

PLEASE NOTE: Support documentation for agenda items can be accessed through the posted [Agenda](#).

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nebraska Department of Education

Minutes of Legislative Retreat

January 27, 2014

MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE RETREAT – Monday, January 27, 2014

The State Board of Education met for purposes of a legislative retreat on Monday, January 27, 2014, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The retreat was held at the State Office Building in the Vocational Rehabilitation Conference 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 Rachel Wise called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Roll call showed the following Board members present: Patricia Timm, Lynn Cronk, John Sieler, Lillie Larsen, Rachel Wise, and Molly O’Holleran. Rebecca Valdez and Mark Quandahl were absent. Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

1.2 President Wise announced the location of the Open Meetings Act. President Wise led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Molly O’Holleran, second by Patricia Timm: To approve the agenda for the January 27, 2014, retreat as posted.

Voting Yes: Larsen, Cronk, Sieler, Timm, O’Holleran, Wise
Absent: Quandahl, Valdez

The motion passed.

3. Consider acceptance of the resignation of State Board member Mark Quandahl, District 2

President Wise presented the letter of resignation of Mark Quandahl. With regret, Patricia Timm moved and Lillie Larsen seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Mark Quandahl.

Voting Yes: Larsen, Cronk, Sieler, Timm, O'Holleran, Wise
Absent: Valdez
Vacant: District 2

The motion passed. Board members expressed appreciation for Mr. Quandahl's work on the Board and regrets for his resignation.

4. Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Lynn Cronk: To accept a gift of \$85,000 from the Estate of Lyle Dean Jay to support the mission and purpose of the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired.

Voting Yes: Larsen, Cronk, Sieler, Timm, O'Holleran, Wise
Absent: Valdez
Vacant: District 2

The motion passed.

5. **Board Committee Update**

President Wise announced Board Committee assignments.

6. **Board goal setting and/or strategic planning**

Commissioner Blomstedt led a discussion on Board goal setting and strategic planning to guide the work of the Board.

At 10:00 a.m., President Wise called for a break. The meeting resumed at 10:20 a.m.

7. **Review 2014 proposed state legislation and take action on Board positions**

Brian Halstead, Assistant Commissioner, reviewed 2014 proposed state legislation. (Handout: 2014 Legislative Session New Bills Introduced Pertaining to Education)

The first bills reviewed are scheduled for hearing on January 27, 2014.

LB872 create the position of state school security director and provide duties

Motion by Lynn Cronk, second by Molly O'Holleran: To support LB 872 with staff testimony.

Voting Yes: Larsen, Cronk, Sieler, Timm, O'Holleran, Wise
Absent: Valdez
Vacant: District 2

LB 741 Require schools to have a policy relating to tornado drills as prescribed
No position taken.

LB782 Establish a return to learn protocol for students who have sustained a concussion
No position taken.

LB 923 Require training on suicide awareness and prevention for school personnel
No position taken.

The following bills reviewed are scheduled for hearing on January 28, 2014.

LB966 – Change provisions relating to the averaging adjustment in the state aid to schools formula
No position taken.

LB952 Adopt the Working to Improve Nebraska Schools Act
Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Molly O'Holleran: To oppose LB 952 with staff testimony.

Voting Yes: Larsen, Cronk, Sieler, Timm, O'Holleran, Wise
Absent: Valdez
Vacant: District 2

The motion passed. The Board also discussed President Wise appearing in opposition to the bill noting the classification system, change in teacher requirements and concern for expanded learning.

LB682 Provide for formation of allied school systems as prescribed
No action taken.

The following bills reviewed are scheduled for hearing on February 3, 2014.

LB835 Extend a pilot project relating to college entrance exams
Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Lillie Larsen: To support LB 835 with staff testimony.

Voting Yes: Larsen, Cronk, Sieler, Timm, O'Holleran, Wise
Absent: Valdez
Vacant: District 2

The motion passed.

LB 692 Change and eliminate provisions relating to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Act
No position taken.

LB 729 Create the Task Force on Expanded Learning Opportunities for School-Age Youth
Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Molly O'Holleran: To support LB 729 with a letter from the Board President and staff testimony.

Voting Yes: Larsen, Cronk, Sieler, Timm, O'Holleran, Wise
Absent: Valdez
Vacant: District 2

The motion passed. The letter of support will include a statement of the State Board policy on extended learning opportunities and reiterating the support of extended learning opportunities and structures.

The following bills reviewed are scheduled for hearing on February 4, 2014.

LB1069 Change provisions relating to education

Motion by Molly O'Holleran, second by Lillie Larsen: To support LB 1069 with staff testimony.

Voting Yes: Larsen, Cronk, Sieler, Timm, O'Holleran, Wise
Absent: Valdez
Vacant: District 2

The motion passed.

LB864 Allocate funds to the Early Childhood Education Grant Program

LB984 Change allocations from the Education Innovation Fund

LB967 Change provisions relating to state aid to schools and funding for early childhood education programs

Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Molly O'Holleran: To support expansion of early childhood education in LB 864, LB 984, and LB 967 with a letter from the Board and staff testimony.

Voting Yes: Larsen, Cronk, Sieler, Timm, O'Holleran, Wise
Absent: Valdez
Vacant: District 2

The motion passed. The letter of support will support a consistent message for funding for early childhood education and increase funding for early childhood education.

LB 992 Create the Early Childhood Data Governing Body

No position taken.

The following bills were also reviewed:

LB1103 Strategic planning process for Education

Motion by Lynn Cronk, second by Molly O'Holleran: to support LB 1103 with a letter from the Board.

Voting Yes: Larsen, Cronk, Sieler, Timm, O'Holleran, Wise
Absent: Valdez
Vacant: District 2

The motion passed. The bill will be monitored and support provided as the process develops.

LB1099 Provide for a study relating to state aid to schools

No position taken.

LR 421CA Constitutional amendment to eliminate references to the State Board of Education, State Department of Education, and the Commissioner of Education

Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Lynn Cronk: To oppose LR 421CA.

Voting Yes: Larsen, Cronk, Sieler, Timm, O'Holleran, Wise
Absent: Valdez
Vacant: District 2

The motion passed.

President Wise reminded Board members to review the entire legislative document before the February 3-4, 2014, meeting.

President Wise called for a break at 12:00 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m.

6. Commissioner Blomstedt continued the discussion of board goal setting and strategic planning.

Dean Folkers, Department of Education representative, reviewed the resources available for reviewing data.

Handout: Sample Nebraska Graduate Feedback Report
Handout: Pictograph Nebraska Dept. of Education
Handout: Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence – 2012 Update

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Wise adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.