

State Board of Education Work Session Meeting Minutes

[January 6, 2017 - 8:30 a.m.](#)

State Board Meeting Room, State Office Building, Lincoln, Nebraska

[Video Link](#)

1. **CALL TO ORDER - Attendance Taken at 8:32 a.m.**

Present Board Members:

Patricia Timm

Rachel Wise

Maureen Nickels

Patrick McPherson

Molly O'Holleran

John Witzel

Lisa Fricke

Patsy Koch Johns

Others Present:

Commissioner Blomstedt

- 1.2. President Wise announced the placement of the **Open Meetings Act** information.

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

2.1. **Meeting participation and joint meetings with policy partners**

Board members discussed various meetings attended since the December 2016 meeting.

2.2. **Discuss requests for meeting attendance**

Board members planning to attend conferences or meetings requiring a fee or expense need to make requests prior to conference/meeting attendance.

2.3. **Monthly Board Travel Expense Report**

The Board Travel Expense Report provides Board members information on expenses incurred for Board Travel.

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

3.1. **Consent Agenda process**

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the process for Consent Agenda items and requests for additional information.

3.2. **Report on Rules**

Commissioner Blomstedt reported on the status of revisions to Department rules. Rule 24 is scheduled for hearing on January 19, 2017, and Rule 2 has been approved and became effective December 21, 2016.

3.3. Board Priorities and Policy Research

Donlynn Rice, Department of Education representative, reported on Board priorities.

3.4. Review of 2016: Work Accomplished and a Look Ahead

Commissioner Blomstedt provided a review of the work of the Board during 2016, offered projections, and an outline for the work of 2017.

3.5. Orientation

With the addition of two newly elected Board members, the Department offered orientation on procedures and processes for the benefit of all Board members.

3.6. Invitations to the Board (Nebraska Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (NASCD); Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA); and Nebraska Braille Challenge

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed invitations to the Board for presentations and attendance at upcoming meetings.

3.7. Review 2017 State Board Calendar

The Board reviewed the dates of the 2017 Board Meetings.

4. WHOLE BOARD

4.1. Action Item: Award Innovation Grants to recommended applicants

Commissioner Blomstedt informed the Board that action on Innovation Grant awards is delayed for consideration until after review of the State Budget.

4.2. Action Item: Approve the 2017-2019 NDE-NAPE/AFSCME Bargaining Agreement

Joel Scherling and Scott Summers, Department of Education representatives, provided information about the NAPE/AFSCME Bargaining Agreement. The Board will consider action to authorize the Commissioner to execute the agreement document.

4.3. Action Item: Consider Commissioner's request that Commissioner's contracted salary level be frozen at 2016 level

Commissioner Blomstedt expressed appreciation for the confidence the Board has in his service as Commissioner. Commissioner Blomstedt requests, in light of the current financial status of the state and the pending budget requests from the Governor, that pay increases in his salary be in line with the pay increases of Department staff; freezing his current salary level until June 2017 for reconsideration. The Board will consider action on this request.

5. ADJOURNMENT

President Wise adjourned the Work Session at 10:08 a.m.

State Board of Education Meeting Minutes

[January 6, 2017 - 10:30 a.m.](#)

State Board Meeting Room, State Office Building, Lincoln, Nebraska

1. CALL TO ORDER - Attendance Taken at 10:30 a.m.

Present Board Members:

Patricia Timm
Rachel Wise
Maureen Nickels
Patrick McPherson
Molly O'Holleran
John Witzel
Lisa Fricke
Patsy Koch Johns

Others Present:

Commissioner Blomstedt

1.2. President Wise led the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

1.3. President Wise announced the placement of the **Open Meetings Act** information

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2.1. **Motion Passed:** Approval of the minutes of the December 1-2, 2016, State Board of Education meeting as published passed with a motion by John Witzel and a second by Patricia Timm.

Patricia Timm	Yes
Rachel Wise	Yes
Maureen Nickels	Yes
Patrick McPherson	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Lisa Fricke	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns	Yes

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3.1. Commissioner Blomstedt recommended removal of Action Item 7.1.A.

Motion Passed: Approval of the Agenda as recommended passed with a motion by Molly O'Holleran and a second by Patrick McPherson.

Patricia Timm	Yes
Rachel Wise	Yes
Maureen Nickels	Yes
Patrick McPherson	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Lisa Fricke	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns	Yes

3.2. 2017 ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

3.2.A. Election Process and Procedures

Motion Passed: A three-part motion that the Commissioner, as Secretary of the State Board, preside over the nomination and election process; that the election to the offices of President and Vice President be for one-year terms; and that a roll-call vote will be used during the election after which the Commissioner will declare the result passed with a motion by Patrick McPherson and a second by John Witzel.

Patricia Timm	Yes
Rachel Wise	Yes
Maureen Nickels	Yes
Patrick McPherson	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Lisa Fricke	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns	Yes

3.2.B. Election of Board President

Patricia Timm was nominated for President by John Witzel.

Molly O'Holleran was nominated for President by Patrick McPherson.

Having no other nominations, Commissioner Blomstedt closed nominations for President.

Patricia Timm	Patricia Timm
Rachel Wise	Patricia Timm
Maureen Nickels	Patricia Timm
Patrick McPherson	Molly O'Holleran
Molly O'Holleran	Molly O'Holleran
John Witzel	Patricia Timm
Lisa Fricke	Patricia Timm
Patsy Koch Johns	Patricia Timm

A cast of six votes for Patricia Timm and two votes for Molly O'Holleran declared Patricia Timm President of the State Board.

3.2.C. Election of Board Vice President

John Witzel was nominated for Vice President by Maureen Nickels.
Molly O'Holleran was nominated for Vice President by Patrick McPherson.

Having no other nominations, Commissioner Blomstedt closed nominations for Vice President.

Patricia Timm	John Witzel
Rachel Wise	John Witzel
Maureen Nickels	John Witzel
Patrick McPherson	Molly O'Holleran
Molly O'Holleran	Molly O'Holleran
John Witzel	John Witzel
Lisa Fricke	John Witzel
Patsy Koch Johns	John Witzel

A cast of six votes for John Witzel and two votes for Molly O'Holleran, declared John Witzel Vice President of the State Board.

Commissioner Blomstedt announced the conclusion of the reorganization of the State Board and called for a 10-minute break at 10:40 a.m.

Newly elected President Timm resumed the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

President Timm and Vice President Witzel expressed appreciation to the Board for support of their leadership.

3.2.D. Discuss Board Committee Membership

President Timm announced that she and Vice President Witzel would review the Committee structure and request preferences for service on committees from each Board Member. Appointments to the Committees will be announced at the January 23, 2017, Legislative Retreat.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Timm reminded Board Members and the members of the Public the process for making public comment.

4.1. REQUEST FOR APPEARANCE - None

4.2. OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jay Sears - Nebraska State Education Association, congratulating Board members
- Deb Andrews
- Charlene Edmundson - Omaha Liberty Ladies and Nebraskans for Founder's Values; commenting on roll call vote

- Rachel Pinkerton – LEAP, commenting on civics education

5. **HEARINGS** - None

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

7. **ACTION ITEMS**

7.1. **Whole Board**

7.1.A. **Removed from the Agenda. Award Innovation Grants to recommended applicants**

7.1.B. **Motion Passed:** Approval of the 2017-2019 NDE-NAPE/AFSCME Bargaining Agreement passed with a motion by John Witzel and a second by Maureen Nickels.

Patricia Timm	Yes
Rachel Wise	Yes
Maureen Nickels	Yes
Patrick McPherson	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Lisa Fricke	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns	Yes

7.1.C. **Motion Passed:** Approve the Commissioner's request to amend his employment agreement salary and authorize the State Board President to sign Amendment No. 3 to the Commissioner's Employment Agreement to reflect freezing his salary passed with a motion by John Witzel and a second by Rachel Wise.

Patricia Timm	Yes
Rachel Wise	Yes
Maureen Nickels	Yes
Patrick McPherson	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Lisa Fricke	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns	Yes

8. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

8.1. **Identify items for separate vote** - None

8.2. **Motion Passed:** Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Maureen Nickels.

Patricia Timm	Yes
Rachel Wise	Yes

Maureen Nickels	Yes
Patrick McPherson	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Lisa Fricke	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns	Yes

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS - None

10. BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.1. Meeting participation

Motion Passed: Approval of Board Member meeting participation passed with a motion by John Witzel and a second by Patrick McPherson.

Patricia Timm	Yes
Rachel Wise	Yes
Maureen Nickels	Yes
Patrick McPherson	Yes
Molly O'Holleran	Yes
John Witzel	Yes
Lisa Fricke	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns	Yes

10.2. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

Board Members are reminded to review the report.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS/WRITTEN REPORTS

Board Members were reminded to review the information items.

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Timm adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m. The next meeting of the State Board will be held January 23, 2017, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska.