

State Board of Education Business Meeting

Friday, May 8, 2020

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 20-03 by a combination of videoconferencing and teleconferencing at

<https://www.education.ne.gov/live-video-stream/>

[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)

[Link to Video of Meeting](#)

Publicized notice of the 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 OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, May 8, 2020, 9:00 AM.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Maureen Nickels called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

John Witzel

Maureen Nickels

Patricia Timm

Rachel Wise

Deborah Neary

Robin Stevens

Patsy Koch Johns

Lisa Fricke

Commissioner Blomstedt was also present.

1.2 President Nickels led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 President Nickels announced that information regarding the Open Meetings Act is linked on the April Board Agenda in Sparq, the electronic meeting software and the Open Meetings Act is also posted on the State Board of Education's website: <https://www.education.ne.gov/stateboard/>.

2. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Blomstedt noted the importance of maintaining the monthly State Board Meetings via Zoom, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 20-03 surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. The NDE is continuing to operate with most staff working remotely. The NDE staff is doing remarkable work across the agency and an equity theme has been maintained throughout the work of the agency.

2.1 Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the process for consent agenda items.

2.1.A. Commissioner's Recommendations and items to be removed from the consent agenda.

No consent agenda items were removed.

2.2. Report on Rules

Commissioner Blomstedt provided a report on the status of Rules 21 and 24. Rule 21 and Rule 24 are waiting on approval from the Attorney General's Office.

2.3 Invited Presentation

2.3.A. Equitable Education Opportunities

Elizabeth Eynon-Kokrda and Lauren Micek Vargas from the Education Rights Counsel, presented on educational equity for special education students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.4 Quarterly report from the 2020 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Megan Helberg, Burwell Junior-Senior High School, Burwell, Nebraska.

Megan Helberg, 8th, 11th and 12th grade English at Burwell Junior/Senior High School, provided an update on the activities she has been involved with as Teacher of the Year.

3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Maureen Nickels asked for attention to the State Board of Education President’s Priorities. Board Members had an opportunity to submit thoughts for priorities at the beginning of the year and President Nickels and Vice President Koch Johns narrowed it down to three: AQuESTT Framework, Early Childhood Education and Educator Preparation and Certification.

President Nickels did not want this to be overlooked during this time of pandemic, but is realistic that there are things on the priority list that will not be accomplished this year.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

5. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 **Policy Committee** – Patricia Timm, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee. The Committee reviewed State Board Bylaw B7, Special Meetings, Emergency Meetings and Meetings Held by Videoconferencing, which was approved under the consent agenda.

5.1.A. Discuss proposed revisions/recommendations to State Board Bylaw B14, Staff Research and Assistance

The Committee reviewed and discussed State Board Bylaw, B14, Staff Research and Assistance, which was scheduled for a four-review in April 2020.

5.2 **Legislative Committee** – Robin Stevens, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee. The Legislature has not met and it does not appear the Legislature will reconvene in the near future to complete the current session. The Committee has no action items to report to the Board and will be monitoring the Legislature from this point forward in the session.

5.3 **Commissioner's Appraisal Committee** – Patricia Timm, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

5.3.A. Discuss Commissioner's 2019-2020 Performance

All Board members completed the Commissioner's performance evaluation for 2019-20 on a timely basis, which the Commissioner again received an overall rating of "Highly Effective," which is the highest rating on the scale. The Commissioner's employment contract was reviewed by the Attorney General's office and some minor changes will be recommended. A vote on the contract will take place at the June business meeting.

5.4 **AQuESTT Teaching, Learning and Serving Domain Committee** – Lisa Fricke, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee. The Committee had no agenda items. The Committee did informally discuss issues of concern related to the pandemic and asked staff to share with the Committee information on how educator preparation programs are working with teacher candidates during this time.

5.5 **AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support Domain Committee** – Patsy Koch Johns, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee. The Committee reviewed the Interim-Program Schools to operate for the 2020-2021 school year under Rule 18, Regulations and Procedures for the Approval of Interim-Program Schools in County Detention Homes, Institutions and Juvenile Emergency Shelters, which was approved under the consent agenda.

5.5.A. Leading for Equity and Excellence Program (LEEP)

The Committee had one discussion item on LEEP. Kimberly Charis has left the position as NASBE's Director of School Equity, however, the Committee was interested in the continuation of the work plan that NE submitted to LEEP last fall. The Nebraska LEEP group will continue working on creating a tool to guide leaders to consider, collaborate and commit to advancing education equity in Nebraska.

5.6 **Budget and Finance Committee** – John Witzel, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

5.6.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

The Committee reviewed the Monthly Board Travel Expense report and had no concerns.

5.6.B. In-State Travel Authorization Reports

The Committee had no concerns.

5.7 **Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee** – Rachel Wise, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee. The Committee reviewed the ESU accreditation (Rule 84) item, approved under the consent agenda. Shirley Vargas, Department of Education representative, provided a brief update on priority school progress and the Committee requested reports from contractors working with priority schools regarding supports provided during the pandemic. The Committee asked that staff consider a plan that focuses on growth for the 2020-2021 school year assessments. Considerations for school accreditation was informally discussed as the Board reviews Rule 10 revisions.

6. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

6.1. Petition for Declaratory Order

Approval to set the matter of the Petition for Declaratory Order in the matter of the COVID-19 Pandemic filed on May 4, 2020, for proceedings under NDE Rule 62 Section 005.01 passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns, second by Lisa Fricke.

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

7. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

President Nickels referred Board Members to review information items and reports.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Nickels adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, June 5, 2020, 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 as needed on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at a time to be determined at the Nebraska State Office building, Nebraska Department of Education, Sixth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509.