EDUCATION COUNCIL
Monday, April 10, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. CDT
Governor's Residence, Lower Level
1425 H Street, Lincoln, NE
Open Meetings Act
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09, Co-Chair
Ms. Mary Niemiec, University of Nebraska, Co-Chair
Mr. Mark Askren, University of Nebraska
Mr. Derek Bierman, Northeast Community College
Mr. Burke Brown, Palmyra School District
Mr. Mike Carpenter, Doane University
Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College
Mr. Steve Stortz, Alt. for Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School
Dr. Dan Hoesing, Schuyler Public Schools
Mr. Steve Hotovy, Nebraska State College System
Mr. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools; Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02; Dr. Mike Lucas, York Public Schools; Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 3; Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College; Dr. Mike Baumgartner, CCPE; Mr. Brent Gaswick, NDE; and Mr. Gary Targoff, NET.

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

Co-Chair, Gary Needham, called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Roll call was taken. There were 10 voting members present. There was a quorum present to conduct official business. The meeting notice and meeting agenda were posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar and the NITC Web site on April 5, 2017.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 10, 2017 MEETING*

Mr. Steve Hotovy moved to approve of the April 10, 2017 meeting agenda. Mr. Dunning seconded. Roll call vote: Askren-Yes, Bierman-Yes, Brown-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Stortz-Yes, Hoesing-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Maschman-Yes, and Needham-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE 12/21/2016 MEETING*

Mr. Askren moved to approve of the April 10, 2017 meeting agenda. Mr. Carpenter seconded. Roll call vote: Needham-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Hoesing-Yes, Stortz-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Brown-Yes, Bierman-Yes, and Askren-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Rolfes reminded members that the NITC staff post technology legislation to the NITC website that may pertain to the NITC Statewide Technology Plan and the Council's action items. He referenced the following two bills:

- LB 175, introduced by Senator Morfeld, Adopts the Student Online Personal Protection Act. A hearing was health January 31 2017 and the bill is still in the Education Committee. It has not been prioritized.
- LB 240, introduced by Senator Baker, provides for videoconferencing and telephone conferencing for school board meetings. There was a hearing on January 25, 2017 and the bill is still in the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. It has not been prioritized.

SPECIAL GUESTS: GOVERNOR PETE RICKETTS AND NITC CHAIR, ED TONER

Ed Toner, Chief Information Officer and Chair of the NITC, introduced Governor Pete Ricketts. The Governor was a former supervisor of Mr. Toner. At that time, the Governor's philosophy was that the stakeholders and customers come first. Mr. Toner hoped that if he was elected Governor that he would keep that same philosophy and he did.

Governor Ricketts thanked the council members for their work on the Education Council advising the NITC, as well as with the success of Network Nebraska. In addition, he thanked the council for their work with the biennial IT budget funding recommendations. The Governor also commended Mr. Toner and the Office of the CIO for the IT consolidation efforts that have proven to be cost effective. Nebraska counties have consolidated their servers with the Office of the CIO. Through these efforts, the State of Nebraska has saved taxpayers $5.3 million dollars over 10 years. The state must continue to look at various ways to innovate using information technology. He mentioned a recent newspaper article featuring his father's new school, housed at Bellevue University, called "Next Generation Learning (NGL)" that will utilize I.T. to enhance learning.

Co-Chair, Ms. Niemiec, commented that the NITC Education Council is unique in the country in that it has comprised of both K-12 and higher education representatives at the table working towards the same common goals. This is very uncommon across the country. Most states do not have this kind of cooperation and collaboration.

Members also spoke to the Governor about the challenges of smaller school districts in regards to Internet access and closing the poverty gap. There are currently students who park in library parking lots to access WIFI for their homework because they cannot afford, or cannot get, Internet at home. The Governor acknowledged that this is a challenge, as well, in work force development. Not all jobs require a four-year degree and many prefer a technical trade degree or simple certification. Manufacturers have not been able to find the right IT folks. This is also happening in the agricultural field, which is becoming more technical. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has been looking at the whole continuum of education into the work force. Governor Ricketts has a work force development contact that may be a good collaborative partner with the Education Council. He will send this information to Mr. Rolfes.

After answering a few more questions from the Council members, the Governor had to make his way to his next appointment with the Nebraska Rodeo event.

NETWORK NEBRASKA INITIATIVE UPDATE
Action Items and **Task Groups**

1.1 Develop strategy to accommodate community affiliate connections

1.1.1   Public Library and Municipality Update

Mr. Rolfes indicated that due to Network Nebraska's success and because of the educational entities' involvement, a few municipalities and libraries have asked about becoming Network Nebraska partners. Although education was, and will continue to be, the focus of Network Nebraska (LB 1208, 2006), public libraries and municipalities would be served under the "meeting the demand of local government" citation

of Neb. Rev. Stat. 86-5,100. Office of the CIO staff have discussed how these entities would be served, and at what recovery costs. As an example of education/municipal cooperation, Lincoln Public Schools has offered to manage the wireless access points for the Lincoln Public Library. The City of Lincoln has also offered to manage the external networking for the library. The City of Lincoln is planning to have public Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the city for citizens. Students from Lincoln Public Schools would then be able to log into their LPS accounts from anywhere in the city. If other communities would follow the same or similar processes, the homework gap of no access at home could be addressed. A majority of public libraries do not file for E-rate funding which would help decrease the cost of connectivity. This situation could be improved if the rural public library would work with their local school system. For example, school districts are sending school-owned tablets home with students who do not have Internet at home. School districts have ample Internet access and are often located within a mile of the public library. By augmenting the library's Internet access with shared Internet from the school district, student patrons in the library would be able to log directly into their school district resources. It was suggested by Mr. Carpenter that the City of Crete may be a good Network Nebraska customer as it has the same setup as the City of Wayne in serving other Participant Hosted Entities.

1.4 NNAG, CAP guide OCIO's network decision-making

1.4.1 Statewide Backbone Update, Invoice and E-rate Consolidation

RFP 5562 has been released by State Purchasing to replace three major segments of the Network Nebraska backbone bidding up to 20 Gbps. The Office of the CIO has been discussing Invoice and E-rate consolidation. If vendors and school districts are willing to pursue invoice consolidation, each vendor would be able to provide one invoice for all of its Network Nebraska customers. The Office of the CIO would pay each monthly invoice and then file E-rate annually on behalf of all the entities involved. The OCIO would then bill Network Nebraska participants monthly or quarterly, whichever works best for them. E-rate would reimburse approximately $4.2 million of a $6 million annual cost. Invoicing would be handled by the State's DAS accounting staff. The goal would be to have this in place by the Summer of 2018. Council members asked for further discussion as a future meeting.

2.2 Conduct annual survey of NN Participants

2.2.1 Developing a services survey to reach all NN Participants

2.2.2 2012 Network Nebraska Marketing Survey Report (sample)

In the meeting materials, members were provided a copy of the last Network Nebraska Marketing survey conducted in 2012. Members were asked to review the document for discussion and input at a future meeting. Members recommended the following groups to get input on the survey contents: CIO Summit for Higher Education, K12 technology coordinators, Nebraska Association of Technology Administrators (NATA), etc... It was also suggested to design the survey and communication briefs for different target populations – one for administrators, one for technical support, etc. Steve Hotovy volunteered to work on the Network Nebraska communication briefs.

A question was raised about the status and update on the development of the ticketing system for Network Nebraska. Ben Mientka, University of Nebraska Computing Services, met with the ESU Network Operations Committee and the Network Nebraska Advisory Work Group to discuss the requirements for the new ticketing system. It is hoped that one system could accommodate the University as well as Network Nebraska participants. Participants want the ability to communicate with the technical support staff via the ticketing system.

Ms. Niemiec arrived at 1:26 p.m.

Mr. Toner informed the council that the state is making use of Microsoft's Service Center Service Manager for its ticketing system. It is the state's enterprise software and part of the Microsoft suite of

products. All state agencies will be using this system. InTune is also used to protect the state's mobile devices.

Mr. Rolfes reminded the council that in October, the Education Council's action items will need to be updated for the statewide technology plan. The Council will need to have their action items finalized for the NITC's November meeting. In May, the NNAG will be doing an update on the network's accomplishments. Mr. Carpenter stated the update would be good information that could be used as well.

DIGITAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE UPDATE
Action Items and Task Groups

Ms. Niemiec introduced the Digital Education Task Group's new Chair, Burke Brown. The work group has been discussing measurable action items. An MOU is being updated for a potential project with Educause to smooth the technology transition issues students experience between high school and post-secondary education. In addition, discussions about data standards and vendor compliance have been held. How can we leverage the state's purchasing power to improve the interoperability between data collections?

The State of Indiana has done a lot of work on transcript processing. Ken Sauer, from Illinois higher education, is interested.in working with Nebraska on this project. The task group discussed conducting a multi-state survey and possibly a multi-state purchasing agreement. With data standards in place, it would be ideal to share and transfer student's academic information through an eLearning system. A project charter has been developed and being reviewed by the work group. Dean Folkers, Nebraska Department of Education, has promised project management resources to move the project along. There will be a focus group at the Administrators workshop in July to discuss curriculum consistency and identifying soft skills a student needs to be successful, as well as a career path and equity of access.

Mr. Brown distributed an equity of access chart of "Household with School-Age Children that Do Not Have Broadband Access" by race and household income taken in 2013.

Mr. Toner mentioned a report that was presented at the most recent NITC staff meeting that showed Nebraska ranked 48th in broadband subscriptions. He expressed displeasure about Nebraska's ranking and directed the Community Council to come up with a strategy to improve the level of rural broadband. Mr. Dunning stated that what made the Iowa Communications Network project successful was that the State was the anchor tenant. The State, in turn, used the network for economic and workforce development. Network Nebraska has brought internet costs down but has not done much for equity in transport costs. Transport expenses can be costly. Mr. Dunning and Mr. Bierman spoke in favor of Network Nebraska backbone growth to northeast Nebraska.

Dr. Hoesing recently returned from a California conference on educational equity. The researchers emphasized that if we don't address equity of education, we will become a third world country. Latinos are the fastest growing population and most underserved in education. Access is not affordable and some who can afford it cannot see the value. The last mile costs are expensive. Administrators are a challenge and must be convinced to come onboard to address the inequity. It is about making this a priority. Dr. Hoesing will send Mr. Rolfes the PowerPoint presentation from the conference to share with the council.

Technology is the means to an end and it has to be a holistic approach.   Nebraska has an adult population in the same situation.

2.1 Conduct a collaborative research project of infrastructure and pedagogy

2.1.1 Developing a project charter

3.1 Form a joint study group to advance students' equity of access

3.1.1 NETA Newsletter Article (pp 20-21)

In the NETA newsletter, Mr. Rolfes wrote an article titled "An Essay about Digital Inclusion and Equity of Access". In the article, he made the following suggestions:

Suggestion 1: Public and private schools that rely heavily on digital curriculum resources, and who expect students to connect to the Internet in order to complete homework assignments, should take steps to assess which students have sufficient wired Internet speeds at home.

Suggestion 2: Public and private schools should take steps to assist student households that have inadequate Internet access to achieve equity of access.

Possible interventions to Achieve Equity of Access:
- Public Wi-Fi Centers
- Check-out of Portable Wi-Fi Hotspots
- Entry Level Internet Service
- Satellite Internet Service
- Educational Broadband Service (EBS)
- TV White Space Internet (TVWS)

3.2 EC/CC collaboration for affordable and accessible Internet access

3.2.1 School/Library Collaboration Pilot Project & TV White Space Pilot Project

Mr. Rolfes included informational links on the agenda regarding these projects. The plan is to conduct five TV White Space pilot projects, if funding becomes available.

The next joint meeting of the Education and Community Councils is May 12th. Council members were invited to attend.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no "Other" business.

AGENDA ITEMS AND LOCATION FOR THE 6/21/2017 MEETING

After discussion, it was decided to use the June 21 meeting for task force meetings. The council will have its regular meeting on August 2nd. If needed, it can be a video conference meeting. Ms. Niemiec will check to see if Varner Hall is available.

Topics for August Council meeting:
- E-rate invoice consolidation
- EC/CC joint committee

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Burke moved to adjourn. Mr. Dunning seconded. All in favor. Motion carried 12-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Tom Rolfes, Office of the CIO/NITC.