

**State Board of Education Minutes of Meeting**  
Thursday-Friday, September 5-6, 2019  
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 meetings.

**STATE BOARD WORK SESSION, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019, 2:00 P.M.**

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

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following members present:

Lisa Fricke	Patricia Timm	John Witzel	Rachel Wise
Patsy Koch Johns	Maureen Nickels	Debora Neary	Robin Stevens

Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

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

2.1 Consent Agenda Process

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the Consent Agenda process with the Board.

2.2 Report on Rules

Commissioner Blomstedt reported that Rules 11, 46, and 53 are awaiting Attorney General approval.

2.3 Board Priorities and Policy Research

Ryan Foor, Director of State Board Relations, relayed the Black Hawk Helicopter ride experience Board Members and Department of Education staff were afforded by Kevin Lyons, a Brigadier General in the Nebraska Army National Guard as well as a member of the Department of Education staff.

2.3.A. Information on NASBE Conference

Ryan Foor, Director of State Board Relations, provided an overview of the upcoming conference in Omaha. Board Member Rachel Wise who serves as president of NASBE, also provided information on the conference.

2.3.B. Description of Changes to Agenda Structure

Ryan Foor, Director of State Board Relations, noted changes in the Consent Agenda format during the Business Meeting. The approval process remains as Commissioner Blomstedt explained and will now include approval of the Minutes of the previous month's meeting.

2.4 Presentation on Nebraska Instructional Materials Collaborative

Commissioner Blomstedt noted that this presentation was carried over from the August agenda. He also noted that Cory Epler, Academic Officer, for the Department of Education, is recognized nationally for his work on the Instructional Materials Collaborative.

Cory Epler provided an overview of the work over the past two years and how it has grown. The program utilizes statewide leadership of ESUs and Districts to assist teachers in having access to materials to help students learn from a rigorous college and career ready curriculum.

2.5 State Leadership Playbook

Commissioner Blomstedt introduced Zainab Rida as the Department of Education Equity Officer effective September 1, 2019. He also thanked the Board for their input from the last meeting on the Playbook and noted that Dr. Rida will also review the Playbook with the Department's focus on equity.

**3. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

3.1. Policy Committee

3.1.A. Action Item. Adopt proposed revisions to *State Board Bylaw B16, Board Member Expenses*

Committee Chair, Patricia Timm, noted that this Bylaw has been monitored through the last legislative session because of potential action which did not end up being passed. The Policy Committee recommends that the State Board adopt the revisions, with the addition of a cross reference to the Nebraska Constitution, at the business meeting on Friday.

3.1.B. Action Item. Adopt proposed revisions to *State Board Position Statement S1, Nondiscrimination and Equitable Educational Opportunities in Schools*.

Committee Chair, Patricia Timm, noted the proposed revisions recommended by the Student Success and Access Domain Committee. The proposed revisions, consistent with the definition of what a Board position statement is, are primarily aspirational and belief statements of where this Board stands on the topic of equal educational opportunity. The Policy Committee recommends that the State Board adopt the revisions, with one non-substantive change, replacing the word "equal" with "equitable" to be consistent throughout, at the business meeting on Friday.

3.2 Legislative Committee

3.2.A. Action Item – 2019-2020 Legislative Priorities

Committee Chair, Maureen Nickels, reviewed the 2019-20 Legislative Priorities document with the Board. Upon adoption of these Priorities, this document will be available to the public. Chair Nickels also asked Deputy Commissioner Brian Halstead to provide an update of various legislative issues. The Committee recommends the State Board adopt the 2019-20 Legislative Priorities at the business meeting on Friday.

3.3 Commissioner's Appraisal Committee

Patricia Timm, Chair of the Committee, noted that the Committee will meet Friday morning and will provide a report during the Business meeting.

3.4. AQUeSTT – Teaching and Learning Domain Committee

3.4.A. Action Item. Approve the Nebraska World Language Standards

Committee Chair, Lisa Fricke, noted that the Committee has reviewed the World Language Standards several times and recommends the State Board adopt the standards during the business meeting on Friday.

3.4.B. Discussion Item. Development of Nebraska Health Education Standards

Committee Chair, Lisa Fricke, noted the Committee is in the early stages of review of the Nebraska Health Education Standards development. This item will continue to be discussed by the Committee.

3.4.C. Discussion Item. Early Literacy Position Statement

Committee Chair, Lisa Fricke, discussed the update of the Early Literacy Position Statement. The Committee recommends that this item be reviewed by the Policy Committee next month as an Action item.

3.4.D. Discussion Item. Discuss proposed revisions to Rule 21 (92 NAC 21), Regulations for the Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Provide Special Services, and Administer in Nebraska Schools

3.4.E. Discussion Item. Discuss proposed revisions to Rule 24 (92 NAC 24), Regulations for Certificate Endorsements

Committee Chair, Lisa Fricke, noted that these two Discussion items will be considered together. The Committee discussion was around the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) endorsement. Commissioner Blomstedt provided additional information about the JAG program. Additional information will be provided to the Board. Jeremy Heneger also provided an update about the innovation of NSCAS.

3.5. AQuESTT – Student Success and Access Domain

3.5.A. Action Item. Resolution to recognize September as Attendance Awareness Month and commence the “Nebraska! Every Day Counts!” campaign

Committee Chair, Patsy Koch Johns, noted that this Resolution was shared at the August meeting and asked Lane Carr, Department of Education representative, to offer additional information. The Committee recommends approval of the Resolution during the Business meeting on Friday.

3.5.B. Action Item. Accept the Nebraska Equity Lens

Committee Chair, Patsy Koch Johns, provided background history on the development of the Equity Lens. The Committee has made several iterations over the last year and explained the purpose of the lens. Chair Koch Johns asked Board members to think about how the equity lens can be used by Board members. The Committee recommends approval of the Nebraska Equity Lens during the Business meeting on Friday.

3.6. Budget and Finance Committee

3.6.A. Discussion Item. Deficit Budget Issues

Committee Chair, John Witzel, noted that the Committee was briefed on the deficit budget process including the timeline and the role of the Board. The Committee discussed several ideas around the upcoming deficit budget request that will be coming to the Board for discussion and approval in October.

At 3:11 p.m., President Witzel called for a break. The meeting resumed at 3:24 p.m.

3.7. Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee

3.7.A. Action Item. Approve Santee Elementary, Middle, and High School Priority School Progress Plans

Committee Chair, Rachel Wise, noted that the Committee traveled to Santee to meet with the school’s leadership. The Santee Schools will present their Plan at the October Board meeting. This item was removed from the Agenda for the Business meeting on Friday for action and will be taken at a later date.

3.7.B. Discussion Item. 2019 AQuESTT classification and timeline

Committee Chair, Rachel Wise, asked Shirley Vargas and Lane Carr, Department of Education representatives, to provide information to the Board.

3.7.C. Discussion Item. Final review of proposed changes to *Board Policy S2, Accountability for Quality Education System, Today & Tomorrow (AQuESTT)*

Committee Chair, Rachel Wise, noted the Committee discussed referral of this Policy to the Policy Committee for possible action at the October Board meeting.

**4.0. BOARD REPORTS, DATES, AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

4.1 Meeting participation and joint meetings with policy partners review

4.1.A. Monthly Board Reports

President Witzel reminded Board members to review the monthly reports of Board members.

4.1.B. Quarterly discussion on meeting participation

Board Members individually reported on a meeting attended during the past three months that was most informative to them.

4.2. Meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved

President Witzel reminded the Board to submit reports for past attendance at meetings not previously approved. Action on the approval of these requests will be taken during the Business meeting on Friday.

4.3. Discuss requests for future meeting attendance

President Witzel reminded the Board to submit travel requests for upcoming meetings.

4.4. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

President Witzel reminded the Board to review the Travel Expense Report.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

President Witzel adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m. The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on September 6, 2019, State Board Meeting Room, State Office Building, Sixth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING, Friday, September 6, 2019, 9:00 AM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Witzel called the Business Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following members present:

Lisa Fricke	Patricia Timm	John Witzel	Rachel Wise
Patsy Koch Johns	Maureen Nickels	Debora Neary	Robin Stevens

Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

1.2. President Witzel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**2.0. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

2.1 No items were identified for separate vote

2.2. Approve consent agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patricia Timm.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Commissioner Blomstedt recommended that Action Item 6.7.A. be removed from the Agenda.

Approval of the Agenda as recommended passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Maureen Nickels.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

4.2. Public Comment

- Derrick Joel, Superintendent, Raymond Central Public Schools. Handout. In opposition to the proposed Lincoln Poultry Chicken Farm one mile from Jr.-Sr. High and potential hazards to students.
- Harriet Gould, Raymond Central Public Schools representative. Concerns for transportation and safety, air quality with proposed chicken farm construction. Seeking assistance from the State Board to block the construction.
- Ali Moeller, World Language Professor. Spoke in support of Nebraska World Language standards.

- Bob Feurer, North Bend Central School Board member. Speaking to Rule 10 requirement changes.
- Charles Kaup – GLSEN Omaha representative. Spoke to the mission of GLSEN to educate the public on discrimination of various groups and inequities and support of State Board Position Statement S1.

President Witzel called for a break at 9:27 a.m. The meeting resumed at 9:36 a.m.

## 5. HEARINGS

### 5.1 EXECUTIVE SESSION

To move into Executive Session at 9:38 a.m. to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct to protect the public interest passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Patricia Timm.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel

At 9:38 a.m., the Board moved into Executive Session.

To adjourn the Executive Session of the Board and return to the Business meeting at 10:11 a.m. passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel

At 10:11 a.m., the Board adjourned the Executive Session and returned to the Business meeting.

## 6.0. ACTION ITEMS

### 6.1. Policy Committee

6.1.A. Adopt proposed revisions to *State Board Bylaw B16, Board Member Expenses* passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Rachel Wise.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel

6.1.B. Adopt proposed revisions to *State Board Position Statement S1, Nondiscrimination and Equitable Educational Opportunities in Schools* passed with a motion by Patricia Timm and a second by Rachel Wise.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel

### 6.2. Legislative Committee

6.2.A. Motion to adopt the 2019-2020 Legislative Priorities of the Board passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Patricia Timm.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel

6.3. Commissioner's Appraisal Committee

No action taken.

6.4. AQuESTT - Teaching and Learning Domain Committee

6.4.A. Approve the Nebraska World Language Standards passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Patricia Timm.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel

6.5. AQuESTT - Student Success and Access Domain Committee

6.5.A. Resolution to recognize September as Attendance Awareness Month and commence the "Nebraska! Every Day Counts!" campaign

Patsy Koch Johns read the Resolution into the record.

Adopt the Resolution to recognize September as Attendance Awareness Month and commence the "Nebraska! Every Day Counts!" campaign passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Patricia Timm.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel

6.5.B. Accept the Nebraska Equity Lens

Board members expressed appreciation for the efforts that went toward the Nebraska Equity Lens.

Accept the Nebraska Equity Lens passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Patricia Timm.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel

6.6. Budget and Finance Committee

No action taken.

6.7. Strategic Planning, Performance, and Improvement Committee

6.7.A. Approve Santee Elementary, Middle, and High School Priority School Progress Plans was removed from the agenda.

**7. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

7.1. Centering Equity in Standards Development Centering Equity in Standards Development

Discussion concerning the work with standards to be intentional of equity and to address bias and barriers. Commissioner Blomstedt noted that this is our first attempt to make a change for equity.

Plans to have an updated draft of the social studies content area standards for the October Board meeting with the Board taking action in November.

## **8.0. BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

8.1. Meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved

8.1.A. Fricke

Approve meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved for Lisa Fricke passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

Yes: Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel  
Abstain: Fricke

8.1.B. Koch Johns

Approve meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved for Patsy Koch Johns passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Lisa Fricke.

Yes: Fricke, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel  
Abstain: Koch Johns

8.1.C. Stevens

Approve meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved for Robin Stevens passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel  
Abstain: Stevens

8.1.D. Wise

Approve meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved for Rachel Wise passed with a motion by Robin Stevens and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Witzel  
Abstain: Wise

8.1.E. Witzel

Approve meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved for John Witzel passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Rachel Wise.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise  
Abstain: Witzel

8.2. Future Meeting participation

Approve future meeting participation passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Maureen Nickels.

Yes: Fricke, Koch Johns, Neary, Nickels, Stevens, Timm, Wise, Witzel

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

President Witzel adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, October 4, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Office Building Lincoln, Nebraska. A work session will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in Lincoln, Nebraska.