

NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION
Educator Preparation Advisory Committee to the Nebraska State Board of Education

NCTE GENERAL MEETING

Friday October 22, 2021
Hilton Garden Inn - Lincoln

- Present:** HED – P. Adams; S. Alford; D. Chism; T. Cook; T. Frey; J. Jansky; D. Karr; I. Ortega;
 P. Peal; N. Shudak; S. Skretta; K. Swain, S. Tiedeman; K. Wheeler
NASB – D. Blakely; L. Wagner
NCAPE –
NCCA –
NCSA – C. Boyer; J. Harris; M. Lenihan; D. Lewis; K. Lofquist; K. Saum-Mills; S. Smith
TSB – T. Jacobs
NSEA – S. Brown; D. Casey; M. Edquist; D. Garcia; S. Loney; P. Ludeke; D. Moss; L. Perez; C. Rice;
 D. Rohan; S. Stake; E. Ventura
NDE – B. Dirksen; K. Heineke

- Alternates:**
HED – S. Byers; G. Conrad; K. Danielson; A. Fette; B. Jech; E. McDonnell-Jones
NDE - C. Waddle

- Guests:**
HED – D. King
NCAPE – J. Ekeler
NSEA – T. Tystad
NDE – M. Beiermann; C. Epler

- Absent Without Alternate Replacement:**
HED – E. DeHart; R. Ernst
NASB –
NCCA – P. Illich
NCSA – J. Schwartz; J. McDowell; C. Worrell
TSB –
NSEA – J. Burns;
NDE

<u>HED</u> - Higher Education	<u>NCSA</u> -NE Council of School Administrators
<u>NCCA</u> -NE Community College Association	<u>TSB</u> – Teachers State Board Appointed
<u>NASB</u> -NE Association of School Boards	<u>NSEA</u> - NE State Education Association
<u>NCAPE</u> -NE Council on American Private Education	<u>NDE</u> – NE Dept. of Education

FIRST GENERAL SESSION – President Lenihan presiding.

Declaration of Legal Meeting and Open Meetings Act: Stated by Lenihan at 9:30 a.m.

Public Comments: None

Approval of June 11, 2021 General Session Meeting Minutes: Motion by Jansky to approve the minutes; second by Rice. Roll call vote taken. Motion approved.

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Report of August 26, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting –Lenihan reviewed the minutes from the August 26, 2021 meeting.

Welcome New Council Members and Introductions – New members introduced themselves. These new members included: A. Fette, I. Ortega; D. Rohan; G. Conrad; E. McDonnell-Jones; L. Perez L. Wagner; T. Jacobs; E. Ventura

Legislative Update- Brad Dirksen, NDE

- **State Board of Education Legislative and Regulatory Priorities**
 - LB389 - Military Teacher Permit. State statute was updated in the past year. The human relations requirement was eliminated for veterans and spouses. Teaching experience requirements were changed for military to allow more flexibility.
 - LB528 – Alternative Program Teaching Permit. Teachers from out-of-state who have completed an education preparation program from another state can teach with an alternative permit in NE. Must have earned a BS degree or higher, passed the basic skills requirement and appropriate content testing to get a teaching permit.
 - Explained the legislative work of the State Board and issues that the board are aware of for further work, and where to find this information on the NDE website. Issues includes regulatory priority for approval and accountability; alternative and non-traditional pathways for future educators; reciprocity between states; and the need to remove barriers for future educators. Multicultural awareness is a prime focus for the priorities of the State Board.

Informational Items – Kelly Heineke, NDE

- **Content Standards Revision Process- Dr. Cory Epler, NDE**

LB 79760 outlines State Board requirements for Reading/Writing/Math/Science Standards. Local school districts can adopt either the standards recommended by the board or can adopt stronger standards, such as the science standards. NDE has gone above and beyond with a few endorsement standards. Using these standards is determined by the individual districts. Dr. Epler described the process of determining content standards. This includes listening and speaking with employers about their needs and what should be included in content standards. The NDE also works with input from public at large and the State Board as well in developing content standards. A timeline is followed for standards revision and incorporating them in the schools/districts. Current timeline is 7 years, but alternative timelines are also used for certain endorsements. One issue concerning content standards is for schools to know the difference between standards, curriculum, and instructional materials. A reference guide is available with criteria used in developing standards quality.

Content Areas:

- English Language Arts standards were approved by State Board. The focus on the science of reading in elementary grades along with more emphasis on writing and integrating multiple literacies was done.
 - Health Standards – have been tabled for now.
 - CTE – reflective of Perkins 5 requirements.
 - Fine Arts Standards – are postponed for now
 - Math Standards – are working on updating them now—looking at Sept. 2022 for implementation
- Standards alone do not change instructional shifts in teaching. Sometimes educational shifts are implied overall. Want to go beyond just unpacking standards. Research shows that access to high quality standards, with teachers understanding the standards and then incorporating them into teaching improves the overall learning of students.

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- Instructional Materials – NDE is identifying high quality in materials incorporating revised standards content. Nebraska Instructional Materials Collaborative is available at NDE for instructors/schools which helps to determine high-quality materials which incorporate the revised standards. NDE collects data to see curricula is being used within the state.

Break – 10:36 – 10:46

- **All Things NCTE: History, Member Roles and Responsibilities – NCTE Executive Committee**
Scavenger Hunt Activities were done to help familiarize membership with the history, responsibilities, and the roles of the membership.
- **Teacher Shortage Summit Update – Sara Skretta, UNL, Kelly Heineke**
Skretta explained the topics/speakers to be presented at the teacher shortage summit on October 27. Will develop action plans to combat the teacher shortage issue.
- **Rule Status Reports – Heineke and Dirksen, NDE**
 - **Rule 20, Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs - Heineke**
 - The Rule 20 revisions group reviewed the recommendations from Dr. Steiner for possible inclusion in Rule 20. Are trying to incorporate program course requirements for administrators in the rule. Basic Skills Competency is topic of conversation in these revisions, as well as waivers/modifications considerations in teacher education programs for possible inclusion in Rule 20. Red-lined revisions were begun at the October workgroup meeting.
 - **Rule 23, Regulations for the Basic Skills Competency Testing of Teachers and Administrators – Dirksen**
 - Conversation on this topic is ongoing. Changes can affect Rules 20, 21 and Rule 23.
 - **Rule 21, Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Counsel, Supervise, and Administer in Nebraska Schools - Dirksen;**
Explained the problems in the Teacher Certification system, along with actions taken to fix these problems:
 - Plan – capacity is an issue. There are too many applications and too few analysts. Are adding 5 new employees to help with this issue.
 - Communication – website needs improvement; need to funnel pathways through NDE Helpdesk for people with frontline questions; include pathways to assigned analysts.
 - Registering Current Teachers in TEACH System – Used to determine when certificates expire. This will be updated and is key for communication with teachers, schools, organizations, etc. Perhaps use social media to get the message out concerning getting teachers registered in the TEACH system.
 - Processes are confusing – need to know what the necessary processes are and how the processes work for applicants, their applications, for school districts; Teach system, etc.
 - Application system – working to modify the system and make it easier to use. Good for priority applicants, but how do schools identify priority applicants?
 - Regulations – which rules need to change to include changes in regulations?
 - Work Group is looking at Substitute Teacher permit; what is process from student teaching to teacher certification? Passed out papers with topics for further discussion.
 - Are looking at the variety of certificates/permits currently offered – need to streamline these certificates/permits.
 - **Rule 24, Regulations for Certificate Endorsements - Heineke**

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Rule 24 was approved by the State Board on August 5, 2021. This rule included revisions to these endorsements: Social Studies, World Language, School Librarian, Principal, and Elementary Education. There was discussion concerning taking the Praxis II or Content Tests. Barriers exist for some candidates when taking these tests and there is a need to overcome these barriers and create alternative pathways.

- **Program Approval Schedule – Heineke**
 - Peru State College folio review – August 9-13, 2021
 - Midland University folio review – September 13-17, 2021
 - University Nebraska Omaha folio review –December 2, 2021
 - Midland University onsite visit – May 2-3, 2022
 - Peru State College onsite visit – September 18-20, 2022
 - Nebraska Wesleyan University onsite visit – November 2022
 - University of Nebraska Omaha onsite visit – October 2-4, 2022

- **Status of Rule 24 Endorsements in Review Process – Heineke**
 - None at this time
 - Math and Science are next potential endorsements for review

Announcements and Standing Committee Agenda Review – Lenihan

- Date change for full council meeting from June 22, 2022 to WEDNESDAY June 8, 2022
- Committee meetings:
 - Ice breaker
 - Protocols for committees
 - Rule 21 revision
 - Teacher shortage discussion

12:12 Noon **Working Lunch** – NCTE members continue discussion on issues presented in first general session.

12:45 P.M. **Standing Committee Meetings**

Committee ‘A’

- Ice breaker
- Protocols for committees
- Rule 21 revision
- Teacher shortage discussion

Committee ‘B’

- Ice breaker
- Protocols for committees
- Rule 21 revision
- Teacher shortage discussion

Committee ‘C’

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- Ice breaker
- Protocols for committees
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1:45 P.M. Break

2:00 P.M. SECOND GENERAL SESSION – President Lenihan presiding.

- **Standing Committee Reports:**

Committee 'A' – Saum-Mills, Chair (in place of Sankey)

- Support Rule R21 revisions; is a need for alternate pathways in getting permits; concerns with reciprocity between states – how do NE standards compare with other states; LB528 – needs more clarity.
- Teacher shortage – Need alternatives for Praxis I and II test requirements and for determining Basic Skills content knowledge; need clear pathways and timelines for completing a teacher education program; pay student teachers a stipend; teacher retention and recruitment is needed; provide support systems at schools to assist current teachers. Need to study data on why teachers leaving the profession.

Committee 'B' – Rice, Chair (in place of Smith)

- Rule 21 revisions are approved. Like the use of conditional certificates to easily transition to regular teaching certificates; once new TEACH system is in place the backlog problems for obtaining teaching certificates should cease. LB528 needs clarification.
- Teacher shortage – Need to retain current teachers; the substitute teacher shortage is acute in NE. Need more candidates in EPP pipelines –how can we entice people in pipeline to continue in education for a career? Are competing with private industry both in salaries and in the perception of what a 'licensed profession' is. The licensed teacher deserves being seen and treated as a professional, much like other licensed professions receive.

Committee 'C' – Moss, Chair

- Rule 21 linkage with teacher shortage—need to ensure we have high-quality teachers encouraging high achievement and education. Need to look at issues like pay; LB528 concerns – need for clarification. Want to move forward with problems affecting educator preparation profession.

- **Full Council Action and/or Discussion related to Standing Committee Reports** (Roll Call Votes)
 - None currently proposed

Adjournment - Lenihan adjourned meeting at 2:08 p.m.