

**Minutes of the State Board of Education Meetings
September 7-8, 2017**

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

[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)

[Link to Video of Meeting](#)

Publicized notice of the work session and business meeting was given by posting notice on the Department's website; emailed to news media requesting notification, and posting a copy of the agenda in the Office of the Commissioner of Education, which gave the date, time, and location of the meeting.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – WORK SESSION – September 7, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Patricia Timm called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

1.1. Roll Call

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

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. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND AGENDA OVERVIEW

2.1 Consent Agenda process

The Commissioner explained to Board Members the process for seeking additional information on Consent Agenda items.

2.2 Report on Rules

The Commissioner referenced the Rules Report attached to the Agenda. Rules 71 and 72 are currently under consideration by the Attorney General's Office.

2.3 Board Priorities and Policy Research

Ryan Foor, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, reminded Board Members to review the delegate assembly packet for voting on various National Association of State Boards of Education items for the upcoming election.

3. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

3.1. AQuESTT - Teaching and Learning Domain Committee

3.1.A. College, Career, and Civic Ready

3.1.A.1. Action Item: Approval of Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for Science

Maureen Nickels, Chair of the Committee, asked Cory Epler and Sara Cooper, Department of Education representatives, to recap the meeting discussion on the proposed Science standards. Following discussion of the topic, Maureen Nickels advised the Board that the Committee recommends approval of the science standards at the Business meeting on Friday, September 8.

The Board expressed appreciation for the work of the NDE team on the Science standards process.

3.1.B. Assessment

3.1.B.1. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to set cut scores for ACT

Maureen Nickels, Chair, asked Valorie Foy and Jeremy Heneger, Department of Education representatives, to report on the discussion of the Committee and review the definitions and cut scores with the whole Board.

The Committee recommends authorizing the Commissioner to set the ACT cut scores. The Chair announced that Lisa Fricke will lead the action during the Board Business meeting on Friday, September 8.

3.2 AQuESTT - Student Success and Access Domain Committee

Molly O'Holleran, Chair, reported on the discussions of the Committee. Topics discussed were USDA grants and Rule 15 guide for implementation.

3.3 Policy Committee

3.3.A. Action Item: Approve proposed revisions to State Board Policy P5 (formerly D6), Contracts, Grants and Purchases

Patricia Timm, Chair, asked Shane Rhian, Department of Education representative, to report on the change in Board Policy P5, contracts and grants needing Board approval. The proposed change will have contracts and grants exceeding \$50,000 go before the Board for approval.

The Committee recommended approval of the revised policy at the Business Meeting on Friday, September 8.

3.3.B. Action Item: Approve State Board Position Statement S11, Position Statement for Nebraska Digital Education

Patricia Timm, Chair, shared proposed new Board Position Statement S11, relating to Nebraska Digital Education. After discussion, the Chair returned the matter to Committee for additional clarification on the technology plan. .

3.3.C. Action Item: Approve State Board Position Statement S12, Position Statement on Assessment of Student Learning

Patricia Timm Chair, shared the new Position Statement S12, that reiterates the idea of assessment for learning in all content areas in all grade levels. The Committee recommends approval of the statement at the Business meeting on Friday, September 8..

3.3.D. Action Item: Approve proposed revisions to State Board Policy P11 (formerly G22), Data Access and Use

Patricia Timm, Chair, reviewed proposed revisions to State Board Policy P11. The revisions describe how NDE staff should handle personally identifiable information regarding students..

The Committee recommends approval of the revisions to the policy statement during the Business Meeting on Friday, September 8.

3.3.E. Discussion Item: Discuss State Board Position Statement S13, Model Policy to Encourage the Educational Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students

Patricia Timm, Chair reported that the Committee discussed revisions to S5 and will be presented to the Board as an action item at the October.2017 meeting.

3.3.F. Discussion Item: Discuss proposed revisions to State Board Position Statement S5 (formerly G7), Expanded Learning Opportunities

Patricia Timm, Chair, will recommend a new position statement on S13, regarding the expanded learning opportunities for action in October 2017 meeting.

3.4 Legislative Committee

Rachel Wise, Chair, shared the Committee discussions on reading and math intervention and proposed language for Rule 10, 11, 24 and 51. There was also a general discussion of understanding ESU services and accreditation. The discussion will continue at the October 2017 meeting.

At 3:14 p.m., President Timm called for a break. The meeting resumed at 3:28 p.m.

3.5. Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee

3.5.A. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to submit to the Secretary of Education a consolidated state plan for Nebraska under the Every Student Succeeds Act

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the status and action on completing the ESSA plan this month. He reviewed the six elements of the plan; shared conversations with the Governor; discussions with Tribal leaders, and conversations with the U.S. Department of Education.

Following discussion, the Committee recommended authorizing the Commissioner to submit the plan to the Secretary of Education

3.5.B. Discussion Item: AQuESTT processes and timeline

Gale Hamilton, Department of education representative, provided an overview of the AQuESTT processes and timeline for classifications of schools.

3.6 Budget and Finance Committee

3.6.A Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve a contract with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) for expansion of the Career Pathways Advancement Program (CPAP) into the geographic areas of Iowa that surround Nebraska

John Witzel, Chair, reported on the Committee recommendation to approve this contract during the business meeting of the Board on Friday, September 8.

Mark Schultz, Deputy Commissioner for Vocational Rehabilitation, provided a brief history of the program.

3.6.B. Discussion Item: Authorize the Commissioner to submit the Department's Deficit Budget Request in the Nebraska Budget Request and Reporting System

John Witzel, chair, reported on the recommendation of the Committee to authorize the Commissioner to submit the Department's Deficit Budget during the October 2017 Board meeting.

4. BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSIONS ITEMS

4.1. ESUCC Presentation

Dave Ludwig, Executive Director of ESUCC and Dan Schnoes, ESU 3 Administrator, reviewed the programs and services of the Educational Service Units and the relationship building with the Department of Education.

4.2 Meeting participation and joint meetings with policy partners

Board Members shared attendance at various meetings since the August meeting.

4.3 Discuss requests for meeting attendance

Board Members requested approval to attend upcoming NASB membership meetings and other local education events.

Patrick McPherson asked that the Board review Board Policy B7 relating to travel when asking for travel approval. Board Members were provided a copy of the policy for review.

4.4 Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

President Timm reminded Board members to review the travel expense report.

5. ADJOURNMENT

President Timm adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m. The September Business meeting will be held on September 8, 2017, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the State Board Meeting Room.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – BUSINESS MEETING – September 8, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1.A. Roll Call

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

Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

1.1.B Pledge of Allegiance – President Timm led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.1.C. Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information -
President Timm announced the location of the Open Meetings Act.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 2.1. Approval of the August 3-4, 2017, meeting minutes passed with a motion by John Witzel and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 3.1 Commissioner recommendations and items to be removed from consent agenda

Commissioner Blomstedt recommended removing Action Item 7.2.B from the Agenda to return the item to the Policy Committee for further discussion.

Approve the Agenda as published with Commissioner recommendations passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- 4.1 Request for Appearance

4.1.A. Science Standards – Dr. Chad Brassil, Associate Professor, University of Nebraska, Lincoln spoke in support of science standards

4.1.B Science Standards – Dan Sitzman, Past President, Nebraska Academy of Sciences and Science Instructional Coach, Omaha Public Schools, spoke in support of science standards

4.1.C Other Public Comment

- Steve Cooper, parent and Director of Raikes University of Nebraska-Lincoln – speaking in support of the Science standards and the interdisciplinary manner of the standards
- Anica Brown, teacher – speaking in support of science standards and active engagement of

the students

- Jay Sears, Nebraska State Education Association – speaking in support of the science standards, ACT cut scores, and submitting the ESSA plan
- Henry Burke - speaking to climate change as a bogus theory and in opposition to the science standards
- Kim Morrow, Verdis Group – speaking to climate change reality and the importance of understanding the changes, in support of science standards
- William Forsee - taking climate change seriously
- Bryon Line - speaking to climate change and what is actually happening in the world
- John Atkeison - speaking to climate and being informed and against teachers being bullied
- Vivion Nguyen – speaking to her research on climate change at UNL, climate change is real, and in support of Nebraska science standards
- Frances Moore, Citizens Climate Lobby – Bellevue – speaking in support of science standards to develop critical thinkers.
- Francis Mendenhall - speaking to climate change
- Matthew Gregory, Nebraska Wildlife Federation - work includes education about climate change and in support of the science standards
- Allen Vovolka, speaking to systems thinking and ability to tell the truth to students
- Laurel Van Horn – speaking to quality Science standards as a means to understanding all God created and in support of the standards

5. HEARINGS (None)

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION (None)

7. ACTION ITEMS

7.1. AQuESTT - Teaching and Learning Domain Committee

7.1.A College, Career, and Civic Ready

7.1.A.1. Approval of Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for Science passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Rachel Wise.

Motion to amend by Patrick McPherson: To add to bottom of the overview, the following statement: The Nebraska State Board of Education encourages all teachers and administrators in developing curriculum to be respectful of the individual student's views as to evolution and religion and to also recognize that individual students may have differing views on manmade climate change whether that be belief that it is a fact or belief that it is not a fact.

The amendment failed for lack of second.

Vote on main motion:

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Patrick McPherson:	Nay
Molly O'Holleran:	Yea
Patricia Timm:	Yea
Rachel Wise:	Yea
John Witzel:	Yea

Patrick McPherson stated, for the record: *I want to thank all the staff, teachers, post-secondary and others cross the state involved in the revision/creation of the standards this board will vote on today. I know that much work and effort went into this effort.*

I also want to thank all of those who have e-mailed, phoned or contacted me and my fellow board members regarding the proposed standards. A special thanks to all who appeared before this board in person over the last several months whether they supported, opposed or wanted changes to the standards as proposed.

Because I was not on the committee that recommended approval of the standards, I have had limited input into those standards.

I know that approval of the standards today will leave many individuals unhappy on the topics of evolution or climate change in particular given the testimony and e-mail and phone contacts board members have received.

With that said, I have several concerns about the standards as proposed.

- *I do not believe that we have had adequate input from one of the most important groups of stakeholders in Nebraska—the parents. While the department did a great job of inviting educators and numerous business entities to attend stakeholder meetings, parents as well as other elected officials from the many elected offices across the state were absent. We continue to hear and espouse the need for greater parental involvement in the education process of Nebraska children and just haven't yet found a way to achieve this goal.*
- *On the issue of climate change, I congratulate the department for making cosmetic changes that tend to at least treat it as more of a debatable theory than a fact. That change and the handling of that issue still upsets many on both sides of the argument.*
- *On the issue of evolution, while I personally can and do reconcile my belief in it and my belief in my creator, I know from contacts and testimony that many parents and others across the state feel that teaching it as a confirmed theory violates their personal religious beliefs and while there is certainly major differences between science and religion, parents and more importantly students shouldn't be taught one discipline as fact which punishes or contradicts and/or ignores their beliefs.*
- *I am also concerned that the implementation time-line as presented to the board at its last meeting is not prompt enough in that it appears that some of the standards won't be*

implemented until only a couple of years before the next revision effort for science standards begins again, thus not allowing sufficient time for review of the effectiveness of these standards.

- *As important as the above concerns are, I share the belief of many who have contacted me and testified before this body that the standards as proposed are not rigorous enough. It appears to me that the proposed Nebraska Science Standards are not knowledge and fact based.*
- *This goes to the argument of whether the proposed standards are what are referred to as Type 1 (knowledge and fact based) or Type 2 standards (current and proposed standards). Nebraska's current Science Standards have been ranked as failing by some institutions in their studies, studies not necessary funded by conservative groups.* Those same institutions suggest that the Next Generation Science Standards on which the proposed Nebraska Science Standards are just very much mediocre Common Core Type 2 ones.***

I understand there is a difference between standards and curriculum and I celebrate the fact that our 244 school districts across the state will have the local responsibility of developing curriculum which best deals with this subject and represents the citizens who reside in those districts.

While it is important to listen to educators and administrators, I believe it is equally important to listen to citizens across the state who sent us here. Failure to do so simply provides parents another reason to look to educate their children in alternatives to a great public school system. Absent the approval of my proposed amendment and for the reasons stated above, my vote on the proposed Nebraska Science Standards is "no".

The Board expressed appreciation for the work of the individuals involved in the revised state science standards.

7.1.B. Assessment

7.1.B.1. Authorize the Commissioner to set [cut scores for ACT](#) passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

7.2 Policy Committee

- 7.2.A. Approve proposed revisions to State Board Policy P5 (formerly D6), Contracts, Grants and Purchases passed with a motion by John Witzel and a second by Molly O'Holleran.

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

- 7.2.B. Approve State Board Position Statement S11, Position Statement for Nebraska Digital Education. This item was removed from the Agenda.

- 7.2.C. Approve State Board Position Statement S12, Position Statement on Assessment of Student Learning passed with a motion by John Witzel and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

- 7.2.D. Approve proposed revisions to State Board Policy P11 (formerly G22), Data Access and Use passed with a motion by John Witzel and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

- 7.3. Strategic Planning, Performance, and Improvement Committee

- 7.3.A. Authorize the Commissioner to submit to the Secretary of Education a consolidated state plan for Nebraska under the Every Student Succeeds Act Passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Molly O'Holleran.

Lisa Fricke: Yea
Patsy Koch Johns: Yea
Patrick McPherson: Yea
Molly O'Holleran: Yea

Patricia Timm: Yea
Rachel Wise: Yea
John Witzel: Yea

7.4 Budget and Finance Committee

- 7.4.A. Authorize the Commissioner to approve a contract with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) for expansion of the Career Pathways Advancement Program (CPAP) into the geographic areas of Iowa that surround Nebraska passed with a motion by John Witzel and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

8. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- 8.2 Approve consent agenda passed with a motion by Molly O'Holleran and a second by John Witzel.

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

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS (None)

10. BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 10.1. Meeting participation passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by John Witzel.

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Timm adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, October 6, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Office Building, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Commissioner's Recommendation for ACT

