

NCTE GENERAL MEETING
Friday, March 9, 2012
University of Nebraska-Omaha

Present: HED - S. Alford, R. Bork, M. Crouse, L. Forester, P. Heckman, J. Kupper, M. Losey, D. Ponec, K. Rempp, K. Rohwer, B. Schnabel, N. Schnoor, Merryellen Towey-Schulz, T. Wandzilak, K. Wheeler, D. White

NCAPE – Barb Schweiger

NASB – J. Vlach

NCSA – M. Adler, J. Beach, F. Helmink, M. Lenihan, L. Moeller, K. Ryan

TSB –

NSEA – S. Bartholomew, N. Bateman, S. Brown, D. Casey, T. Coe, T. Heese, D. Jankovich, P. Ludeke, L. Mihm, D. Moss, S. Ptacek, C. Rice, J. Sears, S. Stake, M. Tebbe

NPTA –

ALM – Chris Gay, M. Schlieder

NDE – S. Katt, K. Peters

Guests: HED – B. DeHart, B. Perlewitz, T. Smith, L. Zeller, M. Lundgren, Chris Townsend-Frey, L. Danielson, P. Spethman, P. Rippe

NCSA – D. Ernst

NDE – P. Madsen, J. Woodland, T. Parker, J. Havelka, M. Beiermann

Absent Without Alternate Replacement:

NASB – K. Danek, N. Huston, S. Jensen

NCSA – A. Auten, D. Bird, B. Habrock, B. Hastings, J. Lopez, D. Vitosh

TSB – D. Freese, T. Von Essen

NPTA – J. Mitzelfelt

<p>HED-Higher Education NCAPE-NE Council on American Private Education NASB-NE Association of School Boards NCSA-NE Council of School Administrators TSB-Teacher State Board Appointed NSEA-NE State Education Association NPTA-NE Parent Teacher Association ALM-At-Large Members NDE-NE Dept. of Education</p>
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Welcome Address: Presented by Dean Nancy Edick, UNO College of Education at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Called to Order: President Schnabel called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Declaration of Legal Meeting and Open Meetings Act: by President Schnabel.

Public Comments: Forester invited the membership to hear Dr. Jonathan Kozol, educator and child advocate, speak at Doane College on March 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of the October 7, 2011 NCTE General Session Meeting Minutes: Sears noted a correction was necessary--to change the 'P' in front of Alan Bone's name to an 'A' in the attendance section of the minutes. Correction has been made. Jankovich moved and Ponec seconded; minutes approved.

Executive Committee Minutes: January 26, 2012 minutes reviewed by President Schnabel.

Rule Status Report: S. Katt

- Rule 21 – signed by Governor, effective December 11, 2011

- Rule 25 – signed by Governor, effective January 9, 2012
- Rule 24 – Public hearing held December 13, 2011. State Board approval January 10, 2012. Anticipated effective date August 1, 2012. For clarification, Madsen explained that the Information Technology Leadership endorsement is not a teaching endorsement.

Katt stressed that NCTE has a responsibility and opportunity to impact Nebraska educator preparation. National and state discussions are focusing on multiple aspects of educator preparation including: increased accountability and transparency of outcomes based upon professional and academic standards, data-informed processes to validate that programs are producing quality teachers, strengthened field-based experiences, and alternate delivery and preparation methods. NCTE has the challenge to consider the implications of the changing needs of our educational system and how that impacts the preparation of Nebraska educators.

Rule 24 Endorsements: P. Madsen

Madsen explained the process to be used when reviewing endorsements. The endorsements ready for full council action include: Superintendent (field); Science (subject) endorsements: Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Space, and Physics; and Language Arts endorsements: Speech (subject), Theater (subject), Reading and Writing (supplemental), and Reading Specialist (Subject/graduate level). The Science (field) endorsement is ready for first and second readings. Proposed endorsements ready for discussion by the council include the Language Arts (field) and English (subject). The Executive Committee has made the recommendation that the Language Arts Ad Hoc Committee be reconvened to re-examine all Language Arts area endorsements.

1. Superintendent – Jim Havelka, Superintendent Endorsement Ad Hoc chair, and Dan Ernst, Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA) presented the endorsement changes. The endorsement would now be a two-tiered endorsement. Candidates would:
 - a. Complete the preparation program and receive an “Initial Superintendent” endorsement on their certificate.
 - b. Complete a professional development/mentoring program during the first year of employment in a position requiring the superintendent endorsement. This program would involve collaboration with a higher education institution and an educational professional organization that provides statewide professional development and training specifically for school administrators and would be at least 90 clock hours (equivalent to 3 credit hours) of professional development experiences gained during the year. The mentoring team would include a business manager and a fellow superintendent to assist, guide, and support the new superintendent. If the mentoring/professional development experience is not successfully completed, the initial superintendent endorsement would lapse and the candidate could not be employed as a school superintendent in Nebraska.

Candidates with a provisional endorsement are to complete the professional development mentoring experience during their first year of employment as a superintendent, even though they still have course work to complete. Those coming into the state would also complete the professional development/mentoring experience during their first year of employment as a superintendent in the state.

Wandzilak questioned what happens to the candidate if they are not able to finish the program in that first year. The Commissioner can give approval for more time to finish the professional development/mentoring experience in the case of extenuating circumstances. Wandzilak stressed that those currently in the superintendent programs will need to be informed of the mentoring requirement and the limited time frame to get that professional development/mentoring experience completed. He also suggested getting feedback to

NCTE concerning the progress of this after it has been in place for a year or two. Ernst replied they are working on transition plans for new superintendents. Currently, almost all new superintendents participate in the NCSA mentoring program. Bateman questioned if there is a possibility for re-entry. The Commissioner would determine if the candidate can re-enter the program. They could also apply for positions in other states.

2. Science – Jim Woodland, NDE/Science Endorsement Ad Hoc committee chair, presented the science endorsement. The Guidelines will follow the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Standards, 2011. The major changes are:
 - a. Remove the Physical Science field endorsement.
 - b. Increase the minimum required hours for the Science field endorsement to 60 credit hours—24 credit hours in one of the sciences and 12 credit hours in each of the other three science areas (36 credit hours).

Kupper questioned the meaning of the words ‘evenly distributed’ in the endorsement. Woodland explained it was meant to ensure a balanced background in all science areas. Sears suggested perhaps we should look at the outcomes for candidates rather than a credit-hour requirement. Forester stressed the pressure to graduate students in four years, and additional hours make that task more difficult.

- c. Science subject endorsements (Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Space, and Physics) requirements increased to 36 credit hours (rather than 30 credit hours.)
3. Language Arts – Tricia Parker, NDE/Language Arts Endorsement Ad Hoc committee chair, presented the endorsement. The Guidelines follow the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Standards, 2012 and the International Reading Association (IRA) Standards, 2010. Proposed changes include:
 - a. Language Arts (field)—change required minimum hours to 60 credit hours, and add a reading instruction requirement. Sears commented that NSEA would like the Language Arts field endorsement to go back to the ad hoc committee for further consideration.
 - b. English—increase the required minimum hours to 36 credit hours and add a reading instruction requirement.
 - c. Reading and Writing—this would become a supplemental endorsement (18 credit hours) at both the PK-6 and 7-12 levels (rather than just 7-12).
 - d. Reading Specialist—becomes PK-12, and remains a graduate level endorsement. Moss questioned the 30-credit hour minimum, as it is a graduate level endorsement.
 - e. Speech and Theatre subject endorsements—no major changes. There are no National Standards. Moss questioned the consistency of using the ‘act as a resource person for curricular activities’ language.
 - f. Eliminate Journalism and Mass Communications (subject) and Speech and Theatre (field) due to extremely low numbers of candidates completing those endorsements and limited teaching assignments.

Ad Hoc Update: P. Madsen

1. Mathematics— Ad Hoc Committee met February 16, 2012. Ad Hoc Committee is currently reviewing the proposed endorsement.
2. Speech Language Pathologist - met on February 28 and is currently reviewing both the Speech-Language Pathologist and Speech-Language Technician (Special Services) endorsements. It would

be helpful if all candidates applied for their teaching endorsement upon completion of the masters program.

3. Early Childhood Education committee will meet on March 20. Plans are to introduce two revised Early Childhood endorsements: Early Childhood Special Education (Graduate level) and Early Childhood Education Unified. Eliminating the traditional Early Childhood Endorsement brought much reaction from Rempp, Forester, and Moss. District needs are an issue. Rempp stressed that a generalist endorsement would probably eliminate the ability to offer the Early Childhood Education Unified endorsement at some institutions.

NDE Update:

Rule 20 and Educator Preparation Initiatives: S. Katt reported Rule 20 is still undergoing revisions.

Rule 21 and Teacher Certification Updates: K. Peters stated that Rule 21 was approved in December 2011. The retiring teachers system has been cleaned up, and Teacher Certification is getting a scanner for more accurate records documentation and will allow records to be stored electronically. Teacher Certification issues include how to interpret online courses and programs, and traditional programs versus competency-based programs. Do we need to define online programs/courses in Rule 21 in the future?

Program Approvals – P. Madsen reported that Chadron State College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and Concordia University will have folio reviews during the summer of 2012. Sign-up sheets are available during Standing Committee meetings.

NCATE recalibration training is tentatively planned for mid-June for those who are already state-NCATE trained. An overall NCATE state training is on hold until the new CAEP model has been determined.

National and State Initiatives: Sears reported that the Commission on Effective Teaching, a very forward-looking article from NEA is on the NCTE website.

Lunch: Lunch was provided by UNO and served at 12:00 noon.

Standing Committees Session: 12:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Second General Session: President Schnabel resumed the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Reports from Standing Committees:

Undergraduate Committee - Forester for Bone

Recommendations:

- a. Move the Science subject endorsements (Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Space, and Physics) for final approval, and delete the word “evenly” in each.
- b. Remove the Physical Science field endorsement.
- c. Return the Science field endorsement back to the ad hoc committee for revision and present to June NCTE meeting for final approval.
- d. Recommend Language Arts Ad Hoc Committee reconvene for further discussion of Language Arts area endorsements – English Language Arts Field endorsement with areas of specialization at undergraduate level, Reading Specialist Subject at Graduate level, Reading and Writing (PK-6, 7-12) Supplemental.
- e. Go to competencies rather than the number of hours in endorsement programs.

Certification Committee – Adler

Recommendations/Questions:

- a. Wording Change in Superintendent Standards 7 and 8 to read: “As part of a superintendent program, the superintendent will complete a field based experience”
- b. Standard 9 should stand as it is currently written.
- c. Move the Superintendent endorsement to the General Assembly with the recommended wording changes. Moved by Wandzilak and seconded by Schlieder. Motion passed.

Graduate Committee – Jankovich

Recommendations:

- a. Would like NDE to investigate options available to those who do not complete the professional development/mentoring experience and therefore have a lapsed endorsement. Does the initial superintendent endorsement and professional development/mentoring experience requirement apply to those who received their superintendent endorsement prior to the implementation of these changes and have not yet been in a superintendent position?
- b. Recommend superintendent endorsement for final approval with these changes: Paragraph 5 of 005.03D2 –change the word “can” to “may” in the 2nd sentence to read “Candidates who have failed to complete the professional development and mentoring experience during the first year of employment in a position code requiring the Superintendent endorsement “may” appeal . . .
- c. Change the Standard 7 wording to read: “As a part of the superintendent’s program, complete field based experiences in which the candidate will”
The rest of the wording in the standard remains the same.
- d. Change the Standard 8 wording to read: “As part of a superintendent’s program, complete a standards-based Internship Experience in which the candidate will”
The rest of the wording in the standard remains the same.

Full Council Action:

- a. Jankovich moved the Superintendent Endorsement forward (with recommended changes) for roll call vote. Vote taken. Motion passed.
- b. Forester moved the Undergraduate Science endorsement (subject) forward with corrections, and removal of the Physical Science Field endorsement for roll call vote. Vote taken. Motion passed.

Other Items:

Havelka discussed the Teacher and Performance Frameworks. He and Donlynn Rice (NDE) are working to develop teacher evaluation procedure models. These models would be used and adapted by districts for use in teacher evaluation procedures.

Katt reported that the Platte Institute report gives Nebraska a poor grade, which is misleading. We need to replace bad information with the good things taking place concerning teacher preparation programs in Nebraska. Need to look at good practices, promote good practices, and reward good practices.

Katt thanked Neal Schnoor and Karen Buller for their work with NCTE. Katt then thanked UNO for hosting the meeting and providing lunch for the membership.

The June 8 NCTE meeting will be held in Lincoln at the Country Inn and Suites.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.