

EDUCATION COUNCIL
Nebraska Information Technology Commission
Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 9:00 A.M. CT
Location: Varner Hall Lower Level Board Room, 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE
[Open Meetings Act](#)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Mark Askren, University of Nebraska
Mr. Derek Bierman, Northeast Community College
Mr. Burke Brown, Palmyra School District
Mr. Mike Carpenter, Doane University
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools
Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02
Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College
Mr. Steve 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
Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09
Ms. Mary Niemiec, University of Nebraska
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College
Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 3 Board Member

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: Ms. Cassandra Joseph, Alt. for Mr. Matt Chrisman; Mr. Steven Stortz, Alt. for Mr. Steve Hamersky; Mr. Gary Targoff, NET; Ms. SuAnn Witt, NDE; and Dr. Kathleen Fimple, CCPE

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Dr. Mike Lucas, York Public Schools; and Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO

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

Co-Chair, Mary Niemiec, called the meeting to order at 9:02 am CT. Roll call was taken and found 13 voting members present. A quorum was reached in order to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) October 13, 2016. The agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) October 13, 2016. The Open Meeting Law document was located on the south wall of the Board Room.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 19, 2016 MEETING*

Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the October 19, 2016 meeting agenda. Mr. Brown seconded. All were in favor 13-0-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE [MINUTES](#) FROM THE 8/31/2016 MEETING*

Mr. Hamersky moved to approve the August 31, 2016 minutes with the stated correction. Mr. Moore seconded. All were in favor 13-0-0. Motion carried.

[PROJECT PROPOSALS - 2017-2019 BIENNIAL BUDGET - RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NITC*](#)

Mr. Rolfes reviewed the IT project proposal review process with the Council. Dr. Dean Folkers, Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), joined the meeting via videoconference to provide information and answer questions about the projects. SuAnn Witt and Atwell Mukusha from NDE were also present. Mr. Rolfes encouraged the Council members to provide input and construct comments to the NITC as part of their recommendations. These comments are reviewed and appreciated by the NITC and the Legislature.

13-01 Shared Systems and Supports Project Text and 13-01 Shared Systems and Supports Technical Review

Dr. Folkers stated that the project's goals are to support learning in Nebraska, save resources, and to have uniformity in use of student data.

Council members expressed concern about those school districts that have already made investments to improve their instructional environments. The question was raised as to whether there will be a requirement or incentive to switch to whatever NDE proposes. Dr. Folkers replied that there is no mandate intended for local school districts to use the system. NDE is proposing shared services and to use the collaborative purchasing of the ESUCC marketplace to provide a low-cost system so that districts can decide which is most effective for them. Council members stated that this was not made clear in the project proposal and strongly recommended a clarification in the Agency response comments. Council members cautioned that this misperception may affect support for the project. The Council members had questions as to what expenses are covered under "Other" costs, and requested more detail. NDE will get this information to Mr. Rolfes to distribute to the Council members. Dr. Folkers explained that the cost savings will come over time and will give districts more time to make transitions. Life cycle costs and change management plans were not included in the project proposal. Council members also raised concerns about the sustainability of state general funding and how it will affect the funding to local school districts and ESUs. Dr. Folkers indicated that it is not the intention of the project to cut funding to districts.

The question was raised if any consideration had been given to the availability of Internet access for students at home. Not all students have internet at home. Dr. Folkers recognized that this is an important state and national issue but that it was outside the scope of the project. NDE is still looking at options to encourage school districts to increase their Internet access and wants to work with the FCC and the E-rate program to increase home access without violating program rules. NDE plans to involve the key stakeholders in the decision-making related to this project. In addition, NDE wants to insure that the NITC and the Education Council are involved as the project progresses.

Dr. Dan Hoelsing moved to recommend Project 13-01 as a Tier 2 project with the Education Council comments included. Burke Brown seconded. Bierman-Yes, Brown-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Moore-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, Peters-Yes, Results: 14-0 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

Education Council Comments:

1. Additional Budget Detail is requested, specifically "Other Contractual Services".
2. Sustained funding will be needed. Additional explanation of sustainability beyond FY19 is requested.
3. I.T. Operations are not included in the budget request.
4. Project 13-01 reads more like a strategic plan than an I.T. project proposal. Please detail each project component in the category of software selection for the marketplace versus a component to be purchased or developed in house. Those components being purchased or developed in house have a greater budgetary impact, while those in the marketplace will have little or no budget impact and will still allow for local control.
5. Recommend that NDE take the path described of populating the Software as a Service (SaaS) Marketplace by using collaborative procurement to help drive data standards in all data sets where that is possible.
6. Recommend that NDE collaborate with NITC Education Council on the Digital Education Initiative Action Items.

13-02 Teacher Certification Upgrade Project Text and 13-02 Teacher Certification Upgrade Technical Review

The current Teacher Certification System was built using Delphi software and is reaching end of life. The project would be partially or fully funded through teachers and administrators applying for certification and contributing cash funds. The project plans to hire a consultant to provide software system options.

Mr. Moore moved to recommend Project 13-02 as a Tier 1 project with the Education Council comments included. Dr. Dan Hoelsing seconded. Bierman-Yes, Brown-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Maschman-Yes, Moore-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, Peters-Yes, Results: Yes-14, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion carried.

Education Council comments:

1. More budget detail is requested for "Other Contractual Services".

NETWORK NEBRASKA AND DIGITAL EDUCATION ACTION ITEMS

Action Items Document

A grid of Task Groups and their membership was distributed for members to sign up for a task group to continue work on the action items and to make measurable progress.

The Network Nebraska and Digital Education work groups had not met since the last Education Council meeting.

Network Nebraska Update

Mr. Rolfes reported that at the last Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP) meeting Ben Mientka of UNCSN provided the first demonstration of Action Item 1.2. The software system automatically records downtime. CAP and the Network Nebraska Advisory Group (NNAG) are discussing what information should be made public and which information should be password-protected. The Council will receive a demonstration at a future meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Burke wanted to comment about the cost savings ZOOM has given the participants. Mr. Dunning stated the Wayne State faculty are finding innovative ways to use it. Currently, the cost is \$2/per year/per participant. More and more participants are subscribing which will result in even more statewide collaboration.

AGENDA ITEMS AND LOCATION FOR THE 12/21/2016 MEETING

The December meeting can be conducted by videoconferencing. If any members are interested in being the host site, they are to contact Mr. Rolfes.

Some ideas for agenda topics included:

- Accessibility, Christy Horn (30 min)
- Follow-up discussion of shared services

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rolfes commended the council for having 15 out of 16 voting members plus alternates and liaisons at the meeting today. The Office of the CIO and the NITC appreciate the Council members' dedication and involvement.

Mr. Dunning moved to adjourn. Mr. Carpenter seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

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