

**Minutes of the State Board of Education Work Session**

December 4-5, 2014 2:00 PM  
State Board Meeting Room  
State Office Building, Sixth Floor  
301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1. Roll Call - Attendance Taken at 2:01 PM:**

Present Board Members:

District 6 - Vacant  
Rachel Wise  
Glen Flint  
Lillie Larsen  
John Witzel  
Molly O'Holleran  
John Sieler  
Patricia Timm  
Commissioner Matt Blomstedt

**1.2. Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information**

**2. BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**2.1. Dates for joint meetings with policy partners**

**2.2. Approve request for meeting attendance**

Board members discussed upcoming meetings with policy partners.

**2.3. Meeting participation**

Board members shared information from meetings recently attended.

**2.3. A. 2015 NASBE Updates**

Board members submitted preferences for committee work with NASBE.

John Witzel - career readiness

Molly O'Holleran - government affairs

Lillie Larsen - public education

Maureen Nickels, new District 6 Board member - new leaders, new schools

Pat McPherson, new District 8 Board member - finance

### **3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND AGENDA OVERVIEW**

#### **3.1. Consent agenda process**

Commissioner Blomstedt reminded Board members to review the items on the Consent Agenda

#### **3.2. Recognition of Retiring World Language Director, NDE employee**

The Board recognized the service of Vickie Scow with World Language upon her retirement from the Department of Education.

### **4. DISCUSSION OF ACTION ITEMS**

#### **4.1. Discuss the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI) 2015 Trust Fund Budget**

Gary Sherman and Sally Giittinger, Department of Education representatives, discussed the trust fund budget.

#### **4.2. Policy Committee report**

John Sieler reported on the meeting of the Policy Committee.

#### **4.3. Discuss the hearing draft of the proposed revisions to Rule 24 (92 NAC 24) Regulations for Certificate Endorsements**

Sharon Katt and Pat Madsen discussed the hearing draft of the proposed revisions to Rule 24 (92 NAC 24) Regulations for Certificate Endorsements.

#### **4.4. Discuss revisions to Rule 10 (92 NAC 10) Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools**

#### **4.5. Discuss approval of Nurturing Healthy Behaviors Grant**

#### **4.6. Discuss authorizing the Commissioner to provide a grant to the ESUCC for the operation of Nebraska Career Connections for the 2014-2015 school year**

At 3:40 p.m., President Rice called for a break. The meeting resumed at 3:50 p.m.

### **5. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **5.1. COMMISSIONER APPRAISAL**

##### **5.1. A. Discuss Appraisal Process and Contract Renewal**

President Wise updated the Board on the process of the appraisal process.

## **5.2. STANDARDS**

### **5.2. A. Standards Committee update**

Glen Flint reported on the meeting of the Standards Committee.

### **5.3. CAREER EDUCATION STUDY GROUP**

John Witzel reported on the meeting of the Career Education Study Group.

### **5.4. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STUDY GROUP**

Patricia Timm reported on the work of the Early Childhood Education Study Group.

## **5.5. LEGISLATION**

### **5.5. A. Legislative Committee report**

Rachel Wise reported on the meeting of the legislative Committee. Brian Halstead, Assistant Commissioner, also reported on activity of the Legislative Committee.

## **5.6. POLICY**

### **5.6. A. Policy Committee Report**

### **5.7. A QuESTT**

#### **5.7. A. Policy Forums**

Sue Anderson, Department of Education representative, reviewed the process for collecting information through the AQuESTT policy forums and a summary of the comments made.

#### **5.7. B. Board Tenet Committee Reports**

Board Members reported on the individual tenant meetings held on AQuESTT.

#### **5.7. C. AQuESTT Implementation Update**

Implementation of AQuESTT was discussed.

## **5.8. ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **5.8. A. Accountability Committee report**

Molly O'Holleran, Chair of the Accountability Committee, reported on the meeting. An update on NCLB waiver progress was also provided.

### **5.9. 2015 Committee Structure Discussion**

President Wise discussed the committee structure of the Board for 2015. Study Groups for Early Childhood and Career Education will remain with current leadership by Patricia Timm and John Witzel.

Standing Committees for legislation, policy and commissioner appraisal will remain. Consideration was given to organize committees around the two AQuESTT segments-- *Teaching and Learning* and *Student Success and Access*.

**6. ADJOURNMENT - 4:50 p.m.**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on December 5, 2014, State Board Meeting Room, State Office Building, Sixth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509-4987.

**Minutes of the State Board of Education Meeting**

December 5, 2014 9:00 AM  
State Board Meeting Room  
State Office Building, Sixth Floor  
301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1. Roll Call**

**Attendance Taken at 9:00 AM:**

Present Board Members:

District 6 - vacant  
Rachel Wise  
Glen Flint  
Lillie Larsen  
John Witzel  
Molly O'Holleran  
John Sieler  
Patricia Timm

**1.2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**1.3. Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**2.1. Approve the minutes of the November 6-7, 2014, State Board of Education meeting as published**

**Motion Passed:** To approve the minutes of the November 6-7, 2014, State Board of Education meeting as published passed with a motion by Lillie Larsen and a second by John Sieler.

District 6	Vacant
Rachel Wise	Yes
Glen Flint	Yes
Lillie Larsen	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Sieler	Yes
Patricia Timm	Yes

### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

#### **3.1. Commissioner's recommendations and items to be removed from consent agenda**

**Motion Passed:** To approve the Agenda for the December 5, 2014, Business Meeting passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Lillie Larsen.

District 6	Vacant
Rachel Wise	Yes
Glen Flint	Yes
Lillie Larsen	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Sieler	Yes
Patricia Timm	Yes

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

- Jay Sears - NSEA - Thanks to John Sieler for service on the Board and support of Action Items 7.3, 7.4 and 7.5

#### **4.1. REQUEST FOR APPEARANCE**

##### **4.1. A. Nebraska State Statute 79-724 and Rule 10 - Richard Pierce**

### **6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

## 6.1. Commissioner Appraisal

**Motion Passed:** That the Board move into Executive Session to deliberate and receive advice from Legal Counsel on contested cases and to discuss the Commissioner's appraisal in order to prevent needless injury to his reputation, the Commissioner not having requested that the discussion be held in open session passed with a motion by John Sieler and a second by Molly O'Holleran.

District 6	Vacant
Rachel Wise	Yes
Glen Flint	Yes
Lillie Larsen	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Sieler	Yes
Patricia Timm	Yes

At 9:38 a.m., The State Board move into Executive Session to deliberate and receive advice from Legal Counsel on contested cases and to discuss the Commissioner's appraisal in order to prevent needless injury to his reputation, the Commissioner not having requested that the discussion be held in open session.

**Motion Passed:** To adjourn the executive session at 10:10 a.m. and return to the regular business meeting passed with a motion by John Sieler and a second by Molly O'Holleran.

District 6	Vacant
Rachel Wise	Yes
Glen Flint	Yes
Lillie Larsen	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Sieler	Yes
Patricia Timm	Yes

At 10:10 a.m., the Board adjourned the executive session and returned to the regular business meeting.

## 7. ACTION ITEMS

### 7.1. Consider the Hearing Officer's Recommended Decision in NDE Case No. 14-10, Kirk Miller v. Commissioner

**Motion Passed:** In *Kirk Miller v. Commissioner*, NDE Case No. 14-10, that this Board adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and the Recommended Decision of the Hearing Officer,

granting Petitioner's request for a Nebraska special services certificate, and to adopt the Final Order proposed by Legal Counsel passed with a motion by Lillie Larsen and a second by Patricia Timm.

District 6	Vacant
Rachel Wise	Yes
Glen Flint	Yes
Lillie Larsen	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Sieler	Yes
Patricia Timm	Yes

**7.2. Consider the Hearing Officer's Recommended Decision in Option Enrollment Case No. 14-12, Niemba v. High Plains Community Schools**

**Motion Passed:** In option enrollment Case No. 14-12, *Niemba v. High Plains Community Schools*, that this board adopt the Hearing Officer's Proposed Findings of Fact and Recommended Conclusions of Law, affirm the Respondent's decision to deny release approval for the Petitioner's option enrollment application, and adopt the Final Order proposed by legal Counsel passed with a motion by Molly O'Holleran and a second by John Witzel.

District 6	Vacant
Rachel Wise	Yes
Glen Flint	No
Lillie Larsen	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Sieler	Yes
Patricia Timm	Yes

**7.3. Approve renewal of the contract for the Commissioner of Education**

**Motion Passed:** To approve renewal of the contract for Commissioner Blomstedt passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Lillie Larsen.

District 6	Vacant
Rachel Wise	Yes
Glen Flint	Yes
Lillie Larsen	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Sieler	Yes
Patricia Timm	Yes

The Board expressed appreciation and support for the efforts of Commissioner Blomstedt during his first year as Commissioner of Education.

**7.4. Adopt a Hearing Draft of Rule 24 (92 NAC 24) "Regulations for Certificate Endorsements," and grant the Commissioner the authority to set a date, time, and place for the hearing, and to appoint a hearing official to conduct the hearing on behalf of the State Board**

**Motion Passed:** Approve the Hearing Draft of Rule 24 (92 NAC 24) "Regulations for Certificate Endorsements," and grant the Commissioner the authority to set a date, time, and place for the hearing, and to appoint a hearing official to conduct the hearing on behalf of the State Board passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Molly O'Holleran.

District 6	Vacant
Rachel Wise	Yes
Glen Flint	Yes
Lillie Larsen	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Sieler	Yes
Patricia Timm	Yes

**7.5. Grant the Commissioner the authority to adopt a hearing draft for proposed revisions to Rule 10 (92 NAC 10) "Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools," and authorize the Commissioner to set a time and place for a hearing and appoint a hearing official to conduct a hearing on behalf of the State Board**

**Motion Passed:** To grant the Commissioner the authority to adopt a hearing draft for proposed revisions to Rule 10 (92 NAC 10) "Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools," and authorize the Commissioner to set a time and place for a hearing and appoint a hearing official to conduct a hearing on behalf of the State Board passed with a motion by Molly O'Holleran and a second by Lillie Larsen.

District 6	Vacant
Rachel Wise	Yes
Glen Flint	Yes
Lillie Larsen	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Sieler	Yes
Patricia Timm	Yes

**7.6. Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve a grant to the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to implement the statewide Nurturing Healthy Behaviors Program**

**Motion Passed:** Grant the Commissioner the Authority to approve a grant to the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation for implementation of the statewide Nurturing Healthy Behaviors program passed with a motion by John Witzel and a second by Patricia Timm.

District 6	Vacant
Rachel Wise	Yes
Glen Flint	Yes
Lillie Larsen	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Sieler	Yes
Patricia Timm	Yes

**7.7. Grant the Commissioner the authority to provide a grant to the ESUCC for the operation of Nebraska Career Connections for the 2014-2015 school year**

**Motion Passed:** To authorize the Commissioner to provide a grant to the ESUCC for the operation of Nebraska Career Connections for the 2014-2015 school year passed with a motion by Glen Flint and a second by John Witzel.

District 6	Vacant
Rachel Wise	Yes
Glen Flint	Yes
Lillie Larsen	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Sieler	Yes
Patricia Timm	Yes

**8. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion Passed:** To approve the Consent Agenda as published passed with a motion by Molly O'Holleran and a second by Lillie Larsen.

District 6	Vacant
Rachel Wise	Yes
Glen Flint	Yes
Lillie Larsen	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Sieler	Yes
Patricia Timm	Yes

**9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Preside Wise read and presented a resolution and plaque to John Sieler recognizing his service on the State Board of Education.

Board Members expressed appreciation and gratitude for John's contribution to the Board. Mr. Sieler expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the experience.

**12. ADJOURNMENT - 10:40 a.m.**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, January 9, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Office Building, Nebraska Department of Education, Sixth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509. A work session will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at the Nebraska State Office Building, Nebraska Department of Education, Sixth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509.