

State Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Thursday-Friday, April 4-5, 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 OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION – APRIL 4, 2019, 2:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call – President Witzel called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

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

Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

1.2 President Witzel announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

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

Commissioner Blomstedt provided a report on the efforts concerning the recent flood in Nebraska. He also noted that the report from the Standing Committee on Commissioner's Appraisal will be presented on Friday, April 5, during the Business meeting.

2.1 Consent Agenda Process

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the process with the Board concerning questions on the Consent Agenda items.

2.2 Report on Rules

Commissioner Blomstedt reported on the status of Rules 91 and 92, which are now in the Governor's Office for approval.

2.3 Board Priorities and Policy Research

Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, provided the Board with information concerning the upcoming NASBE Legislative meeting in

Washington, DC. The NASBE meeting coincides with the CCSSO Legislative Conference and some sessions will be held jointly. Board members attending will meet with Senators Sasse and Fischer during the conference.

The NASBE annual meeting will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, in October 2019. Board members will serve as hosts to the attendees at the conference.

2.3.A. Involving Students in State Education Governance

Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, provided an overview of four states with Students in State Education Governance groups. There will be a session at the NASBE conference relating to student advisory groups.

3. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

3.1 Policy Committee. Patricia Timm, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee. Chair Timm reported that the four-year review of State Board Bylaw B4 and State Board Bylaw B17, (Consent Agenda Items 7.4.A. and 7.4.B), were discussed and the Committee recommends the Board reaffirm the Bylaws during the action on the Consent Agenda.

3.1.A. Resolution to Commend Schools on Response to Catastrophic Weather Events

The Committee reviewed a draft of the proposed resolution commending Nebraska Schools on their response to catastrophic weather events. The Policy Committee members recommend that the Resolution be approved and presented at the business meeting on April 5, 2019.

3.1.B. Four-year Review of State Board Bylaw B13, Rule Development

The Committee discussed, and if no substantive revisions are proposed, the Committee will recommend full Board reaffirm in May, 2019.

3.1.C. Four-year review of State Board Policy P2, Line and Staff Relations

The Committee discussed non-substantive changes to this Policy and the Committee will recommend full Board reaffirm in May 2019.

3.1.D. Proposed revisions to State Board Bylaw B16, Board Member Expenses

The Committee will continue to monitor the Legislature (LB 511) for possible revisions to this Bylaw.

3.2 Legislative Committee. Maureen Nickels, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee. She noted that the weekly Committee calls are no longer needed as legislative hearings have closed.

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

Brian Halstead, Deputy Commissioner, reported on the activity in the Legislature. There is a list of bills included in the Board materials. The Committee will be travelling to Washington DC for the NASBE conference.

3.3 Commissioner's Appraisal Committee. Patricia Timm, Chair, announced that this report will be moved to the business meeting on April 5, 2019.

3.4 AQuESTT – Teaching and Learning Domain Committee Meeting. Lisa Fricke, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

3.4.A Presentation of Draft #1 of the 2019 Nebraska Social Studies Standards.

Cory Epler and Harris Payne, Department of Education representatives, reviewed the social studies draft standards and shared next steps and the timeline for approval.

3.4.B. Discuss three statewide assessment vendor contracts.

Jeremy Heneger, Department of Education representative, reviewed documents with the Board concerning the vendor contracts.

Heneger also shared some of the impact of the flooding on the testing window. Districts who had a moderate to severe impact will be given a 2 week extension for completing the testing. There are challenges with displaced families and movement between districts.

3.4.C. Expiration of Position Statement.

The Committee is exploring the possibility of writing a new position statement aligned with the Nebraska READS initiative and the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act. More information will be shared in future meetings.

3.5 AQuESTT – Student Success and Access Domain Committee Meeting. Patsy Koch Johns, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

3.5.A. Memorandum of Understanding with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for use of Preschool Development Grant Birth to age 5 (PDG B-5) Funds

Melody Hobson, Department of Education representative, presented information on the federal Preschool Development Grant for birth to age 5 children. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to receive funds to carryout activities under this grant was discussed. The Committee recommends approval of this item.

3.5.B. Approve Non-Public Schools to Operate for the 2019-2020 School Year

The Committee received information from Don Loseke, Department of Education representative, on the review of Nebraska's non-public schools to operate for the coming school year under the provisions of Rule 14. The Committee recommends approval of this item.

3.5.C. Support for Improvement (SFI) plan/application process

The Committee received information from Diane Stuehmer, Department of Education representative, on the support for improvement plan and application process under the provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act. The Committee will consider action on this item at the May 2019 meeting of the Board.

3.5.D. Discuss proposed revisions of State Board Position Statement S1, Nondiscrimination and Equitable Educational Opportunities in Schools

The Committee briefly discussed the position statement S1 on nondiscrimination and equitable educational opportunities referred by the Policy Committee last month. The position statement is under review by the Committee along with the development of the equity lens discussed by the Committee in the past. Discussion will continue with the Committee in the coming months.

3.5.E. Development of an Equity Lens

The Committee is seeking input and feedback from policy partners on a draft equity lens. The Committee intends to continue drafting the equity lens, along with the review of the position statement, and looks forward to continued discussion with the Board.

3.6. Budget and Finance Committee. John Witzel, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

3.6.A. Accept the 2018 Single Audit Report

Bryce Wilson, Department of Education representative, provided an overview of the findings from the 2018 Single Audit. The findings were addressed and a plan of action drafted for the findings. The Committee recommends approval.

3.6.B. Purchase new and replacement computer equipment, software licenses and maintenance agreements for NDE PK-12 programs

The Committee was provided an overview of the requested technology purchases noting that computers are on a five year rotation for staff. The Board Room technology and server replacement are budgeted each year as well. The cost is relatively consistent with previous years. The Committee recommends approval.

- 3.7. Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee. Rachel Wise, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

3.7.A. Discuss and provide updates on Perkins V transition plan

Katie Graham, Department of Education representative, provided the Committee an overview of the Perkins V transition plan.

3.7.B. Review and Discuss Proposed Revisions to the Strategic Vision and Direction (Strategic Plan)

Chair Wise provided handouts to the Board. The documents included Strategic Vision and Direction; Reporting Calendar; Measures of Progress and Success; Strat Plan Definitions; Proposed Revisions to Strategic Vision document; Strategic Planning Recommendations Implementation Plan.

The Board and the Commissioner reviewed the documents and discussed various aspects of the work ahead. Board members were asked to review the proposed revisions and submit comments by April 15.

4. **BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS.** John Witzel, President, facilitated the Board Reports.

4.1. Meeting participation and joint meetings with policy partners.

Board members were reminded to submit their requests for travel prior to the Friday, April 5, meeting.

4.2. Meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved will be acted on during the Friday, April 5, meeting.

4.3. The Board discussed requests for future meeting attendance.

5. **ADJOURNMENT.**

President Witzel adjourned the work session at 5:09 p.m.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING – Friday, April 5, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1. Present: Lisa Fricke, Patsy Koch Johns, Deborah Neary, Maureen Nickels, Robin Stevens, Patricia Timm, Rachel Wise, John Witzel

Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

- 1.2 President Witzel announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

- 1.3 President Witzel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 2.1. Approval of the minutes of the March 7-8, 2019, State Board of Education meeting as published 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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 3.1 Approval of the Agenda with Commissioner Recommendations to move the Special Presentations by Sydney Jensen (8.1) and Rebecca Streff (8.2) to immediately follow the approval of the agenda and to add the Committee Report of the Commissioner's Appraisal Committee to the Action Item 6.3, 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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- 4.1 There were no Requests for 10-Minute Special Appearances.

- 4.2 Public Comment

- Henry Burke, comment letter to Board re format (horizontal vs. vertical) of standards and completion dates on science standards; important to be responsive to the public
- Rachel Pinkerton, (handout). Speaking to the 4th Annual Latecia J. Fox Dyslexia Legacy Luncheon. Nebraska Reads Initiative and NDE involvement;

5. HEARINGS (NONE)

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Policy Committee

6.1.A. Resolution to Commend Schools on Response to Catastrophic Weather Events of March 2019, passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Lisa Fricke.

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

6.2 Legislative Committee:

6.2.A. Review 2019 Proposed State Legislation and Take Action on Board Positions – No action taken.

6.3 Commissioner's Appraisal Committee

Patricia Timm, Chair of the Committee provided an update on the progress of the Commissioner's Performance Review. Board Members will be notified of next steps in the process.

6.4 AQuESTT - Teaching and Learning Domain Committee

No action taken.

6.5. AQuESTT - Student Success and Access Domain Committee

6.5.A. Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for use of Preschool Development Grant Birth to age 5 (PDG B-5) Funds passed with a motion by Deborah Neary and a second by Patricia Timm.

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

6.5.B. Approve the nonpublic schools appearing on the accompanying list to operate for the 2019-2020 school year under Rule 14 (92 NAC 14), Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools passed with a motion by Robin Stevens and a second by Patricia Timm.

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

6.6 Budget and Finance Committee

6.6.A. Acceptance of the 2018 Single 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

6.6.B. Grant the Commissioner the authority to purchase new and replacement computer equipment, software licenses and maintenance agreements for NDE PK-12 programs passed with a motion by John Witzel and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

6.7 Strategic Planning, Performance, and Improvement Committee

No action taken.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

7.2 Approval of the Consent Agenda 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

8. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

8.1. Sydney Jensen, 9th grade English teacher and instructional coach from Lincoln Public Schools, provided an update on the activities she's been involved with as Teacher of the Year.

8.2. Rebecca Streff, 2018-2019 Nebraska Milken Educator recipient from North Bend shared her experiences and goals she has had to date as the recipient of the Milken Award.

8.3. Presentation by Students from Winnebago Public Schools: Pre-Columbian Native Civilizations and World History; World Geography and Linguistics. Students represented were Samuel Farmer, Gavin Farmer, Marcus Walker, Alayah Frazier, Kiylista Harden, Kiana Lewis, and Wiliam Wingett.

The students presented their experiences as members of the Ho Chunk Winnebago Tribe and the history courses taught in schools. They focused on the goal to interconnect with all countries of the world and learning to appreciate their own culture.

9. BOARD REPORTS, DATES, AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

9.1.A. Approval of attendance at meetings that took place in the past and not previously approved for Lisa Fricke passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

9.1.B. Approval of attendance at meetings that took place in the past and not previously approved for Patsy Koch Johns passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Lisa Fricke.

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

9.1.E. Approval of attendance at meetings that took place in the past and not previously approved for Robin Stevens passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

9.1.G. Approval of attendance at meetings that took place in the past and not previously approved for Rachel Wise passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

9.1.H. Approval of attendance at meetings that took place in the past and not previously approved for John Witzel passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

9.2. Approval of Future Meeting participation passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Robin Stevens.

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Witzel adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

The next work session will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. and a Board meeting will be held on Friday, May 3, at 9:00 a.m.