

State Board of Education Minutes of Meeting
Thursday-Friday, November 7-8, 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, November 7, 2019, 2:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1. Roll call showed the following:

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

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

2. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND AGENDA OVERVIEW

2.1. Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the Consent Agenda process.

2.2. Commissioner Blomstedt provided a report on the status of Rules 11, 46, and 53. A Report on Rules was included in the Board materials.

2.3. Board Priorities and Policy Research. Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, provided a report on Board priorities and policy research.

Board members were reminded of the upcoming presentation at the Nebraska Association of School Boards annual conference in Omaha on November 21, 2019, beginning at 2:15 p.m.

On Friday, November 8, during the business meeting, the Board will discuss and review the State Leadership Playbook and Town Hall meetings processes.

2.3.A. Discussion followed on Student Voice Opportunities for the State Board of Education including a review of several states practice and protocol. President Witzel will consider an ad hoc committee to discuss inclusion of the student voice on the State Board of Education.

- 2.4. Year in Review: 2019 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Sydney Jensen, Ninth Grade English Teacher, Lincoln High School, Lincoln, Nebraska. Ms. Jensen provided a recap of her year which included taping a Ted Talk on secondary trauma, attendance at the NASBE conference; Read Aloud Nebraska in Seward, Nebraska, and other activities.
- 2.5. Recognition of the 2020 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Megan Helberg, Grades 8, 11, and 12, English Teacher, Burwell Junior-Senior High School, Burwell, Nebraska. Ms. Helberg noted that she believes that the school is the heartbeat of the community and her focus this year will be on community.

At 2:28 p.m., President Witzel called for a break. At 2:42 p.m., President Witzel called the meeting back to order and discussion on Standing Committee Reports Item 3.7.B. was held.

3. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 3.7.B. Rachel Wise, Chair, provided a report on the discussion of the evaluation and revision of the Community Achievement Plan of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

Shirley Vargas, Department of Education Representative, introduced the Learning Community Panel that consisted of David Patton, CEO of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties; Mark Feldhausen, Consultant; Kim Bodensteiner, Director of Program Development at Buffet Early Childhood Institute; Nicole Seymour, Executive Director of GOALS Center; Mark Adler, Superintendent of Raslton Public Schools.

At 3:55 p.m., President Witzel called for a break. The meeting resumed at 4:05 p.m. At 4:05 p.m., John Witzel left the meeting. Vice President Maureen Nickels presided over the remainder of the Work Session.

3.1. Policy Committee

- 3.1.A. Patricia Timm, Chair, reported on the Committee discussion of the Action Item to reaffirm State Board Policy P1, Political Activities/Use of Resources.
- 3.1.B. Patricia Timm, Chair, reported on Committee discussion to adopt the Action Item to adopt 2020 State Board of Education meeting schedule 2020 Meeting dates

3.2. Legislative Committee

There was no report from the Committee.

3.3. Commissioner's Appraisal Committee

There was no report from the Committee.

3.4. AQuESTT - Teaching and Learning Domain Committee

3.4.A. Lisa Fricke, Chair, reported on the Action Item for approving Nebraska Social Studies Standards.

Cory Epler and Harris Payne, Department of Education representatives, provided an update on the development and final draft of the social studies standards under consideration for adoption by the Board.

The Committee recommends adoption of these standards at tomorrow's business meeting.

3.5. AQuESTT - Student Success and Access Domain Committee

Patsy Koch Johns, Chair, reported that there were no action items from the Committee. The Committee did review Rule 19 regarding student enrollment.

3.6. Budget and Finance Committee

There was no report from the Committee.

3.7. Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee

3.7.A. Rachel Wise, Chair, provided a report on Action Item: Approve the waiver request from North Platte Public Schools to waive the requirements found in Rule 10, Section 007.04A. The Committee recommends approval.

3.7.C. Rachel Wise, Chair, shared the Committee discussion on Perkins V Update.

Katie Graham, Department of Education representative, provided an overview of the program.

4.0 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 their monthly reports for Board information.

4.1.B. Meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved

Board members will take action on attendance at meetings that were not previously approved during the business meeting on November 8, 2019.

4.1.C. Board members were reminded to submit requests for future meeting attendance. The Board will approve travel requests during the business meeting on November 8, 2019.

- 4.1.D. Board members were reminded to review the travel expense report for monthly Board Travel Expense Report

5.0. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Witzel adjourned the Work Session at 4:38 p.m.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on November 8, 2019, State Board Meeting Room, State Office Building, Sixth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln.

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** President Witzel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
 - 1.1. Roll call showed the following:

Present: Deborah Neary, Patsy Koch Johns, Lisa Fricke, Maureen Nickels, Rachel Wise, Robin Stevens, Patricia Timm, John Witzel, Commissioner Blomstedt
 - 1.2. President Witzel reminded all to acknowledge Veteran's Day on Monday, November 11, 2019. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - 1.3. President Witzel announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act information.
2. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**
 - 2.2. Approval of the Consent Agenda as posted in the Agenda passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Rachel Wise.

Lisa Fricke: Yea
Patsy Koch Johns: Yea
Deborah Neary: Yea
Maureen Nickels: Yea
Robin Stevens: Yea
Patricia Timm: Yea
Rachel Wise: Yea
John Witzel: Yea
- 3.0 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
 - 3.1. Approval of the Agenda as posted passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

4.0. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

4.1. Request for 10-Minute Special Appearance

4.1.A. Social Studies Standards

John Gale, former Secretary of State, speaking on his own behalf, in support of the 2019 Nebraska Social Studies Standards. (Handout)

4.2. Public Comment

- Marion Holstein, speaking to the Nebraska State Social Studies Standards, endorsed improvements made to the standards as having addressed previous concerns.
- Mandy Faripour - NSEA, sharing an invitation from Maddie Fennel, to the 10th Annual Nebraska Child Health & Education Summit on December 3, 2019.
- Katherine Nashleanas, UNL geography teacher, speaking in support of the Social Studies Standards.
- Jacquelyn Morrison, speaking in support of the Social Studies Standards.
- Lori Broady, ESU 4, speaking in support of the standards process; support of standards to support the work of equity with students.

President Witzel called for a break at 9:38 a.m. The meeting resumed at 9:51 a.m.

5. **HEARINGS** (NONE)

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

6.1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

To go into Executive Session at 10:00 a.m. to deliberate and receive legal counsel on contested cases in Action Items 6.2 and 6.3. passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

At 10:00 a.m. the Board moved into Executive Session to deliberate and receive legal counsel on an option enrollment case contested in Cases in Action Items 6.2 and 6.3.

To adjourn the Executive Session at 10:47 a.m. and return to the regular business meeting of the Board passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Robin Stevens.

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

At 10:47 a.m., the Board adjourned the Executive Session and returned to the regular business meeting of the Board.

- 6.2 Adoption of the Hearing Officer's Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision affirming the Respondent School District's decision in the NDE Enrollment Option Case No. 19-19, Fuller v. Deshler Public Schools, except Findings 6 and 12 and to adopt the proposed Final Order drafted by Legal Counsel passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

- 6.3 In the Matter of the Appeal of Benjamin Coleman, NDE Case No. 19-18, that this Board adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and the Recommended Decision of the Hearing Officer, affirming the decision of the Commissioner with respect to the discipline imposed, and to adopt the Final Order proposed by Legal Counsel passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

- 6.4. Policy Committee

- 6.4.A. Reaffirmation of State Board Policy P1, Political Activities/Use of Resources passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

- 6.4.B. Adoption of the 2020 State Board of Education meeting schedule passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

- 6.5. Legislative Committee (NONE)

- 6.6. Commissioner's Appraisal Committee (NONE)

6.7. AQuESTT - Teaching and Learning Domain Committee

6.7.A. Nebraska Social Studies Standards

Board members expressed appreciation for the work and process of updating the Social Studies Standards.

Approval of the Nebraska Social Studies Standards passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Patricia Timm.

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

6.8. AQuESTT - Student Success and Access Domain Committee (NONE)

6.9. Budget and Finance Committee (NONE)

6.10. Strategic Planning, Performance, and Improvement Committee

6.10.A. Approval of the waiver request from North Platte Public Schools to waive the requirements found in Rule 10, Section 007.04A passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patricia Timm.

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

President Witzel called for a break at 10:57 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:10 a.m. in Conference Room B, Nebraska State Office Building, Lincoln, Nebraska.

7. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

7.1. State Leadership Playbook Discussion

Discussion followed concerning the review and purpose of the State Leadership Playbook. The Board also discussed the process and purpose of gathering input from individual Board districts.

President Witzel called for a break at 12:27 p.m. to resume the meeting in the State Board Meeting Room.

8. BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, informed the Board that training for the new laptops would take place following the meeting. Board members may also set up individual training times prior to the December Board meeting.

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

8.1.A. Approval of attendance at meetings that took place in the past for Lisa Fricke passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Robin Stevens.

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

8.1.B. Approval of attendance at meetings that took place in the past for Patsy Koch Johns passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Maureen Nickels.

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

8.1.C. Neary (NONE)

8.1.D. Approval of attendance at meetings that took place in the past for Maureen Nickels passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

8.1.E. Approval of attendance at meetings that took place in the past for Robin Stevens passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Lisa Fricke.

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

8.1.F. Timm (NONE)

8.1.G. Approval of attendance at meetings that took place in the past for Rachel Wise passed with a motion by Robin Stevens and a second by Lisa Fricke.

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

8.1.H. Approval of attendance at meetings that took place in the past for John Witzel passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Lisa Fricke.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea

Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patricia Timm:	Yea
Rachel Wise:	Yea
John Witzel:	Abstain

8.2. Future Meeting participation

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

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

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Witzel adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 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 Monday, December 9, 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.