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NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Nebraska Department of Education
Minutes of Meeting
April 6-7, 2010

MINUTES OF THE WORKSESSION – Tuesday, April 6, 2010

The State Board of Education met for purposes of a worksession on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The session was held at the State Office Building in the State Board Meeting Room in Lincoln, Nebraska. Publicized notice of the session was given by posting notice on the Department’s website on the internet; emailing 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 Imes called the worksession to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll call showed the following Board members present: Robert Evnen, Fred Meyer, Patricia Timm, Rebecca Valdez, Jim Scheer, Kandy Imes, Mark Quandahl, Joe Higgins. Commissioner Breed was also present.
- 1.2 President Imes announced the location of the Open Meetings Act information.

2. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

2.1 Legislation

- 2.1.1 Brian Halstead, Assistant Commissioner, provided an update on State Legislation. (Handout - State Board of Education 2010 Legislative Session April 6-7, 2010)

Vice President Jim Scheer thanked the Legislative Committee for their work on Legislation.
- 2.1.2 Brian Halstead, Assistant Commissioner, provided an update on Federal legislation. (Handout - US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Webpage)

2.1.3 Brian Halstead, Assistant Commissioner, provided a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) P-16 process. President Imes asked Board members to submit suggestions on the MOU to her and Brian Halstead. (Handout: Draft Memorandum of Understanding for Sharing of Student Data between NDE, UN, NSC and NCC)

2.1.4 Russ Inbody, Department of Education Representative, reported on State Aid Certification. Board Member Joe Higgins suggested the Board consider weighing in on formula discussions. Board Member Bob Evnen commended the Department's efforts in working with the complex formula.

2.2 Standards, Assessment and Accountability

2.2.1 Jim Woodland and Donlynn Rice, Department of Education Representatives, provided an update on the Science Standards.

2.2.2 Donlynn Rice and Deb Romanek, Department of Education Representatives, demonstrated the tool for matching Nebraska standards with the Common Core Standards.

2.2.3 Pat Roschewski, Department of Education Representative, provided an update on NeSA and Common Core Assessment consortia. (Handout: State Board of Education Update Work Session April 6, 2010)

2.2.4 Pat Roschewski, Department of Education Representative, provided information on the Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) contract. (Handouts: Proposed Preliminary DRC Budget July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011; and NeSA pricing for year 3 (2011) – original solicitation number: NDE 08-449-02.)

2.3 Statewide System of Support. Deputy Commissioner Scott Swisher provided an update on the Statewide System of Support.

2.4 Early Childhood Education

2.4.1 Melody Hobson, Department of Education Representative, provided an update on the development of Rule 16 (92 NAC 16), *Early Childhood Accreditation*.

2.4.2 Melody Hobson and Eleanor Kirkland, Department of Education Representatives, provided a report on the Early Childhood Statewide Advisory Council grant application.

2.5 Federal Grant Applications

2.5.1 Commissioner Breed provided an update on the Race to the Top application results. (Handout – Race to the Top Phase 1 Final Results)

2.5.4 Marilyn Peterson, Nebraska Department of Education Representative, provided information on Nutrition Services grants.

- 2.5.3 Marilyn Peterson, Nebraska Department of Education Representative, reported on Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) allocations.
- 2.5.2 Marilyn Peterson, Nebraska Department of Education representative, provided information on the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) and School Improvement Grants (SIG). (Handout – PowerPoint PLAS Definition and *Nebraska’s approved definition of Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools.*)

President Imes adjourned the worksession at 5:30 p.m. The remainder worksession items will be taken up during the business meeting of the Board on Wednesday, April 7. Worksession Item 2.7 will be held over until the May Board meeting.

BREAKFAST MEETING – Wednesday, April 7, 2010

The State Board of Education met with Governor Heineman at 7:30 a.m. at the Governor’s Residence. Board members present were Kandy Imes, Jim Scheer, Fred Meyer, Robert Evnen, Patricia Timm, Joe Higgins, Rebecca Valdez, and Mark Quandahl. Commissioner Roger Breed, Deputy Commissioner Scott Swisher, and Assistant Commissioner Brian Halstead also attended.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – Wednesday, April 7, 2010

The State Board of Education met for purposes of a meeting on Wednesday, April 7, 2010, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The session was held at the State Office Building in the State Board Meeting Room in Lincoln, Nebraska. Publicized notice of the session was given by posting notice on the Department’s website on the internet; emailing 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 Roll Call

President Kandy Imes called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Roll call showed the following members present: Jim Scheer, Mark Quandahl, Rebecca Valdez, Patricia Timm, Fred Meyer, Robert Evnen, Kandy Imes, Joe Higgins. Commissioner Breed was also present.

1.2 President Imes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 President Imes announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Jim Scheer: To approve the minutes of the March meeting as published.

Voting Yes: Imes, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Timm, Meyer, Evnen, Higgins

The motion passed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Breed recommended the following changes to the April Agenda:

- Consent Agenda Item 8.6.2 removed, as contract is incomplete, and placed on the May Agenda
- Continue Worksession Items 2.6, 2.8 and 2.9 and take as first order of business for today
- Worksession Item 2.7 removed, as the presenter is not available, and placed on the May Agenda

Motion by Robert Evnen, second by Jim Scheer: To approve the agenda with the recommendations of the Commissioner.

Voting Yes: Imes, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Timm, Meyer, Evnen, Higgins

The motion passed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jay Sears, Nebraska State Education Association, commenting on the Department's Race to the Top application

2. WORKSESSION ITEMS (Continued)

- 2.6 Donlynn Rice and Rich Katt, Department of Education Representatives, discussed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Southern Region Education Board (SREB) and NDE for the participation in the Preparation for Tomorrow - Improved Student Readiness for College and Careers project.

2.6 (continued)

Motion by Robert Evnen, second by Fred Meyer: To amend the Agenda to advance consideration of Action Item 7.5 relating to Worksession Item 2.6.

Voting Yes: Imes, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Higgins, Timm, Meyer, Evnen

The motion passed.

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.5 Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Robert Evnen: To grant the Commissioner authority to approve the memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Southern Region Education Board (SREB and NDE for the participation in the Preparation for Tomorrow – Improved Student Readiness for College and Careers project.

Voting Yes: Imes, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Higgins, Timm, Meyer, Evnen

The motion passed.

2.0 WORKSESSION DISCUSSION ITEMS

2.8 Freida Lange, Department of Education Representative, discussed the continuing approval status of Nonpublic Schools for the School Year 2010-2011 under Rule 14 (92 NAC 14), *Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools*.

2.9 Freida Lange, Department of Education Representative, discussed the continuing accreditation status of Educational Service Units for the 2010-2011 School Year under Rule 84 (92 NAC 84), *Regulations for Educational Service Units*.

Motion by Robert Evnen, second by Fred Meyer: To amend the Agenda to advance consideration of Action Items 7.3 and 7.4 relating to Worksession Items 2.8 and 2.9.

Voting Yes: Imes, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Higgins, Timm, Meyer, Evnen

The motion passed.

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.3 Motion by Robert Evnen, second by Patricia Timm: To approve Nonpublic Schools for the School Year 2010-2011 under Rule 14 (92 NAC 14), *Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools*.

Voting Yes: Imes, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Higgins, Timm, Meyer, Evnen

The motion passed.

Vice President Jim Scheer suggested that the Board consider requiring all Nebraska schools to participate in the NeSA assessment.

7.4 Motion by Robert Evnen, second by Rebecca Valdez: To approve Educational Service Units for the 2010-2011 School Year under Rule 84 (92 NAC 84), *Regulations for Educational Service Units*.

Voting Yes: Imes, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Higgins, Timm, Meyer, Evnen

The motion passed.

7.1 No action was taken with regard to State legislation.

7.2 FIRST TIME CONTRACTS

7.2.1 Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Joe Higgins: To authorize the Commissioner to contract with ACHIEVE for Science Standards validation.

Voting Yes: Imes, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Higgins, Timm, Meyer, Evnen

The motion passed.

Board Member Joe Higgins asked that the Board be advised when the comment period for the Science Standards is announced.

7.2.2 Motion by Rebecca Valdez, second by Patricia Timm: To authorize the Commissioner to contract with David Heil and Associates for Science Standards validation.

Voting Yes: Imes, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Higgins, Timm, Meyer, Evnen

The motion passed.

President Imes called for a break at 9:57 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:25 a.m.

8. CONSENT AGENDA – revised in May 4-5, 2010 minutes.

Motion by Jim Scheer, second by Joe Higgins: To approve the Consent Agenda noting the “original \$\$” amount of the grant under Consent Agenda Item 8.6.1 should read \$21,000.

Voting Yes: Imes, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Higgins, Timm, Meyer, Evnen

The motion passed.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Jim Scheer, second by Fred Meyer: To go into Executive Session for the protection of the public interest in order to discuss the Commissioner’s evaluation among the members and then with the Commissioner.

Voting Yes: Imes, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Higgins, Timm, Meyer, Evnen

The motion passed.

At 10:27 a.m., the Board moved into Executive Session for the protection of the public interest in order to discuss the Commissioner’s evaluation among the members and then with the Commissioner.

Motion by Mark Quandahl, Joe Higgins: To adjourn the Executive Session of the Board and return to the regular meeting of the Board.

Voting Yes: Imes, Scheer, Quandahl, Valdez, Higgins, Timm, Meyer, Evnen

The motion passed. At 11: 17 a.m. the business meeting resumed.

President Imes noted that renewal of the Commissioner’s contract will be placed on the May agenda for action by the Board.

10. BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.1 Joint meetings with policy partners. Board member Rebecca Valdez was invited to attend the American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) fact-finding trip and learning exchange

in Austin, Texas, on *Building System-Wide Capacity for Supporting English Language Learners*. This meeting is scheduled for May.

10.3 Meeting participation.

- NASBE Committee Meetings and Legislative Conference. Jim Scheer, Joe Higgins, and Robert Evnen reported on the meeting in Washington DC held earlier in March.
- Central Region Common Core Standards Presentation. Joe Higgins reported on the meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Higgins indicated that Nebraska needs to remain involved in the discussions of common core standards.
- NASBE Committee Meeting - Partnership with Army. Patricia Timm reported on the Committee meeting. The Committee will meet again in June.
- NASBE Committee on Structure of Schools Study. Kandy Imes reported on the Committee meeting. The committee will meet again in June.
- State Board Legislative Committee. Jim Scheer expressed his appreciation for the assistance and direction provided by Brian Halstead to the Board's Legislative Committee.
- Joe Higgins requested that President Imes appoint a subcommittee to represent the position of the State Board on the Legislature's interim study of TEEOSA. President Imes asked interested Board members to contact her, and a committee will be appointed at the May meeting.
- State Board Policy Committee. Patricia Timm reported that the Committee will begin work on defining board policy and statute policy. The Committee will meet in July.
- Board Retreat. President Imes discussed the scheduling of a Board retreat on May 4. The purposes of the retreat are to review the Board issues of current Board members for possible closure by the end of Board terms and to discuss transition of new board members in January. The retreat will be held May 4, beginning at 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and will be held at the Lincoln Community Foundation Building. President Imes asked Board members to email their comments and thoughts on the topics.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS/WRITTEN REPORTS

- 11.3 Joe Higgins discussed the openings on the NASBE Board which will be filled at the October Meeting in Salt Lake City. The Board will be making selections for the President Elect and Central Area Region Director positions at the May meeting.

ADJOURNMENT. President Imes adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

