

State Accreditation Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2020

The Nebraska State Accreditation Committee met at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, NE. Travis Miller called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., declared a quorum present, and established the legality of the meeting. Greetings and introductions followed. Members present were the following: Mary Anderson, Elizabeth Boyle, Luke Bretscher, Brad Dirksen, Dale Fornander, Judi gaiashkibos (Departed at 1:05), Dale Hafer, Vickie Kauffold, Mitch Kubicek, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Marco Pedroza, Joe'l Ruybalid, Sarah Salem (Departed at 12:40), Dan Schnoes (Departed at 12:40), and Amy Shane.

Members absent: Wayne Brown, Melissa Comine, Josie Floyd, Pat Hoehner, Boris Moore, Bess Scott, and Mike Sieh.

NDE staff members present during all or some of the meeting were the following: Deputy Commissioner Deb Frison, Ryan Foor, Shirley Vargas, Lane Carr, Don Loseke and Micki Charf.

Following committee updates by Don Loseke, Travis Miller reviewed the agenda. Dale Fornander moved to approve the agenda and Sarah Salem seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Mary Anderson, Elizabeth Boyle, Luke Bretscher, Brad Dirksen, Dale Fornander, Judi gaiashkibos, Dale Hafer, Vickie Kauffold, Mitch Kubicek, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Marco Pedroza, Joe'l Ruybalid, Sarah Salem, Dan Schnoes, and Amy Shane.

Voting no: none

Approval carried 16-0 with 7 absent.

Members reviewed the minutes of the May 15, 2019, meeting. Mitch Kubicek moved to accept the minutes and Troy Lurz seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Mary Anderson, Elizabeth Boyle, Luke Bretscher, Brad Dirksen, Dale Fornander, Dale Hafer, Vickie Kauffold, Mitch Kubicek, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Marco Pedroza, Sarah Salem, Dan Schnoes, and Amy Shane.

Abstain: Judi gaiashkibos and Joe'l Ruybalid.

Voting no: none

Approval carried 14-0, with 2 abstaining and 7 absent.

Objectives of the Day

Travis Miller reviewed with members the purpose of Rule 10 (equity of opportunity, quality of learning, and accountability) and the Committee's role and responsibility.

Rule Structure: Current vs. Proposed

Ryan Foor shared that the State Board is headed toward creating two new and different rules. The Board wants accreditation to mean something. A new structure would help with clarification and the Strategic Planning Committee of the Board wants the difference between approval and accreditation made clear.

Approval for both public and nonpublic schools would be based on the minimum criteria required to operate a school while the accreditation aspects would be the *above and beyond* that begin to demonstrate the quality of education.

Discussion was held by the Committee members on possible options of organization.

AQuESTT and Accountability

Lane Carr's presentation covered AQuESTT enhancements and updates on the State Board's position statement and the interaction between accountability and accreditation in public schools.

The Nebraska Department of Education is taking charge of its roles and responsibilities to provide leadership and enhance support systems in the state. As part of its evaluative processes and duties, the State Board of Education leverages three separate, but interrelated systems to ensure equal operation of schools and equitable outcomes for all students:

- Approval
- Accreditation
- Accountability

The Board wants AQuESTT to be infused into all of these pieces.

The focus for this year has been the tenant name changes and making sure we understand philosophically what those shifts look like. For next year, they will be looking at data communication back to schools and the EBA, or something similar, moving from accountability to be a tool for accreditation.

Dr. Shirley Vargas discussed Priority School Statute and History. In addition to Priority School Supports, the NDE also supports schools with Comprehensive Support and Improvement, Targeted Support and Improvement, and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement. Discussion followed on what the committee members know about Priority Schools and what they want to know about Priority Schools.

If a school has been designated as a priority school for the third consecutive school year, the state board shall reevaluate the progress plan to determine if (a) a significant revision of the progress plan is necessary, (b) an entirely new progress plan is developed, or (c) an alternative administrative structure is warranted. Committee members were asked to discuss their thoughts on (c) alternative administrative structures, what does it mean, what is it seeking to accomplish, what are potential drawbacks.

Group activity followed; committee members broke out into groups and were asked to reflect on what they heard during the morning presentations. Groups shared their questions and thoughts with the full committee.

Approval Rule (Rule 10 and Rule 14) and Accountability and Accreditation Rule (Rule 10) Proposed Structure

Don Loseke and Micki Charf presented on the proposed structure for a new Approval Rule and a new Accountability and Accreditation Rule. A sample of both rules organized under the AQuESTT structure was shared with the committee. Committee members discussed possible regulation changes, regulation placement under each of the AQuESTT Domains, then shared their thoughts and suggestions on these potential changes. Members were asked to submit their written feedback to the accreditation team at the end of the activity.

After brief closing comments, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.