

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Nebraska Information Technology Commission
October 20, 2017, 9:00 a.m. CDT

Host Location: Sharp Building 8th Floor NE Conference Room, 206 S. 13th, Lincoln, NE
Remote Location: ESU 13, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, NE

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09, Co-Chair
Ms. Mary Niemiec, University of Nebraska, Co-Chair
Mr. Mark Askren, University of Nebraska
Dr. Mike Baumgartner, CCPE
Mr. Burke Brown, Palmyra School District
Mr. Mike Carpenter, Doane University (Zoom)
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools (ESU 13)
Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School
Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Schuyler Public Schools (Zoom)
Mr. Steve Hotovy, Nebraska State College System

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Mr. Derek Bierman, Northeast Community College; Mr. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University; Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02; Dr. Mike Lucas, York Public Schools; Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 3; and Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College; Ms. SuAnn Witt, NDE; Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO.

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

Co-Chair, Ms. Niemiec called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. There were 9 voting members present at the time of roll call. A quorum existed to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on October 18, 2017. The meeting agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) on October 18, 2017.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 20, 2017 MEETING*

Mr. Askren moved to approve the October 20, 2017 meeting agenda. Mr. Hamersky seconded.
Discussion followed.

Mr. Dunning asked for a friendly amendment to agenda item 7. Digital Education Initiative Action Item 2 to include discussion of the Digital Education Landscape Project Charter.

Mr. Askren and Mr. Hamersky accepted the friendly amendment. Roll call vote: Askren-Yes, Brown-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, 8-YES, 0-NO, 0-Abstain, 2-Not Voting. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE **MINUTES** FROM THE 8/2/2017 MEETING*

Mr. Hotovy moved to approve the August 2, 2017 minutes as presented. Mr. Burke seconded.
Roll call vote: Askren-Yes, Brown-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, 8-YES, 0-NO, 0-Abstain, 2-Not Voting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

Network Nebraska and Digital Education Update

Tom Rolfes, NITC Education IT Manager

Network Nebraska and Digital Education Update. The Network Nebraska Advisory Group (NNAG) met on September 20, 2017 and discussed the invoice consolidation and possible Nebraska State Telehealth Network merger. The Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP) group will be meeting on Monday, October 23rd and will be discussing the upcoming RFPs and rack hosting at the 1623 Farnam co-location center. The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) will be meeting in Lincoln at the NET Board Room on Thursday, November 9th at 10:00am CT to consider the Councils' action item recommendations.

The Office of the CIO has submitted a \$190K grant to USDA RUS Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program to connect 16 museums and science centers with 13 high poverty K-12 schools. In addition, the Office of the CIO partnered with the Nebraska Library Commission to submit a \$25K grant to the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to incentivize five public school districts to work with five public libraries to augment their Internet access. Mr. Rolfes presented at the NLA/NSLA Conference in Kearney last Thursday and Friday. He and Anne Byers, NITC Community IT Manager, will be presenting at the October 26th Broadband Today! Conference in Lincoln. The following three RFPs are being prepared and planned release for:

- Northeast Nebraska backbone
- Omaha Internet egress
- Miscellaneous WAN circuits

Mr. Rolfes and SuAnn Witt from the Nebraska Department of Education, have been very busy with E-rate Form 470 filing for the 2017-18 year.

On October 23, the Office of the CIO will be meeting with the Governor's Budget Office to discuss invoice consolidation and statewide E-rate filing.

2015-17 Action Items and Task Groups

NETWORK NEBRASKA ACTION ITEMS DISCUSSION

Gary Needham

After discussion, marked in parentheses below, the Council made the following action item recommendations:

Action 1: Prepare for the future of Network Nebraska as a statewide, multipurpose, high capacity, scalable telecommunications network that shall meet the demand of state agencies, local governments, and educational entities as defined in section 79-1201.01.

1.1 Develop strategy to accommodate and enforce community affiliate connections

(The City of Lincoln is currently on Network Nebraska and will need to look at including municipalities. It was recommended to leave this action item as modified.)

1.2 Network Nebraska will use automated tools to monitor the network

(Network Nebraska support team is identified to monitor network utilization. It was recommended to leave this action item as modified.)

1.3 Network Nebraska will implement incident management and change control

(Network Nebraska support team is identified to implement incident management. It was recommended to leave this action item as modified.)

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

(It was recommended to continue this action item as is.)

~~1.5 Review and update security services and practices~~

(Due to the NITC State Government Council addressing this in their action items, it was recommended to discontinue this action item and create a 3rd action item listed below.)

Action 2: The Education Council and OCIO/NITC staff will serve as the communication hub for existing and potential new Network Nebraska Participants.

2.1 Develop and implement a communications strategy

(It was recommended to continue this action item as is.)

2.2 Conduct annual survey of NN Participants

(It was recommended to continue this action item as is.)

Action 3: Review the NITC IT Security Initiative and cloud computing components of the State Government IT Strategy Initiative as drafted by the NITC State Government Council.

3.1 Develop applicable practices and strategies for security and cloud applications in educational environments.

(It was recommended to present this as a new action item.)

3.2 Determine how to incorporate cloud and security strategies within Network Nebraska services.

(It was recommended to present this as a new action item.)

DIGITAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE ACTION ITEMS DISCUSSION

Burke Brown

~~**Action 1: Create Professional development opportunities for all Nebraska educators to maximize student success through the innovative uses of technology in teaching.**~~

~~**1.1 Partner with K-20 entities to establish communities of practice**~~

~~(It was recommended to discontinue this action item but monitor it and provide periodic reports. It was a duplication of other entities' efforts and outside the scope of the Education Council.)~~

Action 2: Address technical challenges for students in the transition from secondary to post-secondary education.

2.1 Conduct a collaborative research project of infra-structure and pedagogy

(It was recommended to continue this action item as is.)

2.2 Identify opportunities for institutional collaboration to ease student transition to college

Mr. Dunning distributed a draft charter. If adopted, the charter could be shared with other groups for collaborative efforts. If collaboration by various entities would occur, other action items will fall into place. It was pointed out that the second page was not all inclusive. It will depend on who wants to collaborate.

Vendors will need to be involved so that they understand the needs. There are currently vendors with student information systems that now have a learning content management tool as well. It would benefit the state if there was collaborative procurement. The question was raised as to whether there is any interest to collaborate and if there are funding resources. Currently, there are a couple of entities willing to commit resources:

- MHEC (Midwest Higher Education Consortium) is offering facility resources, meeting facilitation, survey development and RFP development
- Nebraska Department of Education is willing to provide project management resources
- State of Indiana is willing to share the research they have already done to start discussion
- EDUCAUSE president is aware and is willing to offer survey development services.
- There are foundations that could fund the project because it is a collaborative effort.

An ecosystem of tools with fewer players will encourage best practices, security, and interoperability standards.

Mr. Burke commented that with the rapid development of technologies it is making the transitional lines between secondary and post-secondary education less defined. Collaboration is critical. Ms. Niemiec commented that it is not about the technology but about the learning. That is why partners are important.

Mr. Dunning moved that the Council approve the draft NITC Education Council Digital Education Landscape Project Charter as a preliminary charter to address action item 2.2 for continued discussions with partners. Ms. Niemiec seconded. Roll call vote: Askren-Yes, Brown-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, 8-YES, 0-NO, 0-Abstain, 2-Not Voting. Motion carried.

2.3 Identify and mitigate challenges for student transitions

It was recommended to continue this action item as is.

2.4 Create guide of flexible learning technologies

It was recommended to continue this action item as is.

2.5 Encourage vendors to implement data exchange standards

It was recommended to continue this action item as is.

Action 3: Expand awareness of the need to address equity of access as it relates to digital education.

3.1 Form a joint study group comprised of stakeholders from across the state to identify opportunities and actions to ensure equitable access for students.

(It was recommended to continue this action item as is.)

3.2 Education Council will work in collaboration with the Community Council Broadband Initiative to find solutions for available, accessible, reliable, secure and affordable Internet access as related to academic success.

(It was recommended to continue this action item as is.)

3.3 Identify and promote the use of accessible products and services in achieving equity of access.

(It was recommended to continue this action item as is.)

Mr. Burke commented that lots of their students ride the bus to and from home up to an hour each way. Connectivity is an issue when they try to do homework on their way to and from school. Mr. Rolfes stated that it is estimated that there are approximately 35,000-50,000 public K-12 students who do not have adequate Internet access while at home.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDING REVISED NETWORK NEBRASKA AND DIGITAL EDUCATION ACTION ITEMS TO THE NITC FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION

2017-19 Summary Sheet. In addition to their action items, each of the councils will be presenting a summary sheet to the NITC at their November meeting.

Draft 2017-19 Action Items*

Mr. Burke moved to approve for the draft 2017-19 Network Nebraska and Digital Education Council action items to the NITC for their review and approval. Mr. Hamersky seconded. Roll call vote: Askren-Yes, Brown-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemiec-Yes, 8-YES, 0-NO, 0-Abstain, 2-Not Voting. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORTS

2017 Nebraska Broadband Today! Conference, October 26, 2017. Council members were given an information conference brochure and were invited to attend. Ms. Niemiec asked that members who attend provide a report at the next council meeting.

The NITC is very much interested in broadband issues. Mr. Rolfes will send information on Legislative hearings to council members.

AGENDA ITEMS AND LOCATION FOR THE 12/20/2017 MEETING

Video conferencing will be available for the December meeting. Agenda items will include:

- Report on Nebraska Broadband Today! Conference
- Report on the EDUCAUSE Meeting
- LR 176 hearing summary
- Status Report on the Statewide Telehealth Network merger – Positive and Negative Impact from CAP perspective, what would the governance structure look like?

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dunning moved to adjourned. Mr. Hotovy seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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