

State Accreditation Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2019

The Nebraska State Accreditation Committee met at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel on May 15, 2019. Chair Mike Sieh called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m., declared a quorum present, and established the legality of the meeting.

Members present were the following: Mary Anderson, Elizabeth Boyle, Luke Bretscher, Wayne Brown, Brad Dirksen, Josie Floyd, Dale Fornander, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Vickie Kauffold, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Marco Pedroza, Kevin Riley, Sarah Salem, Dan Schnoes, Amy Shane, Mike Sieh, and John Skretta. (Kevin Riley left at 9:15 a.m. and returned by 12:30 p.m., Mitch Kubicek joined at 10:00 a.m.)

Members absent: Melissa Comine, Judi gaiashkibos, Jed Johnston, Boris Moore and Joe'l Ruybalid.

NDE staff members present during all or some of the meeting were the following: Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt, Deputy Commissioner Deb Frison, Director of Accreditation, Don Loseke, Student Achievement Coordinator, Shirley Vargas, Accreditation Specialist, Brad Conner, Director of Accountability & AQuESTT, Lane Carr, and Accreditation Specialist, Micki Charf.

Following greetings and introductions, Chair Mike Sieh reviewed the agenda. Dale Fornander moved to approve the agenda and John Skretta seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Mary Anderson, Elizabeth Boyle, Luke Bretscher, Wayne Brown, Brad Dirksen, Josie Floyd, Dale Fornander, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Vickie Kauffold, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Marco Pedroza, Kevin Riley, Sarah Salem, Dan Schnoes, Amy Shane, Mike Sieh, and John Skretta.

Voting no: none

Approval carried 19-0 with 6 absent.

Members reviewed the minutes of the January 17, 2019, meeting. Dan Schnoes moved to accept the minutes and Troy Lurz seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Mary Anderson, Elizabeth Boyle, Luke Bretscher, Wayne Brown, Brad Dirksen, Josie Floyd, Dale Fornander, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Vickie Kauffold, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Marco Pedroza, Sarah Salem, Dan Schnoes, Amy Shane, Mike Sieh, and John Skretta.

Voting no: none

Approval carried 18-0, with 7 absent.

Action on Accreditation of School Systems

Mike Sieh shared with members the list of 244 Class II through V School Districts, 5 Special Purpose Schools, and 83 Nonpublic Schools recommended for continued accreditation in 2019-2020. Amy Shane motioned to accredit the list of schools for 2019-20 provided Mike Sieh. (The list is on pages 5-8 of the Annual Report for May 15, 2019.) Josie Floyd seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Mary Anderson, Elizabeth Boyle, Luke Bretscher, Wayne Brown, Brad Dirksen, Josie Floyd, Dale Fornander, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Vickie Kauffold, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Marco Pedroza, Sarah Salem, Dan Schnoes, Amy Shane, Mike Sieh, and John Skretta.

Voting no: none

Approval carried 18-0, with 7 absent.

Rule 10 Revision - Continuing the Vision

The Commissioner reviewed the continuing vision for Rule 10 revision and the importance of recognizing where we can have the most influence. The opportunity to provide leadership for the structure of the system rests largely in Rule 10. Key points made by the Commissioner include:

- Recognizing the importance of school boards and governance in successful schools
- The need to engage more people in the conversation
- The need for a structure and processes that are easy to implement
- Building a rule for the long-term
- Creating a performance and evidenced based school improvement system
- Annual review process within a continuous improvement cycle
- Accreditation of schools *and* districts.
- Accountability at school level
- Link accountability and accreditation
- Multi-level system of accreditation
- Apply services, approaches, resources into places that need additional help

Rule 10 Revision, Where are we today?

Don Loseke discussed the Project Charter, the revision process and recommendations that have been submitted for revision to Rule 10.

Breakout Activity

Committee members broke out into groups and were asked to read designated sections of Rule 10, jot down their personal thoughts in response and share those responses with their group. Responses were discussed by the full Committee with Brad Conner leading the discussion. A working lunch activity followed which focused on additional Rule 10 suggested revisions.

Draft Rule 10 Structure

Don Loseke reviewed the Draft Rule 10 Structure, sections that would remain the same, sections that would become a part of the new accreditation classification system and sections that would be expanded to include all references to Nonpublic School requirements.

Rule 10 Revision Breakout Activity

This activity focused on how section codes could be organized under the AQuESTT tenets. Discussion followed led by Don Loseke and Lane Carr updated the Committee on future changes to AQuESTT.

Breakout Activity (Continued)

Don Loseke provided an overview of potential changes to the levels of accreditation. Shirley Vargas and Lane Carr asked the Committee to split out into groups and discuss the following four questions:

What do you agree with in regards to this level of accreditation?

What assumptions do you believe this level of accreditation holds?

What do you want to argue with in this level of accreditation?

What do you believe this level of accreditation aspires to achieve?

Rule 10 Revision - Where do we go from here?

Don Loseke gave a review of the timeline for moving forward with Rule 10 revision.

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.