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NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nebraska Department of Education

Minutes of Legislative Retreat

January 23, 2012

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE RETREAT – Monday, January 23, 2012

The State Board of Education met for purposes of a legislative retreat on Monday, January 23, 2012, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The retreat was held at the State Office Building in the State Board Meeting Room in Lincoln, Nebraska. Publicized notice of the retreat was given by posting notice on the Department’s website on the internet; emailed to news media requesting notification and posting a copy of the agenda in the Office of the Commissioner of Education, which gave the date, time and location of the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 President Jim Scheer called the meeting to order at 8:43 a.m. Roll call showed the following Board members present: Jim Scheer, Mark Quandahl, Rebecca Valdez, Patricia Timm, Robert Evnen, Lynn Cronk, John Sieler, and Molly O’Holleran. Commissioner Breed was also present.
- 1.2 President Scheer announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. President Scheer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. REVIEW OF 2012 PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATION

Vice President Mark Quandahl, Chair of Legislative Committee, facilitated the discussion. The position of the Nebraska Department of Education on legislative bills will be neutral with technical support of Department staff when no other position is adopted by the Board.

Bills with hearings January 23:

LB 809 – Change provisions relating to evaluation of certificated employees of schools

Motion by Robert Evnen, second by Molly O’Holleran: To take a neutral position on LB 809 with Board and staff testimony. Testimony to include informing the Committee of the actions the State Board has taken with establishing an evaluation framework for teachers and principals and the continuing work to establish a model evaluation tool. The Board would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee and Senator Lautenbaugh on the evaluation.

Voting Yes: Cronk, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Sieler, Evnen, O'Holleran, Timm

The motion passed.

LB 895 - Provide for teacher certification for military spouses

Motion by Jim Scheer, second by Patricia Timm: To take a neutral position on LB 895 with staff technical testimony.

Voting Yes: Cronk, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Sieler, Evnen, O'Holleran, Timm

The motion passed.

Other Bills with later hearing dates:

LB 996 - Change provisions relating to compulsory attendance

Motion by Jim Scheer, second by Molly O'Holleran: To support LB 996 with a letter of support from the Board.

Voting Yes: Cronk, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Sieler, Evnen, O'Holleran, Timm

The motion passed.

LB 917 - Change truancy provisions for absences relating to military employment activities

LB 933 - Change provisions relating to Truancy

LB 1165 - Change provisions relating to truancy and excessive absenteeism

Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Rebecca Valdez: To oppose LB 917, LB 933 and LB 1165 with a letter from the Board and Staff testimony. The letter will convey to the Judiciary Committee that school officials and county attorneys have worked together to improve the process and that absenteeism numbers have declined.

Voting Yes: Cronk, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Evnen, O'Holleran, Timm

Voting No: Sieler

The motion passed.

LB 1124 - Provide for designation of priority schools

Motion by Jim Scheer, second by Robert Evnen: To oppose LB 1124 with a letter from the Board, Board testimony, and staff testimony. The Board expressed a concern for their lack of involvement and input in the drafting of the bill and the data burden. Also concerns that ESUs serve to intervene when OPS and LPS have their own ESUs.

Voting Yes: Cronk, Scheer, Quandahl, Sieler, Evnen, O'Holleran, Timm

Voting No: Valdez

The motion passed.

President Scheer called for a break at 10:00 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:15 a.m.

LB 1131 – Adopt the Innovation, Discovery, Entrepreneurial Act

After discussion, no action was taken.

LB 1144 – Provide for career academy schools

Motion by Jim Scheer, second by Robert Evnen: To take a neutral position on LB 1144 with a letter from the Board indicating support for career academy schools and their presence now across the state but with concerns with using TEEOSA dollars. The Board welcomes the opportunity to work with the Committee on a definition of a career academy school.

Voting Yes: Cronk, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Sieler, Evnen, O'Holleran, Timm

The motion passed.

LB 1020 – Adopt the Nebraska Coordinated School Health Act

Motion by Robert Evnen, second by John Sieler: To oppose LB 1020 with a letter from the Board indicating concern for further diluting of available lottery funds for the core mission of providing education. The Board would support the districts deciding on providing the school health facility.

Voting Yes: Cronk, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Sieler, Evnen, O'Holleran, Timm

The motion passed.

LB 1038 – Require blood-lead testing prior to school enrollment

Motion by Rebecca Valdez to support LB 1038. There was no second to the motion.

After discussion, no action was taken.

LB 1090 – Provide for the awarding of grants and the distribution of information relating to the Summer Food Service Program by the State Department of Education

After discussion, no action was taken.

LB 1079 – Provide grants for educational bridge programs for low-income adults.

Motion by Jim Scheer, second by Robert Evnen: To oppose LB 1079 with a letter from the Board and Department Staff available for testimony. The letter to include concern for use of lottery funds for the program.

Voting Yes: Cronk, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Sieler, Evnen, O'Holleran, Timm

The motion passed.

LB 884 – Create the Agricultural Literacy Task Force – Hearing January 31

Motion by Jim Scheer, second by Rebecca Valdez: To oppose LB 884 with a letter from the Board indicating the current review of Social Studies standards is already underway, an invitation for members of the agricultural community to be a part of the standards review process, and for the need to collaborate with the Department of Education on these matters.

Voting Yes: Cronk, Scheer, Valdez, Sieler, Evnen, O'Holleran, Timm

Voting No: Quandahl

The motion passed.

LB 913 – change base limitation provisions and certain dates relating to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act

947 – Change averaging adjustment and a certification date under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act

1156 – Exempt non-equalized schools from expenditure limits in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act

Motion by Lynn Cronk, second by Robert Evnen: To take a neutral stand on LB 913 and LB 947.

Lynn Cronk withdrew her motion with the agreement of the second.

No other action taken.

LB 1168 – Adopt the School District Purchasing Act

After discussion, no action was taken.

LB 1045 – Authorize school district expenditures in case of disaster or emergency as prescribed

After discussion, no action was taken.

LB 991 – Provide for a study relating to countywide school districts

After discussion, no action was taken.

LB990 – Change flag display provisions for schools and require recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Jim Scheer, second by Robert Evnen: To support LB 990 with Board testimony and letter of support to include the importance of civic responsibility.

Voting Yes: Cronk, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Sieler, Evnen, O’Holleran, Timm

The motion passed.

LB 1105 – Change and eliminate provisions relating to schools with possible lottery funds amendment (NDE technical amendment bill)

Motion by Jim Scheer, second by Rebecca Valdez: To support LB 1105 with a letter from the Board and staff testimony.

Voting Yes: Cronk, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Sieler, Evnen, O’Holleran, Timm

The motion passed.

LB 1074 – Provide duties for the State Department of Education relating to Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

After discussion, no action was taken.

LB 1068 – Create and provide duties for the Medicaid in the Public Schools Task Force

Motion by Jim Scheer, second by Rebecca Valdez: To support LB 1068 with a letter from the Board.

Voting Yes: Cronk, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Sieler, Evnen, O’Holleran, Timm

The motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Scheer adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.