

**Nebraska State Board of Education Meeting**  
**Thursday-Friday, May 2-3, 2019**  
State Board Meeting Room, State Office Building, 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.

**STATE BOARD WORK SESSION, Thursday, May 2, 2019, 2:00 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – President Witzel called the Work Session to order at 2:00 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

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

Absent: Timm (attending national Early Childhood conference)

Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

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

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

2.1. Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the process for Board members to gain additional information on Consent Agenda items.

Commissioner Blomstedt noted that due to guest scheduling, Standing Committee Reports for items 3.7. D. and 3.7 E. will be moved for presentation at this time.

3. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

3.7 Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee

3.7.D Loup County Priority School Progress Plan and Recommendations

Leadership Team members from Loup County Elementary School presented their experience and efforts toward improving the priority status of the school. Those present were Superintendent Rusty Ruppert, Principal Ken Sheets, and Principal Kim Bearn. Shirley Vargas and Lane Carr, Department of Education representatives, provided a brief background on the designation of priority schools. Recommendations based on the

Progress Plan were also reviewed. It is the recommendation to the State Board of Education to remove Loup County Elementary School from Priority status. The Board will take action during the business meeting on May 3, 2019.

### 3.7.E Santee Priority School Progress Plan and Recommendations

Leadership Team members from Santee Middle School presented their experience and efforts toward improving priority status of the school. Those presenting included Board president Steve Moose, Principal Tony Hoffman, and Superintendent Kari Garwood-Daniels. Shirley Vargas and Lane Carr, Department of Education representatives, provided background on the school's efforts. The recommendation is to maintain priority status for the middle and pursue significant revisions to the Progress Plan, and to designate the elementary and high school as priority schools.

President Witzel called for a break at 2:45 p.m. The meeting resumed at 3:00 p.m.

## **2. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND AGENDA OVERVIEW**

### 2.2 Report on Rules

Commissioner Blomstedt reported on the status of Rules 91-92, which are waiting approval by Governor; and Rules 11, 20, and 23, which have been approved for hearing.

### 2.3 Board Priorities and Policy Research

Ryan Foor, Director of State Board Relations, reported on various meetings and opportunities the State Board has taken part in or have been invited to participate in at a later date. Topics included a recap of the NASBE/CCSSO meeting, social/emotional academic development, student advisory committees, board policy alignment among others.

## **3. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### 3.1 Policy Committee

John Witzel served as Chair in Patricia Timm's absence. The Committee recommends postponing action on State Board Bylaw B13, Rule Development, and that this item on the Consent Agenda be pulled from the business meeting. The Committee also recommends adoption of Consent Agenda item 7.4.B., State Board Policy P2, Board and Staff Relations. The Committee also discussed legislative and regulatory priorities.

3.2 Legislative Committee

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

Maureen Nickels, Chair, asked Brian Halstead, Deputy Commissioner, to provide an update on state Legislation.

3.3 Commissioner's Appraisal Committee

3.3.A Discussion Item: Commissioner's Appraisal Process

John Witzel served as Chair in Patricia Timm's absence. The Committee will meet Friday, May 3, prior to the Board Business Meeting. The Committee recommends the State Board go into Executive Session for purposes of discussing the results of the Commissioner's appraisal during the Board Business meeting on May 3, 2019. The Board will take action on the Commissioner's contract in June.

3.4. AQUESTT - Teaching and Learning Domain Committee

3.4.A Action Item: Contract to directly support teachers and school leaders in work with the Nebraska Teacher and Principal Performance Framework and the Nebraska Leadership and Learning Network

Lisa Fricke, Chair, asked Kim Snyder to share details and responsibilities of the contract position. The Committee recommends approval of this item.

3.4.B Action Item: Contract with Northwest Evaluation Association to provide Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) general assessments and related services for 2019-2020.

Lisa Fricke, Chair, reported that Jeremy Heneger presented on the assessment contract in April and the Committee recommends approval.

3.4.C Action Item: Contract with Data Recognition Corporation to provide Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) alternate assessments and related services for 2019-2020

Lisa Fricke, Chair, reported that Jeremy Heneger presented on the assessment contract in April and the Committee recommends approval.

3.4.D Action Item: Contract with ACT to provide Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) ACT Plus Writing and related services for 2019-2020

Lisa Fricke, Chair, reported that Jeremy Heneger presented on the assessment contract in April and the Committee recommends approval.

3.4.E Discussion Item: World Language Content Area Standards

Lisa Fricke, Chair, reported on the Committee discussion. The Committee received a draft copy of the Nebraska World Language Standards for review. A recommendation for adoption will come to the Committee at a later date.

3.4.F Discussion Item: Legislative and Regulatory Priorities

Lisa Fricke, Chair, reported on the Committee discussion around Early Childhood Education.

3.5 AQuESTT - Student Success and Access Domain Committee

3.5.A Action Item: Approve Interim Program Schools appearing on the accompanying list to operate for the 2019-2020 school year under Rule 18

Patsy Koch Johns, Chair, reported on the meeting. The Committee reviewed the information submitted for the approval of interim program schools and recommends approval.

3.5.B Action Item: Approve funding recommendations for the federally funded Support for Improvement (SFI) plans/applications

Patsy Koch Johns, Chair, reported on the discussion. At last month's meeting, the Board received information from Diane Stuehmer on the support for improvement grants. This month, a list of eligible applicant schools is presented for approval of these funds. The Committee recommends approval.

3.5.C Discussion Item: Discuss the draft Equity Lens and Position Statement S1 (Nondiscrimination and Equal Education Opportunity in Schools)

Patsy Koch Johns, Chair, reported on the discussion. The Committee plans to meet in the coming weeks to discuss this item further.

3.5.D Discussion Item: Discuss revisions to Rule 11

Patsy Koch Johns, Chair, reported on the discussion. Melody Hobson, Department of Education representative, shared a draft Rule 11 revision with the Committee. The Committee encourages the Board to review the draft in preparation for action at the June meeting.

3.6 Budget and Finance Committee

John Witzel, Chair, reported on the meeting. Jen Utemark, Department of Education representative, gave an overview of the budget update. No issues were noted on the education administration portion of the budget. It was noted that education aid was consistent with the prior year.

3.7 Strategic Planning, Performance, and Improvement Committee

3.7.A Action Item: Contract for services and continuing support for Priority Schools and other schools designated for improvement

Rachel Wise, Chair, reported on the meeting. The Committee recommends approval.

3.7.B This item was pulled from the May Agenda.

3.7.C Action Item: Approve accreditation for the Educational Service Units appearing on the accompanying list for the 2019-2020 school year in accordance with the provisions of Rule 84 (92 NAC 84)

Rachel Wise, Chair, reported on the discussion. The Committee recommends approval.

3.7.F Discussion Item: Strategic Plan revisions

Rachel Wise, Chair, reported that the Committee plans to meet on Friday, May 3, 2019. The proposed changes will be brought to the Board in June.

3.7.G Discussion Item: Legislative and Regulatory Priorities

Rachel Wise, Chair, reported on the Committee discussion.

**4. BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSIONS ITEMS**

4.1 Meeting participation and joint meetings with policy partners

4.1.A Board members were reminded to review the reports in Sparq.

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

4.2.A Board members will take action on approval of attendance at meetings that took place in the past during the business meeting on May 3, 2019.

4.3 Discuss requests for future meeting attendance

4.3.A Board members were reminded to review the requests for future meeting attendance.

4.4. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

4.4.A Board members were reminded to review the travel expense report.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

President Witzel reminded members of the Commissioner's Appraisal Committee meeting taking place at 8:00 a.m. on May 3, 2019.

President Witzel adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on May 3, 2019, State Board Meeting Room, State Office Building, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING, Friday, May 3, 2019, 9:00 a.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

1.1 Roll Call

Present: Witzel, Nickels, Koch Johns, Wise, Fricke, Neary (left at 10:24 a.m.), Stevens  
Absent: Timm (attending national Early Childhood conference)

Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance. 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**

Approval of the minutes of the April 4-5, 2019 State Board of Education meeting passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Blomstedt recommended removal of Action Item 6.7.B. and Consent Agenda Item 7.4.A for action at a later date.

Approval of the Agenda with recommended changes passed with a motion by Robin Stevens and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

##### 4.1 Request for 10-Minute Special Appearance

##### 4.1.A Proposed Nebraska Social Studies Standards

Henry Burke - speaking to what makes standards good

##### 4.1.B Draft of the Revised Social Studies Standards

Tim Royers - speaking in support of the middle school Social Studies Standards

##### 4.2 Public Comment

- Wayne Smith - speaking to social studies standards recommended change; specifically economic standards
- Carol Julian - speaking to charter schools
- Jennifer Davidson - UNL Professor, Nebraska Economic Education - speaking to the economic strand of the standards and necessary elements of writing good standards
- Cindy Copich - NSEA - standardized test use and purpose; accommodations. time spent on standardized testing process; bias; priority school process - leader driven to effect change; teacher and admin turnover is detrimental; coaching instruction - NSEA offers coaches
- Rachel Pinkerton - opportunities to do better; in support of Henry Burke; meet standards of behavior; handouts

President Witzel called for a break at 9:45 a.m. The meeting resumed at 9:57 a.m.

#### **5. HEARINGS**

There were no scheduled hearings.

#### **6. ACTION ITEMS**

##### 6.1 Policy Committee

There were no policy items listed for action.

6.2 Legislative Committee

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

No actions were taken.

6.3 Commissioner's Appraisal Committee

6.3.A Potential Executive Session

To move into Executive Session at 9:45 a.m. to discuss the Commissioner's job performance, appraisal results, and terms of the Commissioner's employment contract, as necessary to protect the public interest and to prevent needless injury to the Commissioner's reputation passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

At 9:45 a.m., the Board moved into Executive Session at 9:45 a.m. to discuss the commissioner's job performance, appraisal results, and terms of the Commissioner's employment contract, as necessary to protect the public interest and to prevent needless injury to the Commissioner's reputation.

To adjourn the Executive Session at 10:15 a.m. and return to the business meeting of the Board passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Rachel Wise.

At 10:15 a.m., the Board adjourned the Executive Session and returned to the business meeting of the Board.

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

Deborah Neary left the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

6.4 AQuESTT - Teaching and Learning Domain Committee

6.4.A To grant the Commissioner authority to contract with an individual yet to be named beginning on or after May 1, 2019, through July 31, 2020, for the purpose of directly supporting teachers and school leaders in work with the Nebraska Teacher and Principal Performance Framework and the Nebraska Leadership and Learning Network passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

- 6.4.B To grant the Commissioner the authority to enter into a contract with Northwest Evaluation Association to provide Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) general assessments and related services for 2019-2020 passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Maureen Nickels.

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

Absent: Timm, Neary

- 6.4.C To grant the Commissioner the authority to enter into a contract with Data Recognition Corporation to provide Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) alternate assessments and related services for 2019- 2020 passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

Absent: Timm, Neary

- 6.4.D To grant the Commissioner the authority to enter into a contract with ACT to provide Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) ACT Plus Writing and related services for 2019-2020 passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

Absent: Timm, Neary

- 6.5 AQuESTT - Student Success and Access Domain Committee

- 6.5.A To approve Interim-Program Schools appearing on the accompanying list to operate for the 2019-2020 school year under Rule 18 (92 NAC 18), Regulations and Procedures for the Approval of Interim-Program Schools in County Detention Homes, Institutions and Juvenile Emergency Shelters passed with a motion by Robin Stevens and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

Absent: Timm, Neary

- 6.5.B To grant the Commissioner authority to approve funding recommendations for the federally funded Support for Improvement (SFI) plans/applications Passed with a motion by Robin Stevens and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

Absent: Timm, Neary

- 6.6 Budget and Finance Committee)

There were no budget and finance items listed for action.

6.7 Strategic Planning, Performance, and Improvement Committee

- 6.7.A To grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with an individual or entity beginning on or after August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2021 for services and continuing support for Priority Schools and other schools designated for improvement Passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Maureen Nickels.

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

- 6.7.B This item was removed from the Agenda.

- 6.7.C To approve accreditation for the Educational Service Units appearing on the accompanying list for the 2019- 2020 school year in accordance with the provisions of Rule 84 (92 NAC 84), Regulations for Educational Service Units passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Maureen Nickels.

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

**7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- 7.2 To approve the Consent Agenda with Consent Agenda Item 7.4.A. removed, passed with a motion by Robin Stevens and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

**8. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

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

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

- 9.1.A To approve meetings that took place in the past and not previously approved for Lisa Fricke passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

- 9.1.B To approve meetings that took place in the past and not previously approved for Patsy Koch Johns passed with a motion by Robin Stevens and a second by Rachel Wise.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Nickels, Stevens, Wise, Witzel

Abstain: Koch Johns

Absent: Timm, Neary

- 9.1.C Neary (NONE)

- 9.1.D To approve meetings that took place in the past and not previously approved for Maureen Nickels passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Rachel Wise.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Stevens, Wise, Witzel

Abstain: Nickels

Absent: Timm, Neary

- 9.1.E To approve meetings that took place in the past and not previously approved for Robin Stevens passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Nickels, Wise, Witzel

Abstain: Stevens

Absent: Timm, Neary

- 9.1.F Timm (NONE)

- 9.1.G To approve meetings that took place in the past and not previously approved for Rachel Wise passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Robin Stevens.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Nickels, Stevens, Witzel

Abstain: Wise

Absent: Timm, Neary

- 9.1.H To approve meetings that took place in the past and not previously approved for John Witzel passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Nickels, Stevens, Wise

Abstain: Witzel

Absent: Timm, Neary

9.2 Future Meeting participation

To approve future meeting participation as listed passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

President Witzel adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, June 7, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Office Building, Nebraska Department of Education, Sixth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. A work session will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. at the Nebraska State Office building, Nebraska Department of Education, Sixth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska.

DRAFT