget Forum on December 11, 2018.

Yes: Nickels, Stevens, Neary, Wise, Koch Johns, Timm, Witzel
Abstain: Fricke

The motion passed.

Motion by Timm, second by Nickels to approve meetings that took place in the past that were not previously approved for Lisa Fricke for attending a meeting with the President of the Education Association on January 8, 2019.

Yes: Nickels, Stevens, Neary, Wise, Koch Johns, Timm, Witzel
Abstain: Fricke

The motion passed.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Witzel adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m. A work Session will be held on Thursday, February 7, at 2:00 p.m. and a Board meeting will be held on Friday, February 8 at 9:00 a.m. in Lincoln, Nebraska.