

## **State Board of Education Minutes of Meetings**

October 3-4, 2019

State Board Meeting Room State Office Building  
301 Centennial Mall South 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, October 3, 2019, 2:00 P.M.**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

1.1 Roll Call – President Witzel called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll call noted the following members present:

John Witzel	Maureen Nickels	Patsy Koch Johns	
Rachel Wise	Lisa Fricke	Deborah Neary	Robin Stevens

Patricia Timm was absent and excused. Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

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

President Witzel noted that some items will be taken out of order. President Witzel announced a change in the Work Session agenda. Item 3.7.A. Action Item: Approval of Santee Elementary, Middle, and High School Priority School Progress Plans was taken at this time.

#### **3.0 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

3.7 Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee

3.7.A. Action Item: Approval of Santee Elementary, Middle, and High School Priority School Progress Plans

Rachel Wise, Chair, welcomed the school leadership from Santee Public Schools to the meeting. The Leadership Team shared information on the efforts and successes of their work toward their action plan for improvement.

Shirley Vargas, Department of Education representative, reviewed the progress and plans for the Santee Public Schools.

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

### 2.1. Consent Agenda process

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the process for Consent Agenda items.

### 2.2. Report on Rules

Commissioner Blomstedt reported on the status of Rules 11, 46, 53. Rules 21 and 24 are scheduled for public hearing.

### 2.3 Information on 2019 AQuESTT classification and timeline

Commissioner Blomstedt introduced Lane Carr and Shirley Vargas, Department of Education representatives, for an update to the Board on the public release of AQuESTT classification and education profile October 9, 2019.

### 2.4. Quarterly Report on Strategic Vision and Direction

Commissioner Blomstedt provided an update on the Measures of Progress for the 2017-2026 Strategic Vision and Direction.

### 2.5 Board Priorities and Policy Research

#### 2.5.A. NASBE Delegate Assembly Information

Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, reminded members of the NASBE conference in Omaha October 16-18, 2019. President Witzel appointed Vice President Maureen Nickels to serve as the Board's delegate at the annual meeting.

#### 2.5.B. Board Playbook Review

Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, updated the Board on the review of the Playbook and how it supports state board members and opportunities for stakeholder input.

Vice President Maureen Nickels led the process to receive feedback from Board members on the Playbook. That feedback will be incorporated into the Playbook and reviewed at the November meeting.

#### 2.5.C. Information on Joint NDE/CCPE Working Group on Dual Enrollment

Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, reported on the Dual Enrollment Working Group.

### **3.0 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### 3.1. Policy Committee

- 3.1.A. Action Item: Adopt revisions to State Board Position Statement S2, Accountability for a Quality Education System for Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT)

In the absence of Chair Patricia Timm, President Witzel asked Lane Carr, Department of Education representative, to report on the discussion of the Committee. The Committee recommends that the State Board adopt the revisions at their business meeting Friday morning.

- 3.1.B. Action Item: Adopt revisions to State Board Position Statement S3, Early Literacy (formerly Reading/Writing)

Acting Chair, John Witzel, asked Department of Education representative, Cory Epler, to report on the Committee discussion. The Committee recommends that the State Board adopt the revisions at their business meeting on Friday.

- 3.1.C. Action Item: Reaffirm State Board Bylaw B11, Legal Assistance

Acting Chair, John Witzel, reported on the Committee discussion. There are no substantive changes and the Committee recommends reaffirming this bylaw with the non-substantive changes that include replacing "General Counsel's Office" with "Legal Services Office."

- 3.1.D. Acting Chair, John Witzel, shared the discussion on Revisions to State Board Policy P1, Political Activities/Use of Resources. A draft will be provide at the November meeting.

- 3.1.E. Acting Chair, John Witzel, shared the discussion on proposed 2020 State Board meeting calendar dates. Board members are to contact Patricia Timm or Ryan Foor with comments on the proposed schedule.

#### 3.2 Legislative Committee

Maureen Nickels, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee. There are no action items for consideration by the Board.

#### 3.3. Commissioner's Appraisal Committee

Acting Chair, John Witzel, expressed the Committee's praise commissioner for the Commissioner's quarterly report efforts. No action was taken.

#### 3.4. AQuESTT - Teaching and Learning Domain Committee

- 3.4.A. Discussion Item: Nebraska Social Studies Standards

Lisa Fricke, Chair of the Committee, reported on the meeting. Cory Epler and Harris Payne, Department of Education representatives, provided an overview of the process of getting the standards ready for public review.

3.5 AQuESTT - Student Success and Access Domain Committee

3.5.A. Discussion Item: Equity Lens Implementation

Patsy Koch Johns, Chair, reported on the meeting. The Committee discussed the use of the Equity Lens and its use going forward.

3.6. Budget and Finance Committee

3.6.A. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to submit deficit budget requests for the Nebraska Department of Education

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the requests with the Board. The Committee recommends approval.

3.7. Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee

Items 3.7.B. and 3.7.C. were moved to the Business Agenda for consideration and action at the meeting on Friday.

3.7.B. Action Item: Adopt the Committee Recommendations for the Board's Role in the Revision of Rules 10 and 14.

3.7.C. Action Item: Adopt the Committee Recommendations for the Board's Role in the Adoption of the Perkins V State Plan

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

4.1 Meeting participation and joint meetings with policy partners

Monthly Board Reports – Board Members will provide reports on one meeting attended during the last quarter.

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

Action will be taken at the Business meeting on Friday.

4.3. Discuss requests for future meeting attendance

4.4 Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

## 5.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Witzel adjourned the Work Session at 4:50 p.m.

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

## STATE BOARD MEETING, Friday, October 4, 2019, 9:00 AM

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call – President Witzel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll call noted the following members present:

John Witzel	Maureen Nickels	Patsy Koch Johns	
Rachel Wise	Lisa Fricke	Deborah Neary	Robin Stevens

Patricia Timm was absent and excused. Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

1.2. Pledge of Allegiance

1.3. Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information

### 2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

2.1. Identify items for separate vote - None

2.2. Approve consent agenda

I move to approve the consent agenda. Passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3.1. I move to approve today's agenda. Passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Robin Stevens.

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

#### **4.0. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

##### 4.1. Request for 10-Minute Special Appearance

##### 4.1.A. Physical Education Standards.

Brandon Mimick spoke to the professional development training for teachers to include weight training and use of equipment.

##### 4.1.B. Public Comment

- Wayne Smith - speaking to social studies standards to include how to avoid being in poverty with the success sequence theory (handout)
- Jill Langhorst - speaking to transparency in public schools and local school board meetings; suggesting live streaming along with minutes available in a timely manner
- Doug Kagen - Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom - speaking to social studies standards slanted toward bias in the finance area
- John Dockery - speaking to social studies standards - concern over terms "marginalized and under-represented groups" and requesting these be eliminated in the standards
- Tiffiany Joekel – speaking in support of non-discrimination statement by the Board, noting that equity and inclusion efforts are important

#### **7. PRESENTATIONS**

##### 7.2 Information on Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG)

Fremont Public Schools representatives, Mark Shepherd, Superintendent; Mark Williams, Teacher; Scott Jensen, Principal; and Emily Montgomery, JAG program. The group presented the JAG efforts in the Fremont Public Schools and the purpose and goals of the JAG program.

**President Witzel called for a break at 10:10 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:21 a.m.**

#### **5. HEARINGS (NONE)**

#### **6.0. ACTION ITEMS**

- ##### 6.1. Consider the Settlement Agreement in NDE Case No. 19-20, Commissioner v. Edward Stansberry, Jr.

## 5.1. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

I move to go into Executive Session for purposes of discussing the Settlement Agreement with Edward Stansberry, Jr. Passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Rachel Wise. At 10:30 a.m., the Board moved into Executive Session.

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

At 10:30 a.m., the Board moved into Executive Session for purposes of discussing the Settlement Agreement with Edward Stansberry, Jr.

I move to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the business meeting of the Board at 10:52 a.m. Passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

At 10:52 a.m., the Board adjourned the Executive Session and returned to the business meeting of the Board.

Lisa Fricke stated for the record: *I want to state for the record that pursuant to Rule 29, section 005.02, which reads "[t]he revocation or suspension of a person's certificate by the Board automatically shall revoke or suspend any and all Department certificates held by the person.*

- 6.1 In Commissioner v. Edward Stansberry, Jr., NDE Case No 19-20, I move that this Board approve the proposed settlement agreement, in which the parties have stipulated to one-year suspension of Respondent's administrative certificate, and to adopt the Final Order proposed by Legal Counsel. Passed with a motion by Maureen Nickels and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

## 6.2. Policy Committee

- 6.2.A. I move to adopt revisions to State Board Position Statement S2, Accountability for a Quality Education System for Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT), with an implementation date of January 1, 2020. Passed with a motion by Deborah Neary and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

- 6.2.B. I move to adopt proposed revisions to State Board Position Statement S3 Early Literacy (formerly Reading/Writing). Passed with a motion by Deborah Neary and a second by Maureen Nickels.

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

- 6.2.C. Reaffirm State Board Bylaw B11, Legal Assistance

I move to reaffirm State Board Bylaw B11, Legal Assistance. Passed with a motion by Deborah Neary and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

- 6.7. Budget and Finance Committee

- 6.7.A. I move to authorize the Commissioner to submit Deficit Budget Requests for the Nebraska Department of Education. Passed with a motion by John Witzel and a second by Maureen Nickels.

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

- 6.8. Strategic Planning, Performance, and Improvement Committee

- 6.8.A. Approval of Santee Elementary, Middle, and High School Priority School Progress Plans

I move to approve Santee Elementary, Middle, and High School Priority School Progress Plans. Passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

Discussion followed concerning Action Items 6.8.B. *Adopt the Committee Recommendations for the Board's Role in the Revision of Rules 10 and 14* and 6.8.C. *Adopt the Committee Recommendations for the Board's Role in the Adoption of the Perkins V State Plan.*

- 6.8.B. I move to adopt the Committee Recommendations for the Board's Role in the Revision of Rules 10 and 14. Passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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



- 6.8.C. I move to adopt the Committee Recommendations for the Board's Role in the Adoption of the Perkins V State Plan Passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Maureen Nickels.

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

## 7. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

- 7.1. The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS): Update on Innovation and Evolution

Jeremy Heneger and Cory Epler, Department of Education representatives, provided an update on the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) on Innovation and Evolution

## 8. BOARD REPORTS, DATES AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

- 8.1.A. I move to approve meetings that took place in the past for Lisa Fricke. Passed with a motion by Rachel Wise and a second by Robin Stevens.

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

- 8.1.B. I move to approve meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved for Patsy Koch Johns. Passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke and a second by Rachel Wise.

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

- 8.1.C. I move to approve meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved for Deborah Neary. Passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Maureen Nickels.

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

8.1.E. I move to approve meetings that took place in the past and were not previously approved for Robin Stevens. Passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Maureen Nickels.

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

8.2. I move to approve future meeting participation Passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns and a second by Maureen Nickels.

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

## 10. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Witzel adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, November 8, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Office Building, Nebraska Department of Education, Sixth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509. A work session will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at the Nebraska State Office building, Nebraska Department of Education, Sixth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509.