

**NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION**  
**Educator Preparation Advisory Committee to the Nebraska State Board of Education**

**NCTE GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday, January 28, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

**Voting Members Present:**

HED – P. Adams; T. Cook; E. DeHart; T. Frey; S. Holmes; J. Jansky; D. Karr; D. King; P. Peal; L. Sankey; N. Shudak; S. Skretta; K. Swain; S. Tiedeman  
NASB – D. Blakely; J. Vlach  
NCAPE – V. Kauffold  
NCCA –  
NCSA – M. Adler; C. Boyer; J. Harris; M. Lenihan; D. Lewis; K. Lofquist; J. McDowell; K. Saum-Mills; S. Smith; C. Worrell  
TSB – M. Helt; T. Jacobs  
NSEA – S. Brown; D. Casey; T. Coe; D. Garcia; R. Hanson; D. Jankovich; S. Loney; P. Ludeke; C. Rice; S. Stake; E. Ventura  
NDE – B. Dirksen; K. Heineke

**Alternates Present:**

HED – A. Buschelman; C. Diaz; A. Goodman; B. Jech; J. Koch; K. Rempp; K. Wheeler  
NDE – C. Waddle

**Absent Without Alternate Replacement:**

HED – R. Ernst  
NCCA – P. Illich  
NSEA – M. Edquist; P. Wenninghoff

**Guests:**

HED – J. Anderson; D. Chism; A. Fette; J. Michaelis; M. Reid  
NSEA – T. Tystad  
NDE – D. Avey; M. Beiermann  
OTHER – K. Cattlett; D. Steiner

<u>HED</u> - Higher Education	<u>NCSA</u> -NE Council of School Administrators
<u>NCCA</u> -NE Community College Association	<u>TSB</u> – Teachers State Board Appointed
<u>NASB</u> -NE Association of School Boards	<u>NSEA</u> - NE State Education Association
<u>NCAPE</u> -NE Council on American Private Education	<u>NDE</u> – NE Dept. of Education

**FIRST GENERAL SESSION** – President Diane Casey presiding.

**Declaration of Legal Meeting and Open Meetings Act:** Stated by D. Casey at 8:36 a.m.

**Public Comments:** None

**Approval of May 29, 2020 General Session Meeting Minutes:** Motion by J. Harris to approve the minutes; seconded by S. Loney; Roll call vote taken. Motion Approved.

**Report of Executive Committee Meetings:** – D. Casey reviewed the minutes from the August 28, 2020, October 11, 2020, and December 11, 2020 Executive Committee meetings.

## NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION

### Educator Preparation Advisory Committee to the Nebraska State Board of Education

**Welcome New NCTE Members:** D. Casey welcomed these new NCTE members: Eric Rapp – CSC, Higher Education; Mary Ritzdorf – CSM, Higher Education; Diane Mickey – NE Wesleyan, Higher Education; Chandra Diaz – UNK, Higher Education; Kris Swain - UNO, Higher Education; Kathy Danielson - UNO, Higher Education; Brook Jech – WSC, Higher Education; Lisa Wagner – NASB; Jeremy Ekeler – NCAPE; Vickie Kauffold – NCAPE; Cory Worrell – NCSA; John Schwartz – NCSA; Tanishia Jacobs – Teachers, State Board Appointed; Ed Ventura – NSEA; and Jason Wiese - NSEA.

#### **Informational Items** – K. Heineke

- **Function and Purpose of the NCTE** – A power point presentation was done to help explain the purpose and function of the NCTE. The NCTE is an advisory body to the State Board of Education.

#### **Rule Status Reports** – K. Heineke

- **Rule 20, Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs** – Dr. David Steiner of Johns Hopkins University has been reviewing and providing recommendations for updating Rule 20. Rule 20 work began in 2020 and will continue to be an ongoing project for some time.
- **Rule 21, Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Counsel, Supervise, and Administer in Nebraska Schools** Signed by the Governor on Nov. 9, 2020.
- **Rule 23, Regulations for the Basic Skills Competency Testing of Teachers and Administrators** – There are no updates at this time.
- **Rule 24, Regulations for Certificate Endorsements** – Signed by the Governor on Nov. 9, 2020.

#### **Covid – 19 Update** - D. Casey

- Virtual meetings are allowed to be conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act through April with the approval of the Governor. If this is not extended after April, we will have to decide how the June NCTE meeting will be conducted.

#### **Program Approval Schedule** – K. Heineke

There will be a sign-up sheet sent by email for volunteers to work on folio reviews for Peru State College, Midland University, and the University of Nebraska-Omaha. A graduate from an institution undergoing folio review must wait 5 years before being allowed to do folio reviews for that institution. NCTE alternates are allowed to sign up for folio review work. Following are the institutions/dates that will undergo program approval visits:

- Bellevue University On-Site Visit (possibly done virtually) – April 2021
- Nebraska Wesleyan University On-Site Visit – December 2021
- Peru State College Off-Site Folio Review – Summer, 2021
- Midland University Off-Site Folio Review – Fall 2021
- University of Nebraska-Omaha Off-Site Folio Review – Fall 2021

#### **Status of Rule 24 Endorsements in Review** - K. Heineke

- Elementary Education and Principal endorsements ad hoc committees are meeting in February 2021 for review of these endorsements.

## **NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION**

### **Educator Preparation Advisory Committee to the Nebraska State Board of Education**

- The World Language and School Librarian endorsements will be presented today, with discussion for approval of these endorsements taking place later when the Standing Committees meet.

#### **Rule 20 Revision Recommendations** – Dr. David Steiner, Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Steiner gave a power point presentation on his recommendations for Rule 20 revisions. These recommendations include:

- Use a universal approval process at all institutions across the state that incorporates the protocols, standards and regulations for Nebraska.
- The GPS of 2.75 statewide for admission to teacher preparation programs in Nebraska is too low; should have a 10% set-aside for those promising candidates that don't have at least a 2.75 GPA.
- The Praxis CORE tests scores should not be used as entrance requirements into teacher preparation programs; no supporting research available at the meeting for this requirement.
- Passing the Praxis II content tests should be a requirement at all IHEs in obtaining a teaching certificate.
- Content Knowledge, Learning, and Curriculum Literacy:
  - Require Elementary Education teachers to take courses in the core subjects they will teach.
  - NE should create its own version of literacy programs that are required during teacher preparation.
  - Need to increase the focus on curriculum literacy through the use of high-quality instructional materials and strengthen existing curriculum using standards-aligned tools and resources.
  - Recommend Nebraska include CRT, SEL, and be aligned to the Teacher and Principal Standards, including addressing data-informed instruction/decision-making, equity and potential biases.
- Clinical Practice:
  - Nebraska should shift to one year of clinical residency.
  - Skills and competency should be measured through 1) written assessments; and 2) oral and video-based demonstrations.
  - Development should be done for a professional career ladder for teachers who focus on working with student teachers, such as an "Advanced Mentoring" designation with salary support.
- Need to improve district partnerships.
- Nebraska should become more proactive in supporting professional certification through the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards – NBPTS.
- Alternative Certification:
  - Alternative certification is problematic, as there is not enough teacher preparation in the programs.
  - Could develop a "hybrid" alternative certificate which can be a gateway to the residency requirement.
- Program Dashboards should be designed to provide an accountability system available to all stakeholders.

#### **Questions for Dr. Steiner:**

1. Which states are leaders in year-long clinical residency and in promoting the career ladder?
  - a. Louisiana is a leader in promoting clinical residency, and Maryland promotes the career ladder opportunity.
2. If the 2.75 GPA is too low, how can it be raised?
  - a. It needs to be raised legislatively with a 10% set-aside, which is important, while eventually reaching a 3.0 GPA.
3. What is the role of the community colleges in teacher preparation?
  - a. There should be articulation agreements with community colleges in the development of teacher education programs.
4. With the requirement of year-long residency, is there a dip in the hiring rates?

## **NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION**

### **Educator Preparation Advisory Committee to the Nebraska State Board of Education**

- Overall, the hiring rates for teachers with a year-long residency is high. During the year, teacher candidates can be hired as paras, teacher-aides, or with some kind of pay to year-long residents to help them financially.

**World Languages Endorsement Revision** – Katy Cattlett – OPS, and Board President of the Nebraska International Language Association. Cattlett was also a past supervisor of Dual Language and World Language Curriculum Supervisor for OPS. Thoughts behind the revisions include:

- The endorsement should implement the new standards for World Languages, including western languages, less common languages, indigenous languages, classical languages, and American Sign Language.
- The expectations are high for this revised endorsement through the use of established research, with increased expectations for language proficiency.
- This endorsement will allow for greater flexibility for the IHEs for foreign-trained and highly proficient speakers of other languages to become certified.

Cattlett then explained the major changes to the World Languages endorsement.

**School Librarian Endorsement Revision** – Dorann Avey, NDE. Major revisions to the School Librarian endorsement include:

- Incorporate the National School Librarian standards and ISTE standards into the endorsement.
- Update the wording—removed “media” wording to better define the work of the school librarian and the use of the school library.
- Define the role of School librarians as being instructional partners with schools; they do some teaching and administer the library program.

UNK and UNO are the two IHEs that offer the School Librarian endorsement in NE.

**Standing Committee Meetings Discussions:** 10:40 – 12:00 p.m.

- Standing Committee A – Breakout Room 1
- Standing Committee B - Breakout Room 2
- Standing Committee C – Breakout Room 3

**LUNCH BREAK:** 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

**SECOND GENERAL SESSION:** D. Casey reconvened the Second Full Council General Session at 12:30 p.m.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Committee A Report** – L. Sankey

The School Librarian endorsement revisions were approved by Committee A and will recommend the revised endorsement for roll call vote by the Full Council.

Discussed Dr. Steiner’s recommendations, with these results:

- Agreed with the Praxis CORE assessment that it should be eliminated
- Increasing the 2.75 GPA with the 10% set-aside needs more data before supporting this recommendation
- There are concerns with the year-long clinical residency including:
  - Monetary impact for students and institutions
  - Cooperating teacher support

## **NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION**

### **Educator Preparation Advisory Committee to the Nebraska State Board of Education**

#### **Committee B Report** – S. Smith

The World Languages endorsement revisions were approved by Committee B and will recommend the revised endorsement for roll call vote by the Full Council.

Discussed Dr. Steiner’s recommendations. The committee liked the following recommendations:

- Removing the Praxis CORE assessment
- Promotion of teachers earning their NBPTS designation
- Use of the program dashboard
- Requiring a year-long clinical residency for future teachers

However, we would like to see more data and the white paper on how these recommendations were determined. More discussion is needed.

#### **Committee C Report** – M. Lenihan

The Organizational Policies word changes were approved by the committee, with final approval by the Full Council to take place at the March NCTE meeting.

Discussed Dr. Steiner’s recommendations with these results:

- Praxis II is more relevant to content; if we eliminate the Praxis CORE test, will there have to be something else taking its place?
- Standards for increasing the 2.75 GPA and the 10% set-aside are good.
- Like the Program Dashboard idea
- The year-long clinicals are good, but availability of time and money could be issues.
- Need to remember that Nebraska already has good teacher preparation programs in the state when dealing with recommendations.
- Need to be sure there is flexibility for institutions. There are concerns with equality, time, and financial issues for IHEs and students.
- Need to make sure that any recommendations/revisions in educator preparation are good for Nebraska, will work for Nebraska, and that we have the right tools and resources to make it happen in Nebraska.

#### **Full Council Action:**

- Committee A – L. Sankey
  - Recommendation made to move the revised School Librarian endorsement to final reading for approval. Roll call vote taken; motion approved.
- Committee B – S. Smith
  - Recommendation made to move the revised World Languages endorsement to final reading for approval. Roll call vote taken; motion approved.

#### **Next Steps:** K. Heineke

- Dr. Steiner’s recommendations, along with a survey regarding these recommendations will be sent to the Full Council. The results of the survey will be reviewed at the March NCTE meeting.
- D. King also explained some concerns experienced by Chadron State College with their requirement of the year-long clinical residency program.

#### **Question/Answer Session with Dr. Steiner:**

1. If the Praxis CORE requirement is removed what needs to be done?

**NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION**  
**Educator Preparation Advisory Committee to the Nebraska State Board of Education**

- a. Increasing the 2.75 GPA minimum requirement is important. IHEs are already implementing the CORE requirements into their coursework so that students will do better working with kids in the classroom.
- b. The Praxis II Content Tests are important because future teachers need to have content expertise before student teaching in order to be successful.
2. What about financial implications with a year-long residency program?
  - a. Documentation will be sent to K. Heineke to show ways to help with financial implications.
3. Program Accreditation—What does program accreditation, such as CAEP accreditation look like moving forward?
  - a. The CAEP designation is not officially needed . Nebraska should take what is in CAEP and develop their own standards, etc. Need to make sure students have the necessary skills needed for successful teaching.
4. What are the inconsistencies with Nebraska’s Rules/documents concerning teacher preparation?
  - a. At this point the documents aren’t necessarily working together. Need to find alignment in Nebraska’s documents.
5. Are there alternatives to the idea of obtaining certification based on one exam, such as the Praxis II, which Nebraska currently uses?
  - a. The Praxis II doesn’t have to be used if you can find another valid assessment to use. Be skeptical about assessments that don’t show adequate subject matter.
6. How can the financial impact within the state be minimized?
  - a. Encourage the local Chamber of Commerce and business interests to get on board with recommendations. Legislators who were previously teachers can help with financial solutions. Governors who understand that positive input with teacher preparation programs is the first step to improving education systems. Media support for improving education is also very important.
7. In trying to earn the NBPTS designation what do we need to know?
  - a. The NBPTS allows for reciprocity with other states. You can transfer partial credits between states as you are trying to get the NBPTS certification.

**Adjourn:** D. Casey adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m.