

**State Board of Education
Joint Meeting between State Board of Education and
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education**

Thursday, December 2, 2021, 2021 – 8:00 a.m.

Graduate Lincoln, Scarlett Ballroom

141 N 9th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

[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 and emailed to news media requesting notification, which gave the date, time, and location of the meeting.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION JOINT MEETING WITH THE COORDINATING
COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, Thursday, December 2, 2021, 8:00 a.m.,
Apothecary/Ridnour Building, 5th Floor, South Loft, 140 North 8th Street Lincoln, Nebraska**

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Nickels called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Maureen Nickels
Patsy Koch Johns

Patti Gubbels
Lisa Fricke

Robin Stevens
Deborah Neary

Absent: Jacquelyn Morrison (arrived at 8:04 a.m.)

Commissioner Blomstedt was also in attendance.

1.2. President Nickels announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. BUSINESS

2.1. Welcome from Chair of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Gwenn Aspen, Chair of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) provided welcome remarks and introductions of Commission Members.

2.2. Welcome from President of the State Board of Education

Maureen Nickels, President of the State Board of Education, provided welcome remarks and introduction of Board Members.

2.3. Message from the Executive Director of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Michael Baumgartner, Executive Director of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, spoke to the mission, vision, and projects of the Commission.

2.4. Message from the Commissioner of Education

Matthew Blomstedt, Commissioner of Education, spoke to the mission, vision, and projects of the Department of Education, noting the similarities and common work of both entities.

3. ADJOURNMENT

President Nickels adjourned the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

State Board of Education Business Meeting

Thursday-Friday, December 2-3, 2021, 2021

Graduate Lincoln, Scarlett Ballroom

141 N 9th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

[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 and emailed to news media requesting notification, which gave the date, time, and location of the meeting.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Thursday, December 2, 2021, 2:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Maureen Nickels called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Maureen Nickels

Patti Gubbels

Robin Stevens

Patsy Koch Johns

Lisa Fricke

Deborah Neary

Jacquelyn Morrison

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.

1.3. COVID-19 Meeting Protocol

Commissioner Blomstedt shared information on the COVID-19 Meeting Protocol.

2. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

2.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

2.1.A. Agenda Item 5.3.A. was requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate vote.

2.2. Report on Rules

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 24 is with the Attorney General awaiting approval.

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 51 is approved as a Hearing Draft.

2.3. Board Operations Information

Ryan Foor, NDE Representative, introduced Rebecca Dunn from Ralston High School. Dunn is in her sixth year running the Education Academy and teaches an introduction to education course. The class has been watching the State Board meeting via live stream and are learning about governance structures.

Ms. Dunn brought students from her program to observe the State Board of Education meeting.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

(NONE)

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Maureen Nickels appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

President Nickels thanked the Board Members who represented the Board at the State Education Conference hosted by the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) and the Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA).

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Patsy Koch Johns, second by Patti Gubbels to approve the Consent Agenda without Agenda Item 5.3.A.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Yea
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea
Vacant	

The motion passed.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1. **Policy Committee** – Maureen Nickels, Acting Chair, reported on the Committee meeting.

The Committee on POLICY met on December 2 and reports that the Committee has one action item and two discussion items.

The Committee discussed the proposed State Board meeting schedule for 2022. After discussion, the Committee recommends maintaining present circumstance by keeping the State Board meeting dates as outlined in B5, meeting the first Thursday and Friday of each month except January or as otherwise determined by the Board. The Committee recommends that the full Board approve this schedule at their business meeting today.

The Committee continues discussion of State Board Policy P5, *Contracts, Grants and Purchases*. The Committee recommends that the NDE staff and this Committee continue discussion of revision to this Policy in 2022.

The Committee continues discussion of State Board Policy P11, *Data Access and Use*. NDE staff indicated that the NDE General Counsel and Records Officer will discuss a strategy of restructuring this Policy and bring an outline to the Committee in February 2022.

The Committee discussed State Board Internal Policy P7, *Teaching Certificates* and recommend that this Policy be allowed to sunset and the NDE and Policy Committee/Board consider a Position Statement to encompass the priorities and vision of what the NDE and Board want regarding Nebraska's teaching professionals in 2022.

The Committee discussed State Board Bylaw B20, *Board Membership in Associations*. The Committee recommends that this policy not change and be discussed further in February 2022 with possible action in March 2022.

The Committee also recommends that discussion of restructuring the State Board Policy Reference Manual continue in February 2022.

6.1.A. Action Item: Approve State Board Meeting schedule for 2022

Motion by Patti Gubbels, second by Robin Stevens to approve the State Board Meeting Schedule for 2022.

Board Members discussed that the intent is to have at least two state Board Meetings held outside of Lincoln and no meeting in July.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Yea
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea
Vacant	

The motion passed.

6.1.B. Discussion Item: P5, *Contracts, Grants and Purchases*

There was no further discussion on this item.

6.1.C. Discussion Item: P11, *Data Access and Use*

There was no further discussion on this item.

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

The Legislative Committee met with the Nebraska Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (NASCD) and discussed education policy topics. Each Committee Member provided comments from the discussion that they found enlightening.

6.3. **Commissioner's Appraisal Committee** – Maureen Nickels, Chair, reported on the Committee meeting.

The Committee reports that it has been working on refinements to the appraisal process for this next year as the Commissioner's job description has been streamlined to reduce redundancy in the performance appraisal process. The number of essential job functions has been reduced from nine to four that will translate in the number of performance appraisal rating areas decreasing from ten to four essential functions plus goals. Performance evidence will be provided in a single document prior to the onset of the appraisal process instead of on a quarterly basis. Board Member Morrison asked how the change in criteria was decided and what is the Board Governing policy about who makes those decisions.

Discussion indicated that the committee would meet before the January board meeting and bring recommendations to the board for approval of any changes.

- 6.4. **AQuESTT Teaching, Learning and Serving Domain Committee** – Lisa Fricke, Chair, reported on the Committee meeting.

The Committee on Teaching, Learning and Serving reports on two action items and one discussion items.

The first action item is to adopt the annual plan for the Nebraska statewide assessment and reporting system. Per Nebraska Revised Statute Section 79-760.03, the Board is required to adopt this plan, for which policy decisions have previously been determined by the Board. The Committee reviewed the report and recommended adoption of the report.

The second action item is to adopt a resolution to recognize Nebraska educators. The idea of this resolution was discussed at the November meeting as a gesture to recognize the efforts of teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, support staff, and other education professionals. The Committee reviewed the draft resolution and recommended adoption.

One discussion item was on the Committee agenda, related to the revision of Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for Mathematics. The Committee heard updates and information about the standards revision process from the NDE staff; the NDE staff will provide a presentation to the full Board today during discussion on this topic. Board members are encouraged to review the provided information, including the revision timeline and information about the revision team.

The Committee also had a brief discussion on student voice and may bring this topic forward at a future meeting.

- 6.4.A. Action Item: Adopt the annual plan for the Nebraska Statewide Assessment and Reporting System

Motion by Lisa Fricke, second by Patti Gubbels to adopt the annual plan for the Nebraska state assessment and reporting system

Cory Epler, NDE Representative, provided a summary of the plan.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Yea
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea
Vacant	

Motion passed.

6.4.B. Action Item: Resolution to recognize Nebraska Educators

Motion by Lisa Fricke, second by Patsy Koch Johns to adopt a resolution to recognize Nebraska educators.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Yea
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea
Vacant	

Motion passed.

Jacquelyn Morrison left the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

6.4.C. Discussion Item: Nebraska's College & Career Ready Standards for Mathematics

Cory Epler, NDE Representative, presented on the Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for Mathematics.

6.5. **AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support Domain Committee** – No report. The Committee did not meet.

President Nickels called for a break at 3:49 p.m. The meeting resumed at 4:03 p.m.

6.6. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Maureen Nickels, Acting Chair, reported on the Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed the monthly Board travel expense report and in-state travel authorizations and had no concerns.

6.6.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

There was no further discussion on this item.

6.6.B. In-State Travel Authorization Reports

There was no further discussion on this item.

- 6.7. **Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee** – No report. The Committee did not meet.

7. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 7.1. In accordance with Board Policy B9, set public comment time limits for Friday, December 3, 2021

Pursuant to Board Policy B9, I move to limit public comment at the Friday, December 3, 2021, meeting, to end by 4:00 p.m., where each person may address the Board for up to two minutes. The Board may take a 45-minute lunch break announced at a time prior to recessing. Motion made by Maureen Nickels, second by Robin Stevens.

Lisa Fricke: Yea
Patsy Koch Johns: Yea
Deborah Neary: Yea
Maureen Nickels: Yea
Robin Stevens: Yea
Patti Gubbels: Yea
Jacquelyn Morrison: Yea
Vacant

The motion passed.

- 7.2. Authorize the Commissioner to amend a contract with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF) to extend staff partnership contracts until December 2024.

Jacquelyn Morrison asked that this item be pulled from the Consent Agenda, but since she had to leave early, requested to have the item placed on the December 3, 2021, agenda. President Nickels asked if there was any objection to this and seeing none, the item will be placed on the next day's agenda, December 4, 2021.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

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

9. GOOD OF THE ORDER

(NONE)

10. ADJOURNMENT

President Nickels adjourned the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

The State Board of Education will reconvene Friday, December 3, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. Graduate Lincoln, Scarlett Ballroom, 141 N 9th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, December 3, 2021, 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:

Maureen Nickels
Patsy Koch Johns
Jacquelyn Morrison

Patti Gubbels
Lisa Fricke

Robin Stevens
Deborah Neary

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.

1.4. COVID-19 Meeting Protocol

Commissioner Blomstedt shared information on the COVID-19 Meeting Protocol.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

2.1. The following individuals from the public spoke against the Health Standards: Amber Parker, Arin Hess, Bradley Reinke, Dallas Asher, Deb Fisbeck, Deb Miller, Elissa Martin, Elizabeth Tegtmeier, Jenna Derr, Kathy Adams, Kelli Brady, Laura Rauscher, Mark Bonkiewicz, Sherry Jones, Stephanie Johnson and Wayne Smith.

The following individuals from the public spoke regarding *Not my Idea*, a book located in public school libraries: Julie Sheldon and Liz Davids.

The following individuals from the public spoke regarding *Not my Idea*, a book located in public school libraries and against the Health Standards: Mary Hamilton and Rhonda Bors.

The following individuals from the public spoke regarding the initiative to replace the Nebraska Department of Education: Jennifer Hicks and Michael Connely.

The following individual from the public spoke regarding the fiduciary duty of the Board: Judy Derr.

2.2. Written Public Comment

Submitted written public comments are linked through SPARQ in Board Agenda item number 2.2, documents SBOE Written Public Comment December 2021.

3. BREAK

President Nickels called for a break at 9:58 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:08 a.m.

4. Authorize the Commissioner to amend a contract with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFE) to extend staff partnership contracts until December 2024 (Item 5.3.A. pulled from Consent Agenda from 12/02/2021 meeting agenda).

Motion by Patsy Koch Johns, second by Lisa Fricke to authorize the Commissioner to amend a contract with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFE) to extend staff partnership contracts until December 2024.

Board Members discussed the main motion.

Motion by Patsy Koch Johns, no second to call the previous question. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Jacquelyn Morrison, second by Patti Gubbels to refer this matter to the Budget and Finance Committee

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	No
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Yea
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea

Motion passed. This matter has been referred to the Budget and Finance Committee to report back to the board at next month's meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

President Nickels adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, January 7, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at a location to be determined.