

## February 21, 2024 Meeting Agenda

[Zoom](#)

9:00 AM	1. Call to Order, Electronic Posting, Location of Open Meeting Law Documents, Roll Call, Introductions	Co-Chairs
9:05 AM	2. Consider approval of the Agenda for the February 21, 2024 meeting*	Co-Chairs
9:08 AM	3. Consider approval of the <a href="#">Minutes from the December 20, 2023 meeting</a> *	Co-Chairs
9:10 AM	4. Public Comment	Co-Chairs
9:15 AM	5. Network Nebraska Update	B. Kingery
9:45 AM	6. NITC Statewide Technology Plan – Strategic Initiatives	Co-Chairs/B. Kingery
9:55 AM	7. <a href="#">Current Legislation</a>	Co-Chairs/B. Kingery
10:15 AM	8. Subsector Reports (if time permits) A. University of Nebraska B. Nebraska State Colleges C. Nebraska Community Colleges D. Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities E. Public K-12 and ESUs F. Private/Denominational K-12 G. Nebraska Public Media H. Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education I. Nebraska Department of Education	Co-Chairs
10:35 AM	9. Other Business/Announcements	Co-Chairs
10:40 AM	10. Consider Location(s) for the April 17, 2024 Meeting	Co-Chairs
10:42 AM	11. Agenda Items for the April 17, 2024 Meeting	Co-Chairs
10:45 AM	12. Adjournment	Co-Chairs

Upon adjournment we ask that council members remain on the Zoom meeting to break out into their Task Groups to continue to discuss the NITC Technology Plan strategic initiatives and action items.

\* Indicates an expected action item.

The Council will attempt to adhere to the sequence of the published agenda but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to take action on any of the items listed.

## **EDUCATION COUNCIL**

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. CT

Host Location: Zoom

### **MINUTES**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Co-Chair, Mr. Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska  
Co-Chair, Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09  
Mr. Nick Muir, Wayne State College  
Mr. Brandon Eckman, Northeast Community College (Alt for Paul Feilmeier)  
Mr. Jeremiah Ourada, Nebraska Wesleyan University  
Ms. Kate McCown, University of Nebraska (Alt. for Dr. Jaci Lindburg)  
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College  
Ms. Cheri Polenske, Nebraska State College System  
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools  
Mr. Gregg Robke, ESU  
Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools  
Ms. Stacey Jolley, Nebraska Association of School Boards

#### **LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System  
Ms. Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media  
Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education  
Ms. Kathleen Fimple, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education  
Ms. Christina Struebing, Nebraska Department of Education

#### **MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:**

Mr. Derek Bierman, Doane University  
Ms. Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Public Schools  
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School  
Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 2  
Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO

#### **CALL TO ORDER, ELECTRONIC POSTING, LOCATION OF OPEN MEETING LAW DOCUMENTS, ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Buker called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. There was a quorum present to conduct official business. Meeting Notice Posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) December 18, 2023. Agenda Posted to the [NITC Web site](#) on December 18, 2023.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE December 20, 2023 MEETING\***

**Mr. Kelly moved to approve the December 20, 2023 agenda. Mr. Muir seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Muir-Yes, Eckmann-Yes, Ourada-Yes, McCown-Yes, Peters-Yes, Polenske-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Robke-Yes, Tickle-Yes, Kelly-Yes,**

**Jolley-Yes and Needham-Yes. Results: Yes-13, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

## **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 30, 2023 MEETING\***

**Mr. Kelly moved to approve the October 18, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Robke seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Muir-Yes, Eckmann-Yes, Ourada-Yes, McCown-Yes, Peters-Yes, Polenske-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Robke-Yes, Tickle-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Jolley-Yes and Needham-Yes. Results: Yes-13, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **NUSF 117 Update**

Ms. Carrie Gans, Asst. Director of Communications and the NUSF Department, Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) presented regarding changes to NUSF 117 (E-Rate Special Construction Matching Program). Primary changes to NUSF 117 include:

- Extends the E-Rate Special Construction matching program indefinitely.
- Increases the state match to cover the cost of fiber deployment for eligible entities up to 100%.
- Adopts changes relative to the service provider requirement to place credits on the billing statement prior to reimbursement of funds.

Mr. Kelly departed the meeting prior to the end of the NUSF 117 Update.

## **Upcoming Federal Grants**

Mr. Tom Rolfes, Federal Program Officer, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) provided a presentation regarding the upcoming federal grants. Details specific to Nebraska and allocated amounts are available in the [meeting documents](#) linked in the agenda. Council members are urged to spread awareness both about the programs and the [Nebraska Broadband Map](#) or the [FCC Broadband Map](#) to confirm connection speeds and to join the [Broadband Office](#) update email list to remain informed. Service level verification and challenges can occur until February 1, 2024 on the Nebraska Broadband Map, more information about the challenge process can be found [here](#).

Ms. McCown departed the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

## **Network Nebraska/RFP 2023 Update**

B. Kingery/C. Struebing provided RFP updates, the standard E-Rate RFP went live at the end of November and vendors can currently bid on any of the sites; there are four

appendices encapsulating standard E-Rate sites, ESU point-to-point connections, and University county extension offices for both commodity internet and ethernet transport. Bid opening is scheduled for January 4, 2024. Anticipating that contracts will be assigned by late February or early March.

The Internet RFP to replace internet connections into both the Omaha and Lincoln aggregation points as well as other sites for the University of Nebraska Systems which should be submitted to SPB previously and is scheduled to be posted to the site on the date of the meeting, with bid opening scheduled for late January and contracts finalized in late March.

Network Nebraska is handling Special Construction differently this year, because of the lengthy procurement process with the state interested libraries will work with Chris Struebing directly to post their own Form 470 and seek bids to get them connected to Network Nebraska.

### **Statewide Technology Plan**

Every two years the NITC updates and submits the Statewide Technology Plan, the strategic initiatives of this Statewide Technology Plan are approved at the recommendation of the commissioners of the NITC. Those initiatives are communicated back to the councils who then evaluate or develop action items for the coming term of the plan. Action items from the Education Council will need to be finalized prior to the March meeting to be presented to the NITC for their review and approval. (Clarification: Strategic Initiatives are approved in the March meeting, action items are then developed and voted on by the Education Council to be presented at the July NITC meeting.)

A recommendation was made to recess so task groups could break out to discuss action items and potential changes.

### **Task Group Breakouts (Recess)**

#### **CONSIDER A MOTION FOR MEETING RECESS**

**Mr. Muir moved to approve meeting recess for the Task Group Breakout session. Mr. Peters seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Muir-Yes, Eckmann-Yes, Ourada-Yes, Peters-Yes, Polenske-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Robke-Yes, Tickle-Yes, Jolley-Yes and Needham-Yes. Results: Yes-11, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

Mr. Kelly rejoined the meeting during recess, Ms. Jolley departed the meeting during recess.

#### **CONSIDER A MOTION TO RECONVENE MEETING**

**Mr. Kelly moved to approve meeting recess for the Task Group Breakout session. Mr. Muir seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Muir-Yes, Eckmann-Yes, Ourada-**

**Yes, Peters-Yes, Polenske-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Robke-Yes, Tickle-Yes, Kelly-Yes, and Needham-Yes. Results: Yes-11, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

Network Nebraska Services, Ling Ling Sun. The NN Services task group plans to address reliability and adjust the wording for Action Item #1 to say, "Prepare for the future of Network Nebraska as a statewide, secure, multipurpose, high capacity, scalable, and reliable telecommunications network..." with the addition of the words "and reliable" in Network Nebraska Action Item# 1.

Digital Education, Matt Chrisman. The group is considering adding tools such as AI, Zoom and other tools to add to the inventory. The group also felt that access to quality professional development could assist in the implementation of technology. They are looking for data surrounding Action Item #2 and depending on its availability could determine if partial completion or a rewrite is necessary. Mr. Buker vocalized there might be data available because of the Digital Equity plan. The group is planning to meet again in January to discuss further.

Cybersecurity, Cheri Polenske. Applications for the IJA grant is open now until February 4, 2024. Applicants are required to complete the CISA Self-Assessment tool to be eligible to participate in this grant cycle. Gregg Robke added that awardees were announced for the previous application cycle, awardees should be working on next steps to facilitate grant funding.

### **SUBSECTOR REPORTS** (if time permits)

Public K-12 and ESUs, Trent Kelly. Representatives from NATA met with Congressman Flood's aide the day prior and discussed E-Rate topics and possible inclusion of cybersecurity in E-Rate program.

Nebraska Public Media, Ling Ling Sun. The CEO of NPM, Mark Leonard, announced plans to retire on June 30, 2024, during their December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. They will begin a search for a replacement in 2024.

University of Nebraska, Andrew Buker. There are significant leadership changes underway at the University, President Carter's final day is December 31<sup>st</sup> before moving onto Ohio State. Kearney's Chancellor, Douglas Kristensen, also announced his retirement for the end of the academic calendar. The search for replacements will be active soon.

### **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Gary Needham suggested the task groups confirm their stance on their assigned action items and deliverables for the Statewide Technology Plan so they may be presented in the next meeting. It was suggested any major changes be provided in writing prior to the meeting Ms. Kingery so drafts could be available for council members.

**CONSIDER LOCATION(S) and AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2024 and is scheduled to be a virtual meeting. No potential agenda topics were discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn. Mr. Ourada seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

The meeting minutes were taken by Becca Kingery, of the Office of the CIO.



## Legislative Watch List 2024 Term

- LB61**      **Introduced By:** Brandt      **Committee:** Transportation and Telecommunications  
**Topic:** Authorize leasing of dark fiber and eliminate certain powers of the Public Service Commission  
**Potential Impact:**  
Would allow certain public entities to license dark fiber and amended regulations surrounding the purchase, lease, and license of such infrastructure.  
**Notes:** Carryover, priority bill, advanced to E&IR      **Initial Floor Debate Date:** 2/15/24
- LB865**      **Introduced By:** Bostelman      **Committee:** Transportation and Telecommunications  
**Topic:** Require annual reports to the Nebraska Broadband Office  
**Potential Impact:**  
On or before July 30, 2024, and by July 30 each year thereafter, each provider operating in this state shall submit a report to the Nebraska Broadband Office that provides specific information regarding each standard Internet service plan advertised by the provider and the rates associated with each such plan.  
**Notes:** Carryover      **Hearing Date:** 1/11/24
- LB1031**      **Introduced By:** Bostelman      **Committee:** Transportation and Telecommunications  
**Topic:** Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund, dark fiber leases, and broadband telecommunications services.  
**Potential Impact:**  
Speeds must be capable of 100/20 Mbps to qualify for support from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund  
**Notes:** Emergency declared, made priority bill      **Hearing Date:** 1/22/24
- LB1063**      **Introduced By:** Halloran      **Committee:** Education  
**Topic:** Require approval by the voters of the school district prior to expenditure of special building funds as prescribed  
**Potential Impact:**  
Requires a vote approval for improvements or the purchase of equipment for any existing school property to appear on any Special Election or General Election ballot.  
**Notes:**      **Hearing Date:** 2/23/24
- LB1300**      **Introduced By:** Bostar      **Committee:** Government, Military and Veterans' Affairs  
**Topic:** Adopt the Pacific Conflict Stress Test Act and the Foreign Adversary Contracting Prohibition Act  
**Potential Impact:**  
Outlines provisions and potential restrictions related to equipment or investments that might be at elevated risk from foreign adversaries.  
**Notes:** Emergency declared, made priority bill      **Hearing Date:** 2/8/24
- LB1302**      **Introduced By:** Lippincott      **Committee:** Government, Military and Veterans' Affairs  
**Topic:** Adopt the Cybersecurity Preparedness Act  
**Potential Impact:**  
Rewrite of LB651 from the 2023 term that reduced the fiscal note.  
**Notes:** Emergency declared      **Hearing Date:** 2/8/24

**[LB1336](#)**      **Introduced By:** DeKay      **Committee:** Transportation and Telecommunications  
**Topic:** Change provisions of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act and transfer certain powers and duties to the Nebraska Broadband Office  
**Potential Impact:**  
Transfers certain responsibilities from the PSC to the Broadband Office  
**Notes:** Emergency declared      **Hearing Date:** 2/12/24

**[LB1389](#)**      **Introduced By:** Bostar      **Committee:** Revenue  
**Topic:** Provide for a personal property tax exemption for broadband equipment as prescribed  
**Potential Impact:**  
Allows the exemption of broadband equipment from personal property tax under specific circumstances  
**Notes:**      **Hearing Date:** 2/23/24

**[LB1417](#)**      **Introduced By:** Brewer      **Committee:** Government, Military and Veterans' Affairs  
**Topic:** Create, eliminate, terminate, and provide, change, eliminate, and transfer powers, duties, and membership of boards, commissions, committees, councils, task forces, panels, authorities, and departments and change and eliminate funds  
**Potential Impact:**  
Creation of Commission for K-12 Education/Elimination of the ESU CC. Elimination of the NTIC Tech Panel with duties passed on to the NITC. Elimination of the Rural Broadband Task Force.  
**Notes:**      **Hearing Date:** 2/29/24

## Carryover Bills from Last Term with No Updates in 2024

**[LB238](#)**      **Introduced By:** Bostelman      **Committee:** Education  
**Topic:** Include virtual school students in the state aid to schools formula  
**General File:** No

**[LB635](#)**      **Introduced By:** Albrecht      **Committee:** Education  
**Topic:** Provide requirements regarding access to digital and online resources provided for students by school districts, schools, and the Nebraska Library Commission  
**General File:** No

**[LB638](#)**      **Introduced By:** Albrecht      **Committee:** Education  
**Topic:** Adopt the Nebraska K-12 Cybersecurity and Data Protection Act  
**General File:** No

**[LB650](#)**      **Introduced By:** McDonnell      **Committee:** Government, Military and Veterans' Affairs  
**Topic:** Allow certain cybersecurity records to be withheld from the public  
**General File:** Yes