

EDUCATION COUNCIL
Nebraska Information Technology Commission

December 21, 2016, Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. CT

Host Location:

Varner Hall Lower Level Videoconferencing Room, 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE

Other Videoconferencing Locations:

Site A: ESU 13, Video Room, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, NE 69361;

Site B: Northeast Community College, Maclay Bldg 167A, 801 E. Benjamin Ave., Norfolk, NE 68701;

Site C: Schuyler Community Schools, 401 Adam St., Schuyler, NE 68661

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Mark Askren, University of Nebraska

Ms. Carla Streff, Alt. for 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 Stortz, Alt. for Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School

Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Schuyler Public Schools

Mr. Steve Hotovy, Nebraska State College System

Mr. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University

Ms. Mary Niemiec, University of Nebraska (remotely from Chicago)

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: Ms. Emily Tobias, Sargent Public Schools; Ms. SuAnn Witt, NDE; and Dr. Kathleen Fimple, CCPE

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Dr. Mike Lucas, York Public Schools; Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09 ; Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO; Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College; Mr. Gary Targoff, NET; and Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 3

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

Co-Chair, Mary Niemiec, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am CT. Roll call was taken and found 11 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 21, 2016. The agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) October 21, 2016. The Open Meeting Laws document was located on the counter of the Videoconferencing Room.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 21, 2016 MEETING*

Co-Chair, Mary Niemiec, asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, a motion was requested.

Mr. Dunning moved to approve the October 19, 2016 meeting agenda. Mr. Carpenter seconded. Askren-Yes, Streff-Yes, Brown-Yes, Carpenter –Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Stortz-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Maschman-Yes. All were in favor 11-0-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE [MINUTES](#) FROM THE 10/19/2016 MEETING*

Co-chair, Mary Niemiec, asked if there were any corrections to the 8/31/2016 meeting minutes. Hearing, none, a motion was requested.

Mr. Hotovy moved to approve the August 31, 2016 minutes. Mr. Maschman seconded. Askren-Yes, Streff-Yes, Brown-Yes, Carpenter –Yes, Chrisman-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Dunning-Yes, Stortz-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Maschman-Yes. All were in favor 11-0-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

[PRESENTATION: ACCESSIBILITY FOR DIGITAL LEARNERS](#)

Christy A. Horn, PhD., ADA Compliance Officer, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Following are excerpts taken from the presentation (click on link for full presentation). Council members asked questions as the presentation proceeded.

State and Federal Requirement ADA and Section 501:

- All public schools (K-20) are subject to Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - There have been no recent revisions of the 508 standards or official ADA accessible technology guidelines.
 - However, it has been made official by the United States Department of Justice that they will adopt the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).
 - Currently K-12 schools in Arizona, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington State are in litigation over the accessibility of their websites.
 - There also have been a significant number of settlement agreements across the country with both public and private colleges and universities (ex., Montana, Penn State, Miami University, Ohio State, University of Cincinnati).
- Private schools are covered under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act which is also under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice.

Section 504. Is an anti-discrimination measure comparable to The Americans with Disabilities Act that addresses an individual student's needs. It requires that an individual with a disability must have equal access to all programs, services, and activities in all institutions receiving federal subsidies. Web-based communications for public educational institutions are covered by 504, as are the provision of accessible materials such as electronic text, braille, captioned video and other classroom materials.

Section 508. Mandates that federal agencies make electronic information accessible to members of the public and employees with disabilities. Section 508 applies to public schools at all levels receiving federal funding.

Americans with Disabilities Act Title II. Prohibits disability discrimination for all public entities at the local and state level. School, courts, police departments, and any government entity must comply regardless of whether they receive federal funds. Both Section 504 and Title II are enforced by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR).

American with Disabilities Act Title III: Applies to commercial entities and "public accommodations," which includes private educational institutions. As under Title II, no individual with a disability may be discriminated against with regard to full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation. This includes websites and accessible educational materials.

Items that are most likely to be out of compliance include the following:

- Page titles
- Images
- Headings
- Menus
- Contrast ratio
- Text re-sizing flexibility
- Keyboard access and visual focus
- Forms, labels, and error interaction
- Multimedia
- Basic navigational structure

Legal implications for failing to accommodate could result in settlements with strict timelines for compliance. If the Department of Justice files against an institution, it can cost substantial legal fees and there can be judgments that include fines and money to the complainants. Ultimately, federal funding can be withheld if an institution doesn't comply.

The following links were provided to the council members to assist with website compliance:

- Contrast and colors - <http://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker>
- Semantics for formatting HTML - <http://webaim.org/techniques/semantic> structure
- Text alternatives - <http://webaim.org/techniques.alttext>
- Ability to navigate with the keyboard:
 - www.nngroup.com/articles/keyboardaccessibility
 - <http://webaim.org/techniques/skipnav>
- Easy to navigate and find information – <http://webaim.org/techniques/sitetools/>
- Properly formatting tables – <http://webaim.org/techniques/tables/data>
- Making PDFs accessible - <http://webaim.org/techniques/acrobat/acrobat>

In addition the following handouts were distributed to the council members:

- [DCMP Captioning Key](#)
- [WebAim Checklist](#)

The council thanks Dr. Horn for the informational session. She offered her assistance to the Council members as well.

NETWORK NEBRASKA INITIATIVE UPDATE - ACTION ITEMS AND TASK GROUPS

Network Nebraska is in its 10th year of operation. There are currently 291 members participating. Approximately 50% of private higher educational institutions and 20% of private schools are involved. There is some inquiries originating from libraries and municipalities, which were specifically mentioned as part of the original legislation, only "local government". Next summer, Hastings Public Library and Omaha Public Libraries have expressed interest in joining the network. They will have their own technical persons and would pay a fee for participation. County government entities have a pathway through the OCIO Intergovernmental Data Services. In addition, Natural Resource Districts may eventually qualify to be part of the network, if considered local government. An RFP has been released for 22 WAN circuits for the participants. This RFP will be followed up with another RFP to replace the backbone, including Northeast Nebraska. Members received the "[Network Nebraska Northeast Nebraska Fiber Loop Project Executive Briefing](#)" draft document for review and recommendation. Infrastructure is lacking in the northeast portion of the state which will affect economic development, education and job growth. It was suggested to include the Grand Island hub in the document as part of the backbone.

The Telehealth network was developed in 2005 and is privately and federally funded. They are separate networks but can peer with Network Nebraska through UNMC. Due to differences in funding, rural health and public service commission and federal agencies, the networks were originally separated. There is a lot of health education and careers that could benefit from programmatic collaboration. In Nebraska, the

education and telehealth networks have not converged like they have in some other states like Missouri and Utah.

Council members were asked to review the draft document and send their recommendations to Mr. Rolfes.

The Council member reviewed progress on the NITC Strategic Initiative action items.

NETWORK NEBRASKA INITIATIVE UPDATE - ACTION ITEMS AND TASK GROUPS

1.1 Develop strategy to accommodate community affiliate connections

The action item has been declared as nearly completed. The CIO approved the paper to accommodate non-educational entities so will keep this action item in place for now.

1.2 Use automated tools to monitor the network and

1.3 Implement incident management and change control

Action items 1.2 and 1.3 have to do with security management. The Council will have a demonstration at a future meeting.

1.4 NNAG, CAP guide OCIO's network decision-making (Draft Backbone Document)

It was recommended to continue this action item.

1.5 Review and update security services and practices

This action item is ongoing. Workshops have been held for K12 on network security. There will be more presentations in April at NETA Conference but would like more opportunities to present. Council members were asked to contact Mr. Rolfes regarding other conferences and venues to present. The Council wants to promote awareness about Network Nebraska.

2.1 Develop and implement a communications strategy

2.2 Conduct annual survey of NN Participants

The Council would like to develop a communication strategy for action items 2.1 and 2.2. The OCIO has a Public Information Officer. The Governor wants to do a press release about Network Nebraska very soon. The survey document is ready. Now is the time to review and/or rethink the survey which would include potential services. The OCIO is pursuing aggregation of all circuit invoices and E-rate filing on circuits for Network Nebraska. For any entities that are on the state contract, by July 1, 2018, the OCIO will volunteer to take over the payment to vendors and file the E-rate on behalf of the entities (higher education and K12 entities). Currently, that means processing approximately 240 invoices. The OCIO is exploring the possibility of hiring a staff person to help with accounts payable and E-rate recordkeeping. Other states are already doing this. The question was asked as to how this would impact ESU funding regarding staffing. The OCIO would be interested in contracting with ESU's for staffing time. There will be more discussions about this issue in the near future. This was suggested as an agenda item for the February council meeting.

DIGITAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE UPDATE - ACTION ITEMS AND TASK GROUPS

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

There has been no activity with this action item.

2.1 Conduct a collaborative research project of infrastructure and pedagogy

Mr. Dunning has been working with Ken Sawyer at EDUCAUSE and has also been working on the charter for the Next Generation Digital Learning Environment. Mr. Carpenter offered his assistance.

2.2 Identify opportunities for institutional collaboration

Ms. Niemiec recommended having a brainstorming session and invite others outside of the council to participate.

2.3 Identify and mitigate challenges for student transitions

This action item is tied with the student transition study and involves an academic facet.

2.4 Create guide of flexible learning technologies

It was recommended to develop a list of Flexible Learning Technologies.

2.5 Encourage vendors to implement data exchange standards

Mr. Dunning had considered data exchange standards as part of the collaborative research product.

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

3.2 EC/CC collaboration for affordable and accessible Internet access

Mr. Rolfes created, and Dr. Hoelsing and Ms. Niemec presented, the "[Assessing and Treating Impediments to Internet Access for Economically Challenged Students and those who reside in Unserved and Underserved Areas](#)" briefing document for the Council members review. There are two major thrusts that all educational entities need to address. Many schools are sending school-owned devices home with students who don't have wired Internet access. It was recommended that school administrators do studies to determine how many student families do not have suitable Internet at home.

3.3 Promote accessible products and services to achieve equity of access

Dr. Christy Horn's presentation was very helpful. The accessibility requirements are tied to action item 2.5 as well. Mr. Carpenter and Ms. Witt volunteered to develop a project charter and work with Dr. Horn on developing a study.

Another topic suggested for the February meeting was a discussion of an Education Council newsletter or a formal notification system for members.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Niemiec and Dr. Fimple informed the Council that the SARA Reciprocity may be affected by the Higher Education Reauthorization relating to distance education. States can also make their own rules. Kentucky for example, is requiring additional authorization requirements for teaching degrees. If every state will be able to do this, it will take the program back to square one. There are concerns and questions and they will keep the Council posted.

AGENDA ITEMS AND LOCATION FOR THE 2/15/2017 MEETING

The February meeting will be a video conference meeting. Agenda items will include: Project charters, Action Item Brainstorming, Network Nebraska aggregated invoicing, Legislative update, and Education Council Communications/Newsletter.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hotovy moved to adjourn. Mr. Askren seconded. All were in favor 11-0-0. Motion carried.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Ms. Lori Lopez Urdiales, and reviewed by Tom Rolfes, Nebraska Information Technology Commission.