

## State Board of Education Business Meeting

Friday, February 5, 2021

Cornhusker Hotel, Lancaster Room, 333 S 13th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)

[Link to Video of Meeting](#)

Publicized notice of the 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 meeting.

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, February 5, 2021, 9:00 AM.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER – President Maureen Nickels called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

##### 1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Maureen Nickels	Patti Gubbels	Deborah Neary
Robin Stevens	Patsy Koch Johns	Lisa Fricke
Jacquelyn Morrison	Patricia Timm	

Commissioner Blomstedt was also in attendance.

##### 1.2 President Nickels led the Pledge of Allegiance.

##### 1.3 President Nickels announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

##### 1.4 COVID-19 Meeting Protocol

Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, shared information on the COVID-19 Meeting Protocol.

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

There were no requests for 10-Minute Special Appearance.

##### 2.2 Public Comment (5 Minutes)

There were no requests for Public Comment.

##### 2.3. Written Public Comment

There were no Written Public Comment submitted.

#### 3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

##### 3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

Nebraska Department of Education is undergoing a physical move and will have to vacate the current space in the Nebraska State Office Building, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the process for consent agenda items.

3.2. Report on Rules

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the report and there were currently no rules pending for any action.

3.3. Board Operations Information

Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, provided an overview of the upcoming conferences:

- NRCSA in-person conference, March 25-26, 2021 in Kearney.
- NASBE Legislative Virtual Conference March 22-23, 2021.
- New Board Member Institute Virtual Conference June 2021.
- NASBE Annual Conference October 6-9, 2021 in Phoenix, AZ.

Foor also provided an overview of upcoming policy decisions.

3.4. Nebraska History Teacher of the Year Recognition

Ebony McKiver, Department of Education representative, introduced the Gilder Lehrman Nebraska History Teacher of the Year recipient, Katherine Steinkamp from Norfolk Senior High.

3.5. Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month Recognition

Sydney Kobza, Department of Education representative, recognized February as National CTE Month and introduced:

- Josie Amoo, Scottsbluff High School, President of Health Occupations Students of American (HOSA) Nebraska
- Ariel Bryant, Thedford High School, Historian of Skills USA Nebraska
- Lucas Lunzmann, Auburn High School, Nebraska Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State President and Chief of Staff to the National FBLA President

3.6. Information on Nebraska's Framework for School Renewal and Acceleration

Cory Epler and Shirley Vargas, Department of Education representatives provided information on Nebraska's Framework for School Renewal and Acceleration.

3.1.A. Commissioner's Recommendations and items to be removed from the consent agenda.

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the process for requesting additional information from NDE Staff for Consent Agenda items and questions. Per the AQuESTT Student Success and Access Committee, Commissioner Blomstedt provided additional information on Consent Agenda Items 5.3.A., 5.3.B., 5.3.D., and 5.3.G.

Commissioner Blomstedt recommended leaving Consent Agenda Items 5.3.A., 5.3.B., 5.3.D. on the Consent Agenda and pulling 5.3.G. for additional discussion and voting. Per the AQuESTT Student Success and Access Committee discussion on Thursday, Patsy Koch Johns agreed to removing 5.3.G. from the Consent Agenda for a separate vote. The item was placed under Agenda Item 7, Additional Business.

At 10:33 a.m., President Nickels called for a break. The meeting resumed at 10:52 a.m.

- 3.7. Provide an overview of the current AQuESTT System of Support – Accountability and School Improvement. Outline current supports and share 2020-21 updates.

Shirley Vargas and Lane Carr, Department of Education representatives provided information on the AQuESTT System of Support – Accountability and School Improvement.

#### 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Maureen Nickels had a President's Platform in 2020 that was a list of items that were of high interest to the Board. President Nickels asked that the Board members review the Legislative Committee's 2021-2022 Legislative and Regulatory Priorities and asked each Board Member to send three topics to President Nickels to include on her updated President's Platform for 2021.

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda, without 5.3.G., passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke, second by Patsy Koch Johns.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patricia Timm:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Yea
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea

#### 6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 6.1. **Policy Committee** –Patricia Timm, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

- 6.1.A. The Committee reports that it reviewed and discussed State Board Bylaw B2, Board Committees, which will be presented to the full Board next month as an action item to approve recommended revisions.

- 6.1.B. The Committee reviewed and discussed proposed revisions to State Board Policy B16, Board Member Expenses. The proposed revisions are in response to LB 381 from the last legislation session. The Committee will continue discussion next month.

At 12:01 p.m., President Nickels called for a break. The meeting resumed at 12:30 p.m.

6.2. **Legislative Committee** – Robin Stevens, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

The Committee reports that it has met on three occasions since the Nebraska Legislature convened and has spent almost five (5) hours reviewing bills introduced by Senators and advising the Commissioner and Board of how the NDE should appear at any hearings before the Legislature. The Committee has used the Strategic Plan along with the Legislative and Regulatory Priorities established by the Board to guide their work. The Committee will continue to meet each week to review the status of any legislation and continue to advise the Commissioner and Board on matters before the Legislature.

6.2.A. The list of bills, which the Committee recommends that the NDE be a proponent at hearings before the Legislature, are attached to this Agenda Item in SPARQ.

Approval to adopt the recommendations of the Legislative Committee as shown in the attachment in Sparq passed with a motion by Robin Stevens, second by Patti Gubbels.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patricia Timm:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Yea
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea

6.3. **Commissioner's Appraisal Committee** – Maureen Nickels, Chair, reported that the Committee did not meet, but the Committee receives quarterly written reports from Commissioner Blomstedt.

6.4. **AQuESTT Teaching, Learning and Serving Domain Committee** – Lisa Fricke, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

The Committee reports that it reviewed consent agenda contracts and received an update on the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and Nebraska READS. The NDE staff will bring a report to the Board on this topic at the March 2021 meeting.

6.4.A. The Committee received an overview of the content area standards process, including a timeline for Board action on approving content area standards this year. The Committee has asked NDE staff member Cory Epler to share more information with the Board in the discussion item following this report.

Cory Epler, Department of Education representative, provided information on content area standards revision process.

6.5. **AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support Domain Committee** – Patsy Koch Johns, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee. The Committee had one Consent Item to authorize the Commissioner to contract with a third-party vendor for distribution and handling of federal Emergency Aids to Nonpublic Schools. The Committee received information from the NDE staff regarding this item and recommended to pull from Consent Agenda for separate vote.

6.5.A. Approve the Rule 11 waiver request from Santee Community Schools

The Committee reviewed and received information from NDE staff regarding the Rule 11 waiver request from Santee Community Schools. The Committee had requested further research by the NDE staff to be presented in March.

Recommendation: The Committee will act on this item in the March Board meeting.

6.5.B. Leading for Equity and Excellence Program (LEEP)

The Committee had one discussion item on Leading for Equity and Excellence Program (LEEP) State Policy Network. The Committee was informed about the LEEP background/History and the workplan that was completed last year by NE LEEP Committee.

6.6. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Patricia Timm, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

6.6.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

Jen Utemark, Department of Education representative, reviewed the role of the Budget and Finance Committee regarding review of the monthly Board travel expenses. NDE also reviewed the attached report in Sparq showing monthly, year to date and year-to-year comparisons. The Committee discussed how this report should be formatted when Board members change for year-to-year comparisons.

6.6.B. In-State Travel Authorization Reports

The in-state travel authorization review process was described by Jen Utemark, Department of Education representative. Board members that have concerns should bring those concerns to this Committee. No further discussion.

The Committee reviewed one Consent Item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Gregory Newport Architect, LLC, for the purpose of office space planning. Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, reviewed the process for new contracts and when they are included as consent agenda item.

6.7. **Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee** – Deborah Neary, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee. The Committee has no discussion or action items to report this month.

The Committee did review the scope of work of the Committee, specifically the strategic plan and the Board's responsibilities around priority schools. The Committee received information from NDE staff on the priority school process and will be bringing further discussion to the Board at a future meeting.

## 7. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

7.1. Consent Agenda Item 5.3.G. pulled from the Consent Agenda

Authorize the Commissioner to contract with a third-party vendor for distribution and handling of federal Emergency Aids to Nonpublic Schools passed with a motion by Patricia Timm, second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patricia Timm:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Yea
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Abstain

## **8. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

None

## **9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS**

9.1. President Nickels referred Board Members to review information items and reports.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

President Nickels adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, March 5, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at Courtyard Lincoln Downtown/Haymarket, Scarlet Meeting Room, 808 R St, Lincoln, NE 68508.