

**Minutes of the State Board of Education Retreat**  
May 4, 2017 12:00 p.m.  
Conference Room Lower Level C, State Office Building, Lincoln, Nebraska

**1. CALL TO ORDER - Attendance Taken at 12:18 PM:**

Present Board Members:

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

Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

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

President Timm announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

**2. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS ITEMS, PRESENTATIONS**

**2.1. Discussion Item: Discussion of key State Board initiatives and timelines**

Commissioner Blomstedt provided an overview of the topics to be discussed during the Retreat.

- 2.a. Dean Folkers, Chief Information Officer, shared Key timelines and communications. He shared the branding, graphics, and strategic communication plan currently underway by the Communication Team lead by Katie Bieber.

In addition, the Department website is being revamped to be a key center point for communication along with various social media to further the message and extend the information to reach a bigger audience. David Jespersen, also on the communications team is working with engaging and reviewing the ESSA plan with NDE stakeholders.

- 2.b. Donlynn Rice, Department of Education representative, introduced the NASBE publication that provided 7 key questions Board members should ask about State ESSA Plans. Donlynn provided a scorecard version for Board Members to use during the Retreat to record questions and comments.

3. Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the AQuESTT system regarding classification and designation of Nebraska's schools.
4. Commissioner Blomstedt explained the System of Support framework noting the new concept which looks at how do programs help our individual students be successful; designing programs for students to help them learn; a look at the classification levels in AQuESTT; how our work plays out to the capacity of the school to provide support; how to model and distribute support where it is needed, and to being intentional as to where we spend time and energy to improve education.
5. Dean Folkers and Cory Epler discussed the development of the Implementation plan supporting the Strategic Plan and the work of AQuESTT. They are working with NDE team leaders weekly to create the steps to implement the strategic plan. Things to develop include a timeline, understanding the goals, outcomes; working with all staff to get a better understanding of connecting our work to priorities; also working with CCSSO to review the work and activities, and to identify gaps and prioritize the path forward.

The next step is to move to action planning, defining who is in charge of what, and adding timelines. The ultimate goal is to provide reports on the status of the goals and to maintain engagement of team leaders to monitor progress about strategies and goals in strategic plan. It was noted that this is not a quick process and it is important that we all know what our work is and how it supports the strategic plan.

Discussion included work with ESUs, an increased effort to work together with school districts, ESUs, and NDE; and noting similarities in priority schools.

6. Commissioner Blomstedt described building on the theory of action established in AQuESTT. He discussed the effectiveness of accountability and that it takes much more than what occurs naturally. It is important to develop support, growth, and collaboration in order to build the new concept for state level involvement, especially in the area of leadership.

He reviewed the AQuESTT Logic model around input, activities, output, and outcomes. He also pointed out that ESSA is visible throughout the work of AQuESTT and the Strategic Plan, but does not drive the work of Nebraska.

7. Updates

- 7.a. Cory Epler and Matt Hastings reviewed the exist criteria for priority schools coming off that status. Discussion also involved review of the EBA process. Reviewed aspects of potential cycles for classification, reporting, and the work of AQuESTT as well.

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

President Timm noted that Items 8 and 9 from the Retreat Agenda will be carried forward to the Work Session Agenda. President Timm adjourned the retreat at 2:18 p.m.