

Nebraska Council on Teacher Education

Educator Preparation Advisory Committee to the Nebraska State Board of Education

Executive Committee Minutes

January 23, 2015

Meeting Time: 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Meeting Site: ESU 3, 6949 South 110th Street, LaVista, NE 68128

Call to Order – President Doreen Jankovich 9:20 A.M.

Approval of August 22, 2014 Executive Committee Meeting minutes—Motion to approve by S. Alford, Second by M. Adler. Motion Carried.

Review of October 3, 2014 NCTE Full Council Meeting minutes.

Review of October 3, 2014 NCTE Standing Committee minutes.

Summary of Education Visioning Public Hearing in Omaha – Mark Adler

Held at Gallup University—first of the three public hearings that were held in the state. Approximately 80% of people that testified did so about Early Childhood Education. Dr. McCann (Westside) talked about quality education and innovations in education. Ralston Public Schools testified in support of continuous improvement and AdvancEd. The Education Committee did compile a summary of the public hearings and another study summarizing the lottery fund public hearings is also available.

Sharon Katt shared that Educator Preparation was discussed at the Broken Bow Public Hearing. There has been discussion about moving lottery funded initiatives to the general fund, and using lottery funds for innovations in education.

Adler questioned if AQuESTT and Education Visioning align?

Katt responded that the two initiatives were created separately. AQuESTT is driven by legislation from last year to have a statewide accountability system for all schools, with targeted low-performing schools. Education Visioning was a 'larger picture' view.

1. Rule Status Updates – Sharon Katt

- Rule 24 – Public Hearing was held on January 15, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. The only testimony given was from NSEA (Jay Sears) in support of the proposed changes. Rule 24 will go to the State Board for approval at their February meeting.
- Rule 21 – Kevin Peters – Currently under NDE Legal Review.
Summary of Changes: Certificates and Permits—big shift—restore distinction to NE teaching certificate; should help administrators distinguish those who are fully certified. Proposed Rule 21 will be discussed by the State Board at the February meeting; discussion will also be held at the March 20 NCTE meeting. Tentatively, the State Board will vote on Rule 21 at their May meeting.

2. Rule 24 Endorsements/Ad Hoc Updates – Pat Madsen

- **Art** – Debbie DeFrain, NDE Director of Fine Arts (NCTE Committee A)

Ad hoc committee recommendations:

- Remove the General Art (K-6) subject endorsement and just have one Art field endorsement.
 - Grade Level – now PK-12; (PK is defined in Rule 24 as ‘preschool years for children beginning at age 3 prior to entering kindergarten’.)
 - Proposed endorsement is more reflective of Fine Arts standards (which start at K); addresses technology and career tech readiness, as more careers are now available with high school art training; hoping new Fine Arts standards will help more new art teachers remain in state (about 30% leave the state). Professionalism is also given attention in the proposed guidelines.
- **Music and Vocal Music** – Debbie DeFrain, NDE Director of Fine Arts (NCTE Committee C)

Ad hoc committee recommendations:

- Remove Instrumental Music subject endorsement, as it was discovered that the difference in Instrumental and Music field endorsement was approximately 4-6 credit hours. All institutions who offer Instrumental Music also offer the Music field endorsement. Peters shared that more and more states have only the Music field endorsement.
- More attention is given to technology and professionalism in the Music field endorsement and guidelines.
- Grade Level – now PK-12.

Vocal Music (subject) –

- increase in hours is required. (Minimum requirement was 30 credit hours for one level or 40 credit hours for both K-8 and 7-12; now requires a minimum of 45 credit hours.)
- Grade Level – now PK-12.

NCTE Exec Committee asked if this endorsement was needed.

There have been more Vocal Music completers than Instrumental Music completers in the past five years. Ad hoc committee decision was to keep Instrumental Music (subject) at this time.

- **Middle Grades** – Pat Madsen, Sharon Katt, and Kevin Peters (NCTE Committee B)
The Ad hoc committee is proposing two endorsements – Middle Level (field) and Middle Level (supplemental).

1. Middle Level Education (Field):

- Name change: Middle Level Education (Field)
- Grade levels: 5 – 9 (Ad hoc committee was almost evenly split on 5-8 or 5-9. Did agree that Grade 4 should not be included.)
- There are three ways to obtain this endorsement:
 - 36 semester hours in one core academic area (ELA, Mathematics, Science, or Social Science) or
 - 18 semester hours in each of two core academic areas or
 - 18 semester hours in one core academic area and 18 semester hours in one of the following areas of specialization:
 - English as a Second Language;

- Reading and Writing; or
- Special Education, which includes any portion of Grades 5-9.

Career Education endorsements are now 6-12, so no need to be included in the Middle Level endorsement. The ad hoc committee also determined, after considerable discussion, to remove Art, Foreign/World Language, and Health and Physical Education as content areas, and to just leave the four core academic areas in the field endorsement.

This endorsement would require a Praxis II content test. There are two options, so a review committee would be called to determine which Praxis II Middle Level content test would be the best option for Nebraska. (Both options include the four core academic areas.)

The number of completers of this endorsement at the initial level has shown significant decline over the past five years.

2. Middle Level Education (supplemental):

- Proposed new endorsement, designed to increase skills in working with middle level adolescents.
- Grade levels: 5-9 (Ad hoc committee did not agree on 5-8 or 5-9.)
- Would require a minimum of 18 semester hours of professional education related to middle level education.

Short discussion on middle level preparation—usually designed for students in grades 6-8.

- **Health Occupations** – Ad Hoc Committee will be held in February or early March. No programs at this time; the new proposal will be making the endorsement a supplemental endorsement to science and a few others. Carol Ringenberg (NDE) will be the chair of the Ad Hoc Committee.
- **Special Education** has asked that an **Orientation & Mobility** endorsement be developed. Discussion will be held to determine if this would be a Special Services endorsement.
- **Religious Education** Endorsement report – Pat Madsen
Plan is to have a conference call with those institutions that offer the endorsement. No formal Ad Hoc committee will be called.
- **Curriculum Supervisor** and **Assessment Leadership** endorsements Ad Hoc will be scheduled for Summer, 2015.

3. NDE Updates

- New HEA Title II Regulations – Katt. Proposed regulations came out in December from USDE. Accountability for higher education program will be tied to student growth. This is riddled with a plethora of problems for Nebraska and for many other states. Increased/higher admissions requirements for educator preparation. If states do not comply, the institutions in the state will lose their ability to get federal financial aid for candidates.
- Revised State Program Approval Process – Madsen. Institutions involved in the pilot offsite review have made recommendations to further clarify the new changes and the guidance document manual.

- Other NDE Updates – Katt.
New USDE Equity Plan to address the impact of high minority and high poverty as it relates to unqualified or inexperienced staff—state must pull data and look for gaps and bring that information to stakeholder groups to identify gaps and develop strategies for improvements of those gaps; requires stakeholder input. Must show gaps (even if they are tiny). June 1 submission timeline. Discussion will be held during Standing Committee meetings at the March meeting.
- Legislation of note that has been introduced regarding education –
LB 527 Excellence in Teaching – NSEA also supports this.
LB 526 Cleans up language in certificates/permits.
LB 185 Reactivates the Master Teacher statute.
LB 274 Re-establishes a Mentor Teacher program.
LB 239 Legislation that would create an Educator Effectiveness position at NDE.
LB 507 Requirements for content testing for special education candidates and certification of teachers.
LB 508 Requirements to be admitted to teacher preparation programs—3.0 GPA for admission to Teacher Education, ACT use in place of basic skills test, etc.
There are many other bills related to education issues that have been introduced.
Jankovich will invite Jay Sears (NSEA) to give a Legislative Update at the March meeting.

It was discussed that perhaps NCTE might need to do an ‘educational session’ for the NE Legislature Education Committee next year.

- NCTE Logo – for letterhead or powerpoint presentations to ‘brand’ the organization; Jankovich and Alford will do further research and let the Executive Committee know within a few days.
- Early Childhood – Buffet Early Childhood Institute and First Five are proposing a revision to Rule 21 to include new requirements for a provisional permit in Early Childhood Inclusive targeting those programs funded by the Early Childhood Endowment Cash Fund for those who have an associate’s degree in ECE or Child Development. Susan Sarver (Buffet Institute; formerly at UNL) would like to discuss this with NCTE. She will be invited to give a short presentation during the Public Comments section of the March NCTE meeting.
- New timeline for NCTE Membership Roster Nominations proposed and approved. (Change is mainly because of retirements or changes in positions from April through July each year.)
- New Member Orientation – October meeting.

4. Nominating Committee for President-Elect (To be presented at March NCTE Meeting, vote in June.)

President-Elect must be from Higher Education to keep the rotation correct. Nominating Committee must be composed of three members—one member from higher ed, one from teachers, one from administrators. Alford, Jankovich, and Adler volunteered to be the nominating committee. The committee will work together to obtain a President-Elect nominee for NCTE to present at the March NCTE meeting. Voting will be at the June meeting.

5. Program Approval

- Offsite Folio Review held for Grace University, Midland University, Peru State College, and University of Nebraska Omaha on October 8 & 9, 2014
- Onsite Visits – Grace University – February 8 & 9, 2015
Midland University – February 23 & 24, 2015
Peru State College – September 27-29, 2015
University of Nebraska Omaha – November 1-3, 2015

6. Proposed Agenda Items for March 20, 2015 NCTE Full Council Meeting

- Public Comments – Susan Sarver, Buffet Institute (10-minute limit)
- Speaker –Senator Cook has introduced some legislation—and has expressed passion for educator preparation. She will be invited to speak to NCTE in March.
- Nomination of President-Elect—Jankovich
- Rule 21—Peters
- Proposed Art Endorsement—Debbie DeFrain, NDE
- Proposed Music and Vocal Music Endorsements—Debbie DeFrain, NDE
- Proposed Middle Level field Endorsement and Proposed Middle Level supplemental Endorsement—Katt, Peters, Madsen
- New Title II HEA regulations and reporting—Katt
- Equity Plan Stakeholder Discussion (during each Standing Committee meeting)
- Legislative Update—Jay Sears, NSEA
- Higher Education Institutions – Creighton, Peru, University of Nebraska Kearney, and Nebraska Wesleyan IF TIME IS AVAILABLE. (Midland, Union, and York would like to present in June.)

Adjournment – 2:11 P.M.

Upcoming Meetings:

NCTE Full Council Meeting – Friday, March 20, 2015 Country Inn & Suites, Lincoln

NCTE Executive Committee Meeting – Friday, May 1, 2015 (NSEA, Lincoln—note location change)

NCTE Full Council Meeting – Friday, June 12, 2015 Country Inn & Suites, Lincoln

NCTE Executive Committee Meeting – Friday, August 21, 2015 (TBA)