

**State Accreditation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 22, 2021**

The Nebraska State Accreditation Committee met at the Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln, NE, on July 22, 2021. Travis Miller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Committee members present were the following: Mary Anderson, Elizabeth Boyle, Wayne Brown, Brad Dirksen, Josie Floyd, Dale Fornander, Georgia Gleason, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Vickie Kauffold, Mitch Kubicek, Travis Miller, Joe'l Ruybalid, Dan Schnoes, Bess Scott, and Amy Shane.

Members absent: Melissa Comine, Judi gaiashkibos, Boris Moore, Marco Pedroza, and Sarah Salem.

The NDE staff members participating in the meeting were the following: Dorann Avey, Lane Carr, Micki Charf, Don Loseke, Shirley Vargas, and Todd Wolverton.

**Meeting Opening, Travis Miller, Chair**

Following introductions, Travis Miller declared a quorum present, established the legality of the meeting, and reviewed the responsibilities of this Committee which was created by state statute:

1. Recommending appropriate standards and policies with respect to the accreditation and classification of schools; and
2. Making recommendations annually to the commissioner of education relative to the accreditation and classification of individual schools.

**Informational Items, Travis Miller, Chair**

Commissioner Blomstedt was unable to attend the meeting. Brad Dirksen would be compiling recommendations from the committee and sharing those recommendations with the Commissioner.

The purpose of Rule 10 is equity of opportunity, quality of learning, and accountability. Committee Members were asked to focus on getting things right, not just getting things done, as they move through the day's discussions and activities on rule revision.

**Approved Motions**

Motions for approval of the July 22, 2021, agenda and approval of the December 16, 2020, minutes were unanimously approved by the committee members.

**Committee Updates, Don Loseke, Director of Accreditation**

Don Loseke updated the committee on SAC membership and terms, the 2021 State Accreditation Committee Annual Report, and the school systems approved for accreditation in the 2021-2022 school year.

*Note: No public comments were received during the allotted time.*

## **Where We Are - Purpose and Goals, Brad Dirksen, Administrator, AAPA**

Brad reviewed where we have been and where we are going with rule revision and the importance of ongoing conversations and feedback to inform us as we progress towards the rule revision timeline.

- In June of 2018, conversation began regarding rule revision. In October of 2019 the State Board of Education revised their position statement defining the concept of approval, accreditation, and accountability. In October 2020 the Board stated their intent to move toward three, separate and individual rules created around approval, accreditation, and accountability.
- The original timeline for new regulations was December 2020. The State Board revised that timeline to December 2021. Based on input and feedback we know this isn't realistic. The timeline is being extended to allow for more flexibility, to allow us to hear more voices, and to allow for continued collaboration to make sure we get this right. It's not about getting these new rules done but getting them right.

### **What's Happened Since December 16 of 2020:**

- In January through March of 2021, the department began introducing the creation of three new rules among stakeholders.
- The Department engaged in high level presentations of the rule revision process addressing: Why we are engaging in this process; the State Board's vision of revision of rule; Approval and minimum standards for all schools to operate in Nebraska; Accreditation; the Continuous Improvement Process; and Accountability.
- In April 2021, a survey was created and implemented for individuals to provide feedback concerning the draft rules. This survey closed on June 30, 2021. The NDE is now analyzing this feedback as part of the revision process.

### **Purpose and Goal for Today**

By the end of the meeting, the State Accreditation Committee will:

1. Provide recommendations to the Commissioner on draft Approval, Accreditation, and Accountability rules; and
2. Develop and recommend a revised timeline for adoption and implementation of the draft rules.

## **Survey Overview/Activities, Don Loseke, Director of Accreditation**

Don presented a breakdown of the information received in response to the rule development survey and reviewed the instructions for the scheduled three group activities. Committee members and guests were divided into groups with an assigned NDE facilitator to provide opportunities for input and recommendations to forward to the Commissioner on selected topics.

### **Activity 1**

Draft Approval Rule: Discussion and Feedback - Topics selected based upon feedback received to date.

- All public and nonpublic school systems shall have a principal
- Safe and healthy schools

### **Working Lunch**

Guided discussion regarding the Approval, Accreditation, and Accountability timeline; recommend a revised timeline.

### **Activity 2**

Continuation of Draft Approval Rule: Discussion and Feedback - Topics selected based upon feedback received to date.

- Required instruction
- Library media services/Library resources/School librarian

### **Activity 3**

Draft Accreditation and Accountability Rules: Discussion and Feedback - Topics selected based upon feedback received to date.

- Input Survey Data
- Regional Accreditation

Draft Accountability Rule: Discussion and Feedback - Topics selected based upon feedback received to date (Accreditation).

- Nonpublics in accountability rule?
- Student Level Data for Nonpublic Schools

### **Closing of Meeting**

A motion was made and unanimously approved to make a recommendation to the Commissioner to:

1. Extend the Rule 10 and Rule 14 revision timeline to allow for additional stakeholder and practitioner engagement and to implement new rules no sooner than the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Allow a at least a full academic year between adoption of new rules and the implementation of those rules.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to hold additional committee meetings with dates to be arranged with the NDE staff.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:50 p.m.**