

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
December 11-12, 2013

The State Board of Education met for purposes of a special meeting Wednesday, December 11, 2013, beginning at 8:45 a.m. The session was held at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, 333 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. Publicized notice of the session 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**

President Patricia Timm called the session to order at 8:49 a.m. Board members present were Patricia Timm, Mark Quandahl, Rebecca Valdez, Rachel Wise, Lynn Cronk, John Sieler, Lillie Larsen, and Molly O'Holleran, Deputy Commissioner Scott Swisher was also present.

President Timm led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion by Lynn Cronk, second by Rebecca Valdez: To approve the December 11-12 agenda for the Special Meeting as posted.

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

The motion passed.

**3. ACTION ITEMS**

3.1 The Board conducted an interview with Michael Sentence.

President Timm called for a break at 10:30 a.m. The Board resumed at 10:40 a.m.

3.2 The Board conducted an interview with Norman Ridder.

President Timm called for a break at 12:20 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:20 p.m.

3.3 The Board conducted an interview with Matthew Blomstedt.

President Timm called for a break at 2:37 p.m. The meeting resumed at 3:10 p.m.

3.4 The Board conducted an interview with Virginia Moon.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

President Timm adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013 - SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

The State Board of Education met for purposes of a special meeting Thursday, December 12, 2013, beginning at 8:45 a.m. The session was held at the Cornhusker Marriott Motel, 333 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. Publicized notice of the session 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**

President Patricia Timm called the session to order at 9:05 a.m. Board members present were Patricia Timm, Mark Quandahl, Rebecca Valdez, Rachel Wise, Lynn Cronk, John Sieler, Lillie Larsen, and Molly O'Holleran, Deputy Commissioner Scott Swisher was also present.

President Timm led the Pledge of Allegiance and announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

#### **2. DISCUSSION OF FINALISTS**

President Timm thanked everyone for the diligence and work done over the past several months and reminded Board members that this decision is the most important decision a Board makes.

President Timm asked for input on themes Board Members saw for sharing with the next Commissioner of Education.

Board Members commented on the commissioner search process and appreciated the work the Search Committee and Department staff did on the search. The Board would like to include a public comment time when a new search is held in the future.

The Board discussed the interviews held December 11, 2013, and the various qualifications of the applicants.

#### **4. ACTION ITEMS**

- 4.1 Motion by Lillie Larsen, second by Molly O'Holleran: That the State Board authorize the Board President to make an offer to and negotiate a contract with Matt Blomstedt for the position of Commissioner of Education.

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

The motion passed.

### **3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Mark Quandahl, second by Rebecca Valdez: To go into executive session for the protection of the public interest to receive advice from Legal Counsel regarding the legal consequences of particular actions and to discuss negotiating strategy in connection with the Commissioner's contract.

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

The motion passed. At 10:05 a.m., the Board went into executive session for the protection of the public interest to receive advice from Legal Counsel regarding the legal consequences of particular actions and to discuss negotiating strategy in connection with the Commissioner's contract.

Motion by John Sieler, second by Mollie O'Holleran: To adjourn the Executive Session of the Board and return to the Special Meeting.

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

The motion passed. At 11:12 a.m., the Board adjourned the Executive Session of the Board and returned to the Special Meeting.

President Timm reminded members that the next Board work session and meeting will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, on January 6 and 7, 2014.

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Timm adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.