

## **State Board of Education Business Meeting;**

Friday, December 11, 2020

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 20-36 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 meeting.

### **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, December 11, 2020, 9:00 AM.**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER –** President Maureen Nickels called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

##### 1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Maureen Nickels

Rachel Wise

Deborah Neary

Robin Stevens

Patsy Koch Johns

Lisa Fricke

John Witzel

Patricia Timm

Commissioner Blomstedt was also in attendance.

##### 1.2 President Nickels led the Pledge of Allegiance.

##### 1.3 President Nickels announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

#### **2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

##### 2.1 End of the Year report from the 2020 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Megan Helberg, Burwell Junior-Senior High School, Burwell, Nebraska

Megan Helberg reviewed her year as the 2020 Nebraska Teacher of the Year with a PowerPoint presentation.

##### 2.2 Introduction of the 2021 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Paul Timm, Lyons-Decatur Northeast Public Schools, Lyons, Nebraska.

Paul Timm, 2021 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, introduced himself and what he looks forward to as Teacher of the Year.

#### **3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

##### 3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the process for consent agenda items.

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

No agenda items were requested for removal.

3.2. Report on Rules

Commissioner Blomstedt provided a report on the status of Rules 21 and 24. Rule 21 and Rule 24 have been approved by the Governor.

3.3. Written Public Comment

Bert Peterson – comment letter to the Board regarding reconsideration of safety standards for COVID-19.

Bert Peterson – follow-up comment letter to the Board regarding reconsideration of safety standards for COVID-19.

Jenni Benson – Nebraska State Education Association, NSEA, comment letter to the Board with regard to the denial of the submitted petition request.

**4. PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Maureen Nickels reviewed the accomplishments of 2020 by the Board in her report.

At 10:25 a.m., President Nickels called for a break. At 10:35 a.m., President Nickels called the meeting back to order

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of the Consent Agenda passed with a motion by Patricia Timm, second by John Witzel.

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

**6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

6.1. **Policy Committee** –Patricia Timm reported on the meeting of the Committee.

The Committee reports that it had an update item regarding the proposed State Board meeting schedule for 2021. The Committee plans to propose a 2021 meeting schedule with the full Board next month.

6.1.A. The Committee recommends reaffirming State Board Policy P8, *Trust Funds*, with one editorial change to update a statutory subsection number reference in the cross references line on the last page.

Approval to reaffirm State Board Policy P8, *Trust Funds*, passed with a motion by Patricia Timm, second by Rachel Wise.

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

- 6.1.B. The Committee recommends reaffirming Policy P10, *Audits of the Neb. Dept. of Education* with no changes.

Approval to adopt revisions to proposed Policy P10, *Audits of the Neb. Dept. of Education*, passed with a motion by Patricia Timm, second by Rachel Wise.

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

- 6.1.C. The Committee recommends adopting the revisions as proposed to Bylaw B9, *Public Participation at Board Meetings*, with the editorial change of adding the word "to" between "prior" and "any meeting" in the last sentence of the 4th paragraph and the second sentence of the 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph. The proposed additions to B9 primarily address public comment in meetings utilizing remote video technology.

Approval to adopt revisions to proposed Bylaw B9, *Public Participation at Board Meetings*, passed with a motion by Patricia Timm, second by Rachel Wise.

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

- 6.1.D. The Committee recommends approving the proposed State Board meeting schedule for 2021.

Approval to adopt the proposed State Board meeting schedule for 2021 passed with a motion by Patricia Timm, second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

- 6.1.E. The Committee recommends ratifying and approving the Board Resolution recognizing Native American Heritage Month in Nebraska.

Approval to adopt and ratify the Board Resolution recognizing Native American Heritage Month in Nebraska passed with a motion by Patricia Timm, second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

- 6.1.F. The Committee recommends ratifying and approving the Board Resolution recognizing Local Public Health Professionals.

Approval to adopt and ratify the Board Resolution recognizing Local Public Health Professionals passed with a motion by Patricia Timm, second by Deborah Neary.

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

- 6.1.G. The Committee recommends ratifying and approving the Board Resolution concerning Community Responsibility in the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Approval to adopt and ratify the Board Resolution recognizing Local Public Health Professionals passed with a motion by Patricia Timm, second by Rachel Wise.

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

- 6.1.H. The Committee reports that it reviewed and discussed State Board Bylaw, B2, Board Committees, which was scheduled for a four-year review this month. The Committee intends to make a revision to the section on the Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement

Committee to clarify that the reference to "Community Achievement Plans" refers to those plans required of Learning Communities in statute and bring that to the full Board next month.

6.2. **Legislative Committee** – Robin Stevens, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

The Committee reports that it met on November 12, 2020, and again on December 10, 2020, to review the initial Nebraska election results including membership of Senators for the 107th Legislature. The members also shared information received in meetings with education policy partners on possible legislation being introduced in January 2021 and discussed other matters that may be introduced. The Legislative Committee members also discussed the end of the year report for the Committee and were comfortable with information provided to the next members of the State Board Legislative Committee.

6.3. **Commissioner's Appraisal Committee** – Patricia Timm, Chair, reported that the Committee did not meet.

6.4. **AQuESTT Teaching, Learning and Serving Domain Committee** – Lisa Fricke, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee. The Committee received an update on Educator Preparation and Certification Rule Revisions. The Committee has asked Brad Dirksen to present Friday to the full Board.

Brad Dirksen, Department of Education representative, presented to the Board on Educator Preparation and Certification Rule Revisions.

6.4.A. The Committee discussed the adoption of the annual plan for the Nebraska Statewide Assessment and Reporting system and recommends approval.

Approval to adopt the annual plan for the Nebraska Statewide Assessment and Reporting system passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke, second by Rachel Wise.

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

6.4.B. The Committee discussed the contract with NWEA and DRC to provide statewide general and alternate assessment for 2020-2021 and recommends approval.

Approval to contract with NWEA and DRC to provide statewide general and alternate assessment for 2020-2021 passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke, 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

- 6.4.C. The Committee reviewed one new action item, contract with Vivayic for the conversion of high-quality instructional materials to remote-ready materials available via Canvas. The Committee recommends approval of this contract.

Approval to contract with Vivayic for the conversion of high-quality instructional materials to remote-ready materials available via Canvas passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke, 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

- 6.5. **AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support Domain Committee** – Patsy Koch Johns, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee. The Committee on AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support domain met on November 12, 2020 and reviewed the following contracts and grants, which were approved under the consent agenda:

- The FY 2020 Team Nutrition Grant award from United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of developing standardized recipes for the National School Lunch Program
- Mosaic by ACT to pilot an evidenced based comprehensive Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum and assessment tools for staff and students in five school districts in NE
- TNTP for a statewide Work-based Learning Landscape Analysis
- The Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to provide communication materials to parents, families, and communities to underscore healthy habits and work towards the mitigation of community spread of COVID-19

The Committee had a discussion item in regards to all NDE future approving committees, i.e. health standards committee, social studies standards committee, etc. It was recommended that all the committee members should maintain a minimum of 25 percent of members coming from diverse groups. Diverse Groups are defined as members from one or more of the demographics and wording listed in the Equity Lens. The Board Committee members will move towards developing intent of the policy language and discuss more in detail in the next future meetings.

The Committee members discussed moving the following discussion items to a future month for Committee discussion including a) using NDE data in decision making and b) addressing racist and xenophobic in AQuESTT.

6.5.B. Human Dignity Position Statement

The committee also discussed briefly the work of developing a Human Dignity Position Statement (Item referred from the Policy Committee). The Board Committee Members recommended discussing this item more in details in the next future meetings.

- 6.6. **Budget and Finance Committee** – John Witzel, Chair, reported on the meeting. The Committee discussed a couple of contracts and the funding source breakouts including the assessment and OCIO contracts.

A Committee member asked for an explanation on the spending exclusion consent agenda item. NDE explained what these spending exclusions are for and that they are specifically identified in statute.

It was noted that the end of year report was available in SPARQ for review and any changes or suggestions were welcome.

Last, the Committee discussed a presentation that was done at the NASB virtual conference on pre-k funding for Morrill public schools.

#### 6.6.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

The Committee reviewed the monthly board travel expenses noting the significant decline from prior years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. NDE showed a breakout between months comparing the current year to the prior year. The Committee had no concerns.

#### 6.6.B. In-State Travel Authorization Reports

The in-state travel authorizations were reviewed with no concerns. Attendance at all meetings was virtual at this time.

### 6.7. **Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee** – Rachel Wise, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

#### 6.7.A. Change external evaluation of Strategic Plan until 2022

The Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan discussion from November and recommends taking action to postpone the external evaluation for a year until 2022.

Approval that the external review of the Strategic Plan be conducted in 2022 passed with a motion by Rachel Wise, second by Patsy Koch Johns

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

#### 6.7.B. Rule Revision Scope of Work

The Committee discussed the action on the proposed timeline for the new rules of Approval/Accreditation/Accountability and recommends taking action. The Committee has asked Brad Dirksen to present briefly on the proposed timeline and scope of work.

Brad Dirksen, Department of Education representative, presented to the Board on the timeline for the new rules of Approval/Accreditation/Accountability.

Approval of the Rule Revision Scope of Work as presented 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

#### 6.7.C. Status of Priority Schools

The Committee briefly reviewed the Priority School discussion item from November. The Committee has asked Dr. Shirley Vargas to present Friday to the full Board.

Dr. Shirley Vargas, Department of Education representative, presented to the Board on the status of priority schools.

#### 6.7.D. Nebraska Ready and Related Rules and Regulations

The Committee discussed the Nebraska Ready Policy Concept.

Commissioner Blomstedt discussed the Nebraska Ready Policy Concept with shifting to an understanding the types of experiences that students need, not to replace AQuESTT, but to leverage the types of student experiences and outcomes to get beyond the traditional state assessment measures and metrics.

### 7. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

### 8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

#### 8.1. Outgoing State Board Member Recognition

Resolutions to recognize State Board of Education Members, Dr. Rachel Wise and John Witzel.

Approval to adopt the Board Resolution recognizing State Board of Education Members, Dr. Rachel Wise and John Witzel passed with a motion by Patricia Timm, second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

### 9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

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



## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

President Nickels adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, January 8, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at a location to be determined. Board Orientation will be held on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at a time and location to be determined.