

State Board of Education Minutes of Meetings

October 4-5, 2018

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, business meeting, and retreat 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 meetings.

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION, Thursday, October 4, 2018, 2:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – President Witzel called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1.1. Roll Call

Present: Witzel, Timm, Koch Johns, Wise, Fricke, McPherson, O'Holleran, Nickels;
Commissioner Blomstedt

1.2. President Witzel announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act information.

2. **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND AGENDA OVERVIEW**

Commissioner Blomstedt expressed appreciation for efforts in completing the September Board meeting in his absence. He also updated the Board on his testimony before the Senate HELP Committee, an application for Pre-school Development Grant, and the Retreat.

2.1 Consent Agenda process

The Consent Agenda process was reviewed by the Commissioner.

2.2 Report on Rules

The Commissioner reviewed the Rules Report and noted the NDE Personnel Rules were at the Attorney General's office for review and that Rule 9 had been repealed.

2.3 Board Priorities and Policy Research

Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, explained the process for the retreat around school accreditation and accountability following the business meeting on Friday. The Agenda for the session is Item 13 on the Business Agenda.

- 2.3.A. Board participation at the NASBE conference later this month was reviewed. President Witzel asked Board members to let him know of any concerns they might have in relation to his serving as voting delegate for the Board.

3. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

3.1. Policy Committee

- 3.1.A. Discussion Item: Discuss four-year review of State Board Position Statement S1, Nondiscrimination and Equal Educational Opportunity in Schools

Patricia Timm, Chair, reported that the Committee will continue discussion of recommended revisions from NDE staff and plans to bring proposed revisions of this Position Statement to the full Board at a later date.

- 3.1.B. Discussion Item: Discuss proposed revisions to State Board Policy P5, Contracts, Grants and Purchases AND/OR State Board Bylaw B6, Agendas/Meeting Materials for Regular Meetings

Patricia Timm, Chair, reported that the Committee discussed proposed revisions and recommends that the Budget and Finance Committee also review the proposed revisions before bringing to the full Board as an action item at a later date.

3.2. Legislative Committee

- 3.2.A. Action Item: 2019 Legislative Priorities

Rachel Wise, Chair, reported on the Committee meeting. The Committee is asking that Board members review the draft document presented in September and recommends the priorities be approved during the Business Meeting of the Board on October 5.

Chair Wise also shared next steps with the adoption of the Legislative Priorities.

Chair Wise asked that due to legislative planning taking place that the 2019 legislative committee be appointed as soon possible. The Legislative Retreat of the State Board will be held February 6 and discussed at the November meeting.

- 3.3. Commissioner's Appraisal Committee (NO REPORT)

- 3.4. AQUESTT - Teaching and Learning Domain Committee

- 3.4.A. Discussion Item: Revision of the 2012 Nebraska Social Studies Standards

Cory Epler and Harris Payne, Department of Education representative, provided information on the social studies standards revision process.

3.5. AQuESTT - Student Success and Access Domain Committee

- 3.5.A. Action Item: Grant the Commissioner the authority to continue to contract with The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska on behalf of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), Monroe-Meyer Institute

Molly O'Holleran, Chair, reported that the Committee recommends approval of this item.

- 3.5.B. Discussion Item: Equity Lens (NASBE resource)

Molly O'Holleran, Chair, asked Committee Member Patsy Koch Johns to report on the discussion of Equity Lens, a NASBE document.

- 3.5.C. Action Item: Grant the Commissioner the authority to accept a Project AWARE Grant

Dean Folkers, Department of Education representative, reviewed the details of the grant. The Committee recommends adoption of the five-year grant supporting behavioral programs and supports.

- 3.5.D. Action Item: Grant the Commissioner the authority to accept School Safety Grants; one from USDE and two from the US Department of Justice

Molly O'Holleran, Chair, reported on the Committee discussion. The Committee recommends approval.

3.6 Budget and Finance Committee

- 3.6.A. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to submit the Department's deficit budget request for Fiscal Year 2018-19 on behalf of the State Board of Education.

John Witzel, Chair, asked Bryce Wilson, Department of Education representative, to report on the deficit request. The Committee recommends approval.

3.7 Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee

Pat Timm, Chair, reported that there were no action items before the Committee. Updates were received from staff.

Commissioner Blomstedt spoke to the purpose of the retreat today regarding the Strategic Plan and the third party review of the progress of the plan.

4. BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSIONS ITEMS

- 4.1 Meeting participation and joint meetings with policy partners

- 4.1.A Monthly Board Reports
- 4.1.B. Meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved
- 4.1.C. Discuss requests for future meeting attendance. Board members were reminded to complete the request for travel forms for upcoming events.
- 4.1.D. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report
- 5. **ADJOURNMENT.** President Witzel adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION, Friday, October 5, 2018, 9:00 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER. President Witzel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Present: Witzel, Timm, McPherson, Koch Johns, Wise, Fricke, O'Holleran, Nickels
Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance. President Witzel led the Pledge.

1.3 President Witzel announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act information.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2.1 Approval of the minutes of the September 6-7, 2018 State Board of Education meeting passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Lisa Fricke.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, McPherson, Nickels, O'Holleran, Timm, Wise, Witzel

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3.1 Commissioner's recommendations and items to be removed from consent agenda

Approval of the Agenda passed with a motion by Molly O'Holleran and a second by Maureen Nickels.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, McPherson, Nickels, O'Holleran, Timm, Wise, Witzel

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

4.1 Request for Appearance - None

4.2 Other Public Comment

- Cindy Copich, NSEA, thanked the Board for providing opportunities for input on social studies standards and NSEA is willing to partner with NDE on this effort.
- Carole Julian – spoke to the Omaha Race Riots of 1919 (handout)
- Rachel Pinkerton – spoke to the Delicate Imbalance Summit and Nebraska Dyslexia Association. (handouts)

5. **HEARINGS (NONE)**

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION (NONE)**

7. **ACTION ITEMS**

7.1 Legislative Committee

7.1.A. 2019 Legislative Priorities

Adoption of the 2019 Legislative Priorities passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patricia Timm.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, McPherson, Nickels, O'Holleran, Timm, Wise, Witzel

7.2. AQuESTT - Student Success and Access Domain Committee

7.2.A. To grant the Commissioner the authority to continue to contract with The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska on behalf of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), Monroe-Meyer Institute passed with a motion by Molly O'Holleran and a second by Patricia Timm.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, McPherson, Nickels, O'Holleran, Timm, Wise, Witzel

7.2.B. To grant the Commissioner the authority to accept a Project AWARE Grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services passed with a motion by Molly O'Holleran and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, McPherson, Nickels, O'Holleran, Timm, Wise, Witzel

7.2.C. To grant the Commissioner the authority to accept School Safety Grants; one from USDE and two from the US Department of Justice passed with a motion by Molly O'Holleran and a second by Rachel Wise.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, McPherson, Nickels, O'Holleran, Timm, Wise, Witzel

7.3 Budget and Finance Committee

- 7.3.A. To authorize the Commissioner to submit the Department's deficit budget request for Fiscal Year 2018-19 on behalf of the State Board of Education passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Maureen Nickels.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, McPherson, Nickels, O'Holleran, Timm, Wise, Witzel

8. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- 8.1 Identify items for separate vote (NONE)

- 8.2 Approval of the consent agenda passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Lisa Fricke.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, McPherson, Nickels, O'Holleran, Timm, Wise, Witzel

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS (NONE)

10. BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 10.1 Meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved

Approval of a meeting that took place in the past that were not previously approved for John Witzel for attending the Voices of Children in Nebraska Spotlight Gala on September 28, 2018, passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Maureen Nickels.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, McPherson, Nickels, O'Holleran, Timm, Wise, Witzel

- 1.2. Future Meeting participation

Motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Rachel Wise.

A discussion followed.

Patrick McPherson stated for the record:

Three years ago when I had the opportunity to be on the board and attend a national NASBE meeting, I was somewhat appalled when I was going to go until I found out that there were 7 other board members of our 8 board members going. After that, I started voting no as many of you remember on travel expenses until we had a travel policy and we did adopt a travel policy that said no more than two people would go unless paid for by NASBE. But I want to say that it looks like a sham when we have 7 members to this convention. Whether it is being paid by NASBE or not, we pay dues to that organization and whether we're getting money from them for travel expenses, the optics of this in the eyes of the average vote and the average citizen in Nebraska is you've got 7 out of 8 members going to a convention at their taxpayer expense regardless of where the money comes from. I think it makes our policy look like a sham. I could go to that. I

was offered the opportunity to go, I may not be here next year. Why would I go if I don't know whether I'm going to be here next year? I think our policy looks like a sham and the optics are terrible for this Board to be sending 7 out of 8 board members to national convention. It just doesn't make sense. And that's the reason I will vote no.

. . . for the record I think it sends the wrong message. We all have an opportunity to grow and learn from these committees and our involvement but we have several of these meetings every year. I have been to one national committee meeting and one orientation meeting in 8 years, in 4 years. I just think we could all do much better in minding our fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers of the state of Nebraska who sent us here without jeopardizing our efforts to provide equity for every child in this state as far as their education goes.

Rachel Wise stated:

The record needs to reflect that not all expenses come from the state of Nebraska. NASBE works to get funders to work on various projects and some of our colleagues who have been on various projects are grant funded projects from various funders across the county that pay for the expenses to be involved in those projects and pays the expenses for travel to the national conference. So I think the record needs to be accurate if it is important to reflect in a record that not all expenses are coming from taxpayers in Nebraska.

Approval of future meeting participation passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Rachel Wise.

Voting Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Nickels, O'Holleran, Timm, Wise, Witzel
Voting No: McPherson

12. RECESS

President Witzel announced the end of the broadcast for the State Board meeting at 9:40 a.m. The Board will resume the meeting at a different location at 10:00 a.m.

13. RETREAT ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACCREDITATION, 1526 K Street, 4th Floor, Conference Room D Hearing Room, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

The State Board met for purposes of a retreat on Accountability and Accreditation. Discussion was facilitated by Reg Leichty of Foresight Law + Policy. The Board worked toward identifying major areas to focus on in relation to the Strategic Plan.

14. ADJOURNMENT.

President Witzel adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, November 2, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Office Building in Lincoln, Nebraska.