

State Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Thursday-Friday, March 7-8, 2019
State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South Lincoln, Nebraska

[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)
[Link to Video of Meeting](#)

Publicized notice of the work sessions 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.

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION, Thursday, March 7, 2019, 2:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following Board members present:

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

Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

1.2 President Witzel noted the location of the Open Meetings Act.

2. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND AGENDA OVERVIEW

2.1 Consent Agenda process

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the Consent Agenda process noting that items requested for a separate vote or more information need to be directed to Scott Summers.

2.2 Report on Rules

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the status of Rules 91 and 92 which are currently in the Attorney General's Office for review.

2.3 Board Priorities and Policy Research - None

2.4 Information on Rule 10

Don Loseke, Department of Education representative, provided an overview of the history of Rule 10.

2.5 Information on special education funding; maintenance of effort information

Shane Rhian and Greg Prochazka, Department of Education representatives, provided an overview of special education and maintenance of effort funding.

2.6 Information on data collection processes

Dean Folkers and Matt Hastings, Department of Education representatives, provided information on the use of ADVISER and the Department's data collection processes.

2.7 Information on the assessment data timeline

Cory Epler and Jeremy Heneger, Department of Education representatives, provided information on the assessment timeline, noting grading challenges and return time of testing results.

3. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

3.1 Policy Committee. Patricia Timm, Chair, provided information from the Committee meeting on the following items:

3.1.A. Consent Item: Reaffirm State Board Policy B1, Board Officers

The Committee completed a four-year review on the Policy, recommending non-substantive revisions. The Committee recommends approval of this item which appears on the Consent Agenda.

3.1.B. Discussion Item: State Board Position Statement S3, Reading/Writing review and rewrite

The Committee recommends that Position Statement S3 sunset as written and also recommends that the Teaching and Learning Committee review and make recommendations on rewriting this Position Statement to align with current NDE measures involving literacy.

3.1.B.1. Discussion Item: Discuss proposed revisions to State Board Position Statement S1, Nondiscrimination and Equitable Educational Opportunities in Schools review by success and access

The Committee recommends that the Success and Access committee review the proposed revisions in April 2019 and report to the Policy Committee.

3.1.C. Discussion Item: Four year review of State Board Bylaw B4, Task Forces and Advisory Committees

The Committee discussed Policy B4. If there are no revisions proposed, the Committee will recommend reaffirmation in April 2019.

3.1.D. Discussion Item: Four year review of State Board Bylaw B17, Public Statements by Board Members

The Committee discussed Policy B17. If there are no revisions proposed, the Committee will recommend reaffirmation in April 2019.

3.1.E. Discussion Item: Review State Board Bylaw B19, Computer Equipment/Internet Access and Electronic Mail

The Committee discussed the bylaw. If no substantive revision are proposed, the Committee will proceed to review this Bylaw as scheduled in 2022.

3.2 Legislative Committee

3.2.A. Review 2019 Proposed State Legislation and Take Action on Board Positions

Maureen Nickels, Chair, reported on the Committee meeting. Brian Halstead, Deputy Commissioner, updated the Board on current legislation.

The Committee recommends that the State Board of Education support LB 241 with an amendment that provides that funding for the 2020-21 school year be available for NDE to plan for implementation of teacher mentoring programs that in the 2021-22 school year, school districts can apply to NDE for funding to carry out teacher mentoring in school districts.

3.3. Commissioner's Appraisal Committee

3.3.A. Patricia Timm, Chair, reported that the Committee will meet at 8:00 a.m., March 8, 2019, and will provide a report during the Business meeting.

3.4 AQUESTT - Teaching and Learning Domain Committee

3.4.A. Discussion Item: Nebraska World Language Standards

Lisa Fricke, Chair, reported on the Committee meeting. Stephanie Call and Cory Epler, Department of Education representatives, discussed the review and revisions of the Nebraska World Language Standards. The draft standards will be brought before the Board for review in August 2019.

- 3.4.B Action Item: Grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with Education Measurement Consulting, LLC.

Jeremy Heneger, Department of Education representative, provided information on the contract with Education Measurement work on peer review for ELPA. The Committee recommends approval.

- 3.5 AQuESTT - Student Success and Access Domain Committee. Patsy Koch Johns, Chair, provided the following reports to the Board of the Committee meeting:

- 3.5.A. Discussion Item: Equity Lens

The Committee continued discussion on the development of an Equity Lens. The Committee referred the statement to the Policy Committee for review.

- 3.5.B. Action Item: Grant the Commissioner the authority to amend the existing contract and lease with ESU 4 for the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI)

The Committee reviewed an amendment to funding for the NCECBVI and recommends approval of the amendment.

- 3.5.C. Action Item: Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve two contracts with Easterseals Nebraska. Easterseals will conduct the Nebraska Empowered Youth Camp and the Inspiring ChangeMakers leadership training programs.

The Committee received information on re-employment transition services activities funded through the WIOA. The Committee recommends approval.

- 3.5.D. Action Item: Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve two contracts with ESU 16 for the summer internship programs, Summer Work Education and Employment Program (SWEEP)

The Committee received information on this grant and recommends approval.

- 3.5.E. Action Item: Grant the Commissioner authority to approve Cooperative Agreement for "NeMTSS Regional Facilitator" with ESUs 3, 10 and 13

The Committee discussed the statewide MTSS support for cooperative agreements.

Amy Rhone, Department of Education representatives, provided additional information for the Board.

The Committee recommends approval.

- 3.5.F. Action Item: Grant the Commissioner the authority to amend the current 2018-19 contracts for the four Regional Programs for Deafness/Hard of Hearing

The Board previously approved these contracts. The Committee received information regarding the amended amounts and recommends approval.

- 3.6 Budget and Finance Committee. John Witzel, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee on the following items:

- 3.6.A. Discussion Item: Information on the Legislature's Appropriations Committee Hearing on the Department of Education's Biennial Budget Request

The Committee received a briefing from the Commissioner on the Department's budget request. The Department's hearing before the Appropriations Committee is scheduled for March 19, 2019.

- 3.6.B. Action Item: Accept the 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Audit Report

Bryce Wilson and Shane Rhian, Department of Education representatives, provided information on the CAFR audit.

The Committee recommends approval.

- 3.7 Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee

- 3.7.1 Action Item: Adopt Recommendations from External Review of Strategic Vision and Direction

Rachel Wise, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee. The Committee recommends adoption of the Strategic Planning Recommendations, Implementation Plan and Timeline.

4. BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSIONS ITEMS

- 4.1 Meeting participation and joint meetings with policy partners

- 4.1.A. Monthly Board Reports

President Witzel noted to Board Members to submit their monthly reports.

- 4.1.B. Quarterly discussion on meeting participation discussed at business meeting

President Witzel noted that the quarterly discussion would be held during the business meeting on March 8, 2019.

- 4.2 Meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved moved to the business meeting

President Witzel noted that the Board will take action on the approval of the meetings that took place in the past during the business meeting on March 8, 2019.

- 4.3 Discuss requests for future meeting attendance approve at business meeting

President Witzel reminded Board members to submit requests for future meeting attendance. The Board will take action on approval of future meeting attendance during the business meeting on March 8, 2019.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Witzel adjourned the Work Session at 4:54 p.m.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will reconvene at 9:00 a.m., Friday, March 8, 2019.

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION, Friday, March 8, 2019, 9:00 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1. Roll Call

Present: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel, Nickels
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.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 2.1 Approval of the minutes of the February 7-8, 2019, State Board meetings passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Maureen Nickels.

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 3.1 The Commissioner recommended including Work Session Item 3.3, *Report on Commissioner Appraisal* and Work Session Item 4.1, *Board Quarterly Reports*, under Business Meeting Item 8, *Board Reports, Dates and Discussion Items*.

Approval of the Agenda with the Commissioner's recommendation to include Work Session Item 3.3, *Report on Commissioner Appraisal* and Work Session Item 4.1, *Board Quarterly Reports*, under Business Meeting Item 8, *Board Reports, Dates and Discussion Items* passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- 4.1 Request for 10-Minute Special Appearance

4.1.A. Henry Burke, spoke to Nebraska Social Studies Standards and comparison of Nebraska standards to Texas standards.

4.1.B. Diane Temme Stinton, speaking to the importance and support of quality music and arts education programs in Nebraska's PreK-12 schools and the importance of music education.

- 4.2 Public Comment (5 Minutes)

- Rachel Pinkerton, speaking to the Justice for Kids initiative; support for Nebraska Reads; and reading proficiency.
- Maddie Fennel, speaking to Nebraska State Education Association work in supporting students in becoming educators; Educators Rising program work; and support for LB 241.

5. ACTION ITEMS

- 5.1 Legislative Committee

- 5.1.A. Review 2019 Proposed State Legislation and Take Action on Board Positions

To support LB 241, *Provide for teacher mentoring program grants using income from solar and wind agreements on school lands*, with an amendment that provides that funding for the 2020-21 school year be available for NDE to plan for implementation of teacher mentoring programs and that in the 2021-22 school year school districts can apply to NDE for funding to carry out teacher mentoring in school districts passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

5.2 AQuESTT - Teaching and Learning Domain Committee

- 5.2.A. To grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with Education Measurement Consulting, LLC passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Patricia Timm.

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

5.3 AQuESTT - Student Success and Access Domain Committee

- 5.3.A. To grant the Commissioner the authority to amend the existing contract and lease with ESU 4 for the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI) passed with a motion by Robin Stevens and a second by Patricia Timm.

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

- 5.3.B. To grant the Commissioner the authority to approve two contracts with Easterseals Nebraska. Easterseals will conduct the Nebraska Empowered Youth Camp and the Inspiring ChangeMakers leadership training programs. passed with a motion by Deborah Neary and a second by Patricia Timm.

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

- 5.3.C. To grant the Commissioner the authority to approve two contracts with ESU 16 for the summer internship programs, Summer Work Education and Employment Program (SWEEP) passed with a motion by Deborah Neary and a second by Maureen Nickels.

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

- 5.3.D. To grant the commissioner authority to approve Cooperative Agreement for "NeMTSS Regional Facilitator" with ESUs 3, 10 and 13 passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

- 5.3.E. To grant the Commissioner the authority to amend the current 2018-19 contracts for the four Regional Programs for Deafness/Hard of Hearing passed with a motion by Robin Stevens and a second by Patricia Timm.

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

5.4 Budget and Finance Committee

- 5.4.A. To accept the 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFRR) Audit Report passed with a motion by John Witzel and a second by Patricia Timm.

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

5.5 Strategic Planning, Performance, and Improvement Committee

- 5.5 A. To adopt the recommendations from the external review of the strategic vision and direction passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Maureen Nickels.

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

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 No items were removed for separate vote.

- 6.2 To approve the Consent Agenda passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

7. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS (None)

8. BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Work Session Item 3.3. Commissioner's Appraisal Committee.

Patricia Timm, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Commissioner's Appraisal Committee noting the Committee's plan for April to provide the Board with an overview and timeline for the process.

Work Session Item 4.1.B. Quarterly discussion on meeting participation

Board Members reported on one event they attended. Topics included early childhood, Milken recipient notification, school visits, MLK celebration, and others.

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

- 8.1.A Approval of meeting participation that occurred in the past for Lisa Fricke passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Patricia Timm.

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

8.1.B. Approval of meeting participation that occurred in the past for Patsy Koch Johns passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

8.1.D. Approval of meeting participation that occurred in the past for Maureen Nickels passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

8.1.E. Approval of meeting participation that occurred in the past for Robin Stevens passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Lisa Fricke.

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

8.1.G. Approval of meeting participation that occurred in the past for Rachel Wise passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Lisa Fricke.

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

8.1.H. Approval of meeting participation that occurred in the past for John Witzel passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Patricia Timm.

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

8.2 Approval of future meeting participation passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Witzel adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, April 5, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Office Building, Nebraska Department of Education, Sixth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509. A work session will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at the Nebraska State Office building, Nebraska Department of Education, Sixth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509.