



January 2015

Highlights of the State Board of Education meeting

State Board of Education: Newly Elected Officers

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



The State Board of Education voted unanimously to re-elect Rachel Wise of Oakland president.

Wise is a retired Nebraska teacher and administrator. She has spent 36 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 past year,” 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 this year to focus on providing excellent educational opportunities for every student every day as we continue to develop, among other initiatives, the new school accountability system, AQuESTT, with a focus on quality, accountability and school improvement,” Wise said.



Lillie Larsen of Lincoln was unanimously 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 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. I believe it is important to support students as they prepare for college and their future careers.”

Nickels, McPherson Join State Board of Education



Maureen Nickels of Chapman and Pat McPherson of Omaha joined the State Board of Education. Nickels and McPherson were recently elected to the Board. Nickels represents District 6. McPherson represents District 8.

Update on Rule 10 Draft/AQuESTT

A public hearing on the draft of Rule 10, which includes the new state accountability system, AQuESTT, has been scheduled for Jan. 27 at 10 a.m., CST. Educators and members of the public may comment on the proposed Rule 10 changes as well as provisions related to AQuESTT from six sites across Nebraska. Written or email comments are also encouraged. Email nde.accreditation@nebraska.gov or mail comments to: Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Accreditation, Attention: Freida Lange, 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94987, Lincoln, NE, 68509-4987.

See [Public Hearing Sites](#)

See [Rule 10/A QuESTT Draft](#)

Two-Year Bargaining Agreement

The agreement provides a 2.25 percent salary increase on July 1, 2015 and a 2.40 percent increase on July 1, 2016.

See [Summary of Tentative 2015-2017 Agreement](#)

See [Final Draft 2015-2017 NAPE Agreement](#)



NeSA-English Language Arts: Assessment Transition

To cover the content and provide the rigor of newly revised English Language Arts standards that are college and career ready, the current NeSA-Reading assessment will change. The transition work will occur between February and June and require amendments to the Data Recognition Corporation contract.

See [Assessment Transition Rationale](#)

See [Transition Plan](#)

See [DRC Two-Year Contract Request](#)

The State Board of Education will meet Feb. 5-6, 2015.

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