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**NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Nebraska Department of Education**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**January 6-7, 2014**

**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION – Monday, January 6, 2014**

The State Board of Education met for purposes of a work session on Monday, January 6, 2014, 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; emailed to news media requesting notification and posting a copy of the agenda in the Office of the Commissioner of Education, which gave the time, date and location of the meeting.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 President Patricia Timm called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. Roll call showed the following members present: Patricia Timm, Rebecca Valdez, Lynn Cronk, Rachel Wise, Lillie Larsen, John Sieler, Molly O’Holleran. Mark Quandahl was absent. Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt was also present.
- 1.2 President Timm announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.
- 1.3 President Timm welcomed Dr. Matthew Blomstedt as Nebraska’s next Commissioner of Education.

President Timm expressed appreciation to Dr. Scott Swisher for his services during the Commissioner Search process.

**2. REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

- 2.1 Legislative Update
  - 2.1.1 State

Brian Halstead, Department of Education representative, provided a review of the upcoming legislative session. The Board has scheduled a Legislative Retreat for January 27, 2014.

### 2.1.2 Federal

Brian Halstead, Department of Education representative, provided a review of current federal legislative issues.

## 2.2 STANDARDS, ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2.2.1 Donlynn Rice and Tricia Parker-Siemers, Department of Education representatives, provided an update on Language Arts Standards. (Handout: PowerPoint State Board Update dated January 6, 2014)

2.2.2 Valorie Foy, Department of Education representative, discussed the draft of the Nebraska Department of Education Assessment-Accountability: Background and Proposal of Parameters. (Handout: Nebraska Department of Education Assessment-Accountability Nebraska Performance Accountability System (NePAS) Background and Proposal of Parameters dated January 2014)

2.3 Rebecca Valdez, Chair of the Board Policy Committee, discussed proposed revisions to State Board Policy B12, *Public Participation at Board Meetings*.

2.4 Melody Hobson, Department of Education representative, discussed the sub-grant with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for the use of Child Care and Development funds.

2.5 Melody Hobson, Department of Education representative, discussed the contract with the Environment Rating Scales Institute (ERSI) to provide reliability training on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R).

2.6 Gary Sherman, Lindy Foley and Beth Wierda, Department of Education representatives, discussed the hearings held on proposed revisions to Rule 51 (92 NAC 5121, *Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs*).

2.7 Gary Sherman, Lindy Foley and Beth Wierda, Department of Education representatives, discussed hearings held on proposed new Rule 52 (92 NAC 52), *Regulations and Standards for Early Intervention Program*.

2.8 Gary Sherman, Lindsey Foley, and Beth Wierda, Department of Education representatives, discussed Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (Part B (ages 3-21) and Part C (below age 3) Annual Applications and Related Items.

2.9 Dean Folkers, Department of Education representative, discussed the contract with eScholar to support enhancements to the Data Warehouse in support of the SLDS grant and the broader management and security of the systems.

At 3:37 p.m., President Timm called for a break. The meeting resumed at 3:43 p.m.

2.10 Dean Folkers, Department of Education representative; and Susan Fritz, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost, University of Nebraska; discussed the grant to the University of Nebraska to support the P-16 Initiative. (Handouts: PowerPoint: Nebraska P-16 Initiative and UN Vice Provost for P-16 Initiatives; NE P-20 Governance Charter; Memorandum of Understanding for Sharing of Student Data between Nebraska Department of Education, the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska State Colleges, and the Nebraska Community Colleges)

2.11 Commissioner Blomstedt discussed State Board of Education Goals. Commissioner Blomstedt shared his beliefs on developing positive leadership and developing education systems.

### **3. PRESENTATION**

3.1 Mary Duffy, Department of Education representative, presented on High Ability Learning. (Handouts: PowerPoint: High Ability Learning Report to the Board; Printout)

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Timm adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING – Tuesday, January 7, 2014**

The State Board of Education met for purposes of a meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting 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; emailed to news media requesting notification and posting a copy of the agenda in the Office of the Commissioner of Education, which gave the time, date and location of the meeting.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

1.1. President Timm called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Roll call showed the following Board members present: Lillie Larsen, Patricia Timm, Rachel Wise, Lynn Cronk, John Sieler, Mark Quandahl, Molly O'Holleran, Rebecca Valdez. Commissioner Matthew Blomstedt was also present.

1.2 President Timm led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 President Timm announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

## **2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

2.1 Motion by Mark Quandahl, second by Rebecca Valdez: To approve the minutes of the December 5-6 2013, State Board of Education meeting.

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

The motion passed.

2.2 Motion by Lillie Larsen, second by Rachel Wise: To approve the minutes of the December 11-12, 2013, Special Meeting of the State Board of Education.

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

The motion passed.

President Timm announced and welcomed Dr. Matthew L. Blomstedt, Nebraska's new Commissioner of Education. President Timm expressed appreciation to Dr. Scott Swisher, for his service during the interim.

## **2.3 2013 ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Motion by Lynn Cronk, second by Rachel Wise: The voting process for the election of officers will be by secret ballot; that each vote will be announced and recorded in the minutes; and that the ballots will be destroyed after voting is concluded.

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

The motion passed.

### Election of Board President

President Timm opened nominations for President of the State Board of Education.

Lillie Larsen nominated Rachel Wise. There being no further nominations, President Timm closed nominations for President.

President Timm appointed Margaret Worth and Denise Fisher to distribute, collect and tally the votes for President of the State Board.

President Timm announced the results to be 8 votes for Rachel Wise.

### Election of Board Vice President

President Timm opened nominations for Vice President of the State Board of Education.

John Sieler nominated himself. There being no further nominations, President Timm closed nominations.

President Timm appointed Margaret Worth and Denise Fisher to distribute, collect and tally the votes for Vice President of the State Board.

President Timm announced the results to be 6 votes for John Sieler, 2 votes for Rebecca Valdez.

At 9:25 a.m., President Timm called for a break. The meeting resumed at 9:27 a.m.

### Appoint Members to Committees

Newly elected President Rachel Wise advised the Board that she would be meeting with each Board member to discuss membership on various Board committees.

President Wise expressed appreciation to Patricia Timm and Mark Quandahl for their service as President and Vice President; President Wise also thanked the Commissioner Search Committee for their work.

## **3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA for Monday, January 6, 2014**

3.1 Commissioner Blomstedt informed the Board that Action Item 7.9 would be removed from the Agenda.

Motion by Molly O'Holleran, second by Rebecca Valdez: To approve the Agenda as recommended.

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

The motion passed.

3.2 Special Recognition –Commissioner Blomstedt recognized Kevin Witte, 2013 Nebraska Milken Educator.

## **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Henry Burke, Common Core
- Rachel Pinkerton, Common Core
- Paul Meyer, Common Core

- Jay Sears, Nebraska State Education Association, speaking to selection of Matthew Blomstedt as Commissioner; appreciation to Patricia Timm and Mark Quandahl for their service and congratulations to Rachel Wise and John Sieler. Mr. Sears also spoke in support of Action Item 7.1.

## 7. ACTION ITEMS

- 7.1 Motion by Lillie Larsen, second by Molly O'Holleran: To approve for public comment and discussion the draft of the Nebraska Department of Education Assessment-Accountability: Background and Proposal of Parameters with changes as presented January 7, 2014.

[\(Nebraska Performance Accountability System \(NePAS\) 1.1, Background and proposal of Framework, dated January 7, 2014.\)](#)

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

The motion passed.

- 7.2 Motion by John Sieler, second by Lillie Larsen: To approve the proposed revisions to State Board Policy B12, *Public Participation at Board Meetings*.

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

Voting No: Timm, Quandahl

The motion passed.

- 7.3 Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Lillie Larsen: To grant the Commissioner the authority to sign a sub-grant with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for the use of Child Care and Development Funds.

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

The motion passed.

- 7.4 Motion by Lynn Cronk, second by Patricia Timm: To grant the Commissioner the authority to approve a contract with the Environment Rating Scales Institute (ERSI) to provide reliability training on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-RI).

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

The motion passed.

- 7.5 Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Lillie Larsen: To approve revisions to Rule 51 (92 NAC 51), *Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs*, with non-substantive changes.

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

The motion passed.

- 7.6 Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Rebecca Valdez: To approve Rule 52 (92 NAC 52), *Regulations and Standards for Early Intervention Programs*, with non-substantive changes.

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

The motion passed.

- 7.7 Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Lynn Cronk: To grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with eScholar to support enhancements to the Data Warehouse in support of the SLDS grant and the broader management and security of the systems.

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

The motion passed.

- 7.8 Motion by Patricia Timm, second by Molly O'Holleran: To authorize the Commissioner to award a grant to the University of Nebraska System to support the P-16 Initiative.

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

The motion passed.

## 8. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Rebecca Valdez, second by Patricia Timm: To approve the Consent Agenda as published.

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

The motion passed.

President Wise called for a break at 10:34 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:40 a.m.

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

- 10.1 Board Members were reminded to register for the NASB Legislative Issues Conference held January 26, 2014, in Lincoln. All Board Members plan to attend.
- 10.3 Meeting participation. Board Members John Sieler, Lillie Larsen, and Lynn Cronk will be attending the NAG Conference in Omaha on February 21. Mollie O'Holleran, Lillie Larsen, and Rachel Wise will be attending the NASBE Legislative Conference in Washington, DC on January 24-26, 2014.
- 10.4 Patricia Timm reported on the Legislative Committee meeting.
- 10.5 Rebecca Valdez reported on the Policy Committee meeting.
- 10.6 There was no report from the Standards Committee.
- 10.7 There was no additional report from the State Accountability Committee

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Wise adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

**DRAFT**

**Nebraska Department of Education Assessment-Accountability  
Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS]  
Background and Proposal of Parameters  
January 2014**

**Background Information**

Nebraska Department of Education has taken steps to implement an accountability system for Nebraska school districts.

November 2, 2009: The Nebraska State Board of Education adopted as policy the *Standards, Assessment, and Accountability (SAA) Belief Statement* and affirmed the policy 11-09-12.

November 3, 2010: The Nebraska State Board of Education adopted as policy Nebraska State Accountability Framework: Part I: Beliefs, Values, and Purposes

August 9, 2012: Pursuant to Section 79-760.06: The Nebraska State Board of Education adopted as policy Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS], which provides multiple scores and rankings for school districts in NeSA-Reading, Math, Science, Writing and for Graduation rate.

Since 2012: The members of the Ad Hoc Accountability Committee have been reviewing the current Nebraska Accountability Performance System as they have discussed the next generation of NePAS that will combine multiple indicators into a single measure for each school building and district. NePAS 1.1 would move beyond the philosophy of “shining the light” to providing a fair accountability system that identifies high- and low-performing school districts, recognizes success, and also provides support for school improvement.

In addition, while the indicators being considered for NePAS 1.1 are comprised of data currently available—NeSA performance, NeSA participation, and graduation rate--the committee has also has considered other possible indicators to be included in the future that would augment the accountability lens.

**Proposal**

January 2014: In response to Proposed LB# 438, the Nebraska Department of Education has drafted an overview of an accountability system to combine multiple indicators into a single measure for each school building and district, set goals, assign a classification for each building and district, set consequences for the lowest performing school buildings, and recognize high-performing schools.

# DRAFT

The goals of the proposed NePAS changes are to:

- a. Develop an effective system that provides fair accountability for schools in order to enhance opportunity to learn for every student in every school in Nebraska
- b. Partner with school districts to provide support for improved student learning
- c. Partner with the Legislature by providing this *Nebraska Performance Accountability System [NePAS]*

*Background and Proposal of Parameters* to guide NDE as it moves forward.

Below are general information and a summary of the indicators proposed to be combined into a single measure.

Policy Issue	Overview
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NeSA Reading, Writing, Math, Science—Participation and Performance-- and Graduation Rate</li> </ul>
Performance Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goals established for NeSA-Reading, Math, Science, Writing, and Graduation Rate</li> </ul>
Levels of Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School/School Building</li> <li>• District</li> </ul>
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 95% participation rate is a minimum. Additional points awarded for exceeding the minimum and points subtracted for not meeting the minimum. Point assignments not yet determined.</li> </ul>
NeSA Results-Status <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of points provided for status. Weighting to be determined.</li> </ul>
NeSA Results-Improvement <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of points provided for improvement. Weighting to be determined.</li> </ul>
NeSA Results-Growth <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of points provided for growth. Weighting to be determined.</li> </ul>
Graduation rate – 4 year and 6 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award points for four-year cohort graduation rate graduation rate and six-year cohort graduation</li> </ul>
Subgroup inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subgroup performance will be determined through use of supergroup<sup>4</sup> designation</li> </ul>
Minimum group size for accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minimum number for reporting will be applied--to be determined.</li> </ul>
Consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intervention for schools in greatest need of improvement</li> </ul>
Number of classifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Such as five levels of classification –to be determined</li> </ul>

# DRAFT

1. **Status** is an indicator of students' NeSA achievement for the current year.
2. **Improvement** is the change in previous year's status compared to this year's status. Improvement is based on the scores from all tested students each year.
3. **Growth** is the change of individual students' previous year's scores compared to the current year's scores. Growth is based on the matched sample of students who were tested both years.
4. A **Supergroup** is identified for two purposes:
  - to avoid having some student scores count multiple times and
  - to create a group with enough students that more schools are included in accountability for at-risk students.A **Supergroup** is defined in one of two ways:
  - by combining No Child Left Behind [NCLB] subgroups or
  - by defining a new group—for example, students scoring below proficient.