



January 2016

Highlights of the State Board of Education meeting

State Board of Education

President
Rachel Wise
[email](#)
District 3

Vice President
Lillie Larsen
[email](#)
District 1

Glen Flint
[email](#)
District 2

John Witzel
[email](#)
District 4

Patricia Timm
[email](#)
District 5

Maureen Nickels
[email](#)
District 6

Molly O'Holleran
[email](#)
District 7

Patrick McPherson
[email](#)
District 8

WISE, LARSEN RE-ELECTED TO LEAD STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



Rachel Wise of Oakland was re-elected president of the State Board of Education. Wise is a retired Nebraska teacher and administrator. She has spent 37 years serving both rural and urban school districts.

"I am honored and it is a privilege to have the State Board members' vote of support and the opportunity to lead the Board forward with the strong, shared leadership approach we have built over the years," Wise said. "By working together, we can further strengthen our relationship with the Governor's Office, the Legislature, our policy partners and educators across the state.

"I am confident that the State Board will continue to focus on providing excellent educational opportunities for every student every day and further develop the new state school accountability system, AQuESTT. It will be an exciting year considering the recent adoption of the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act, which, we understand, will allow Nebraska to have greater control over our education system," Wise said.



Lillie Larsen was re-elected vice president. Larsen served on the Lincoln Board of Education for 12 years before she was elected to the State Board of Education.

"I am honored to be re-elected to serve as vice president of the Nebraska State Board of Education," Larsen said. "I look forward to working with board members to support and improve education in Nebraska for all students.

"It is important to provide quality education for each and every student," she said. "The goal is to help students develop their interests and talents. The State Board of

Education must work to ensure that Nebraska students graduate with the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in their careers and/or postsecondary education." Wise and Larsen have served on the State Board of Education since 2013.

COMMISSIONER BLOMSTEDT'S CONTRACT EXTENDED



The State Board of Education voted unanimously to extend the employment contract of Education Commissioner Blomstedt through Dec. 2019.

Dr. Blomstedt, whose career has focused on local, regional and statewide education issues, was named Commissioner of Education by the State Board of Education in January 2014.

See [Amendment](#)

STATE BOARD SELECTS FSG FOR STRATEGIC PLAN

The State Board voted unanimously to authorize the Commissioner to contract with a firm, FSG, to begin a long-range strategic planning process for the Board and the agency. FSG will facilitate a process to engage the State Board, NDE, policy partners, key educators and stakeholders in the development of a project plan, with specific timelines and deliverables including a strategic roadmap for a 10-year horizon.

FSG, founded in 1999, is a mission-driven consulting firm that works to bring about change that will improve academic and personal outcomes for children and youth. Nebraska will work with FSG's Seattle office. FSG offers extensive experience in all areas of strategic planning. The firm uses a fact-based process with rigorous analysis to develop practical strategies leading to greater organizational effectiveness. FSG's recent experience with other Nebraska entities includes a 12-month project with the Douglas County juvenile justice system as well as a project with Accelerate Nebraska looking at the alignment among education, the labor market and business and industry in the region. The State Board's strategic planning process is expected to be completed in 19 weeks.

SCHOOL SECURITY STANDARDS

New school security standards were presented to the State Board of Education. The standards were developed by a 37-member statewide committee comprised of educators, law enforcement, the State Fire Marshall, emergency management officials and education policy partners.

See [Rationale](#)

See [Safety Standard Indicators](#)

For detailed information about the work session or business meeting, visit

<http://www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Agendas.html> .

The State Board of Education will meet February 4-5, 2016.

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