

State Board of Education Annual Orientation and Business Meeting.

Thursday-Friday April 7-8, 2022

Embassy Suites by Hilton Lincoln, Regents Ballroom A, 1040 P 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 WORK SESSION, Thursday, April 7, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Koch Johns called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Maureen Nickels
Deborah Neary

Robin Stevens
Kirk Penner

Patsy Koch Johns
Patti Gubbels

Commissioner Blomstedt was also in attendance.

Absent: Lisa Fricke and Jacquelyn Morrison

1.2. President Koch Johns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Koch Johns announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

1.4. Meeting Protocol

Commissioner Blomstedt asked members of the public to be considerate of the proceedings of the meeting.

2. BOARD TRAINING

The State Board engaged in a work session with Linda Richards, Blane McCann and Jason Richards from PRISM Advisors to discuss Collaborative Leadership.

Maureen Nickels left the meeting at 10:09 a.m., returned 10:11 a.m.

The Board took a recess at 10:50 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:01 a.m.

Kirk Penner left the meeting at 10:50 a.m., returned at 11:11 a.m.

3. ADJOURNMENT

President Koch Johns adjourned the meeting at 12:42 p.m.

The State Board of Education will reconvene Friday, April 8, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at Embassy Suites by Hilton Lincoln, Regents Ballroom A, 1040 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, April 8, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Patsy Koch Johns called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Maureen Nickels	Robin Stevens	Patsy Koch Johns
Deborah Neary	Kirk Penner	Patti Gubbels

Commissioner Blomstedt was also in attendance.

Absent: Lisa Fricke and Jacquelyn Morrison

1.2. President Koch Johns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Koch Johns announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

1.4. Meeting Protocol

Commissioner Blomstedt asked members of the public to be considerate of the proceedings of the meeting.

2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

2.1. Proclaim April 2022 as the Month of the Military Child and April 15, 2022, as “Purple Up! For Military Kids Day”

Lane Carr, NDE Representative, introduced Liane Yanikov, School Liaison Program Manager, Offutt AFB; Lt. Col. John Loken, 155th Maintenance Group Commander, Nebraska Air National Guard; Cara Loken, wife of Lt. Col. John Loken; Col. Jasin Cooley 55th Mission Support Group Commander, Offutt AFB; CMSgt Scott Tontegode, 155th Air Refueling Wing Command Chief, Nebraska Air National Guard; SSG Jonathan Musilek, Army National Guard; and SGT Trey Rinkol, who spoke about the importance of the resources being provided to schools to better serve military-connected students.

Motion by Patti Gubbels, second by Deborah Neary to proclaim April 2022 as the Month of the Military Child and April 15, 2022, as “Purple Up! For Military Kids Day” and to adopt the resolution

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

The motion passed.

2.2. Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) District Scholar Equity Cadre

President Koch Johns introduced Keely Moore, 8th Grade at Lefler Middle School; Peter Ferguson, Coordinator, Youth Development, Lincoln Public Schools; Zain Saleh, Senior at Lincoln North Star High School; and Alaa Ismail, Junior at Lincoln High School who shared their work with the Lincoln Public School District Scholar Equity Cadre.

2.3. Impact Story of ESSER Fund Investments

Cory Epler, NDE Representative, presented to the Board on impacts of ESSER funds: Zearn Math, leveraging ESSER II funds to support K-8 mathematics acceleration. Epler shared a recorded message from Shalinee Sharma, CEO Zearn Math and Sheri Ehler, Director of Curriculum, Sidney Public Schools.

2.4. 2022 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Lee Perez, Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School, Omaha, Nebraska Quarterly Report

2022 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Lee Perez, English as a Second Language teacher in grades 5-8th at Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School in Omaha, provided an update on the activities he has been involved with as Teacher of the Year.

3. **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

Commissioner Blomstedt provided an overview of the Consent Agenda process

3.1.A. No Consent Agenda Items were requested to be removed.

3.2. Board Operations Information

No report.

4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Patsy Koch Johns mentioned the opportunity to meet with Linda Richards from Prism Advisors for one-on-one leadership sessions.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Patti Gubbels to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

The motion passed.

6. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

6.1. **Executive Committee** – Robin Stevens, Vice Chair, reported on the Committee meeting.

The Committee reported that Brian Halstead, Deputy Commissioner, provided an overview of the 2022 Proposed Legislative bills and those bills that the Committee supports or opposes.

Leslie Donley, Legal Counsel, answered Committee questions on the process and protocols of the Commissioner's Appraisal process. Joel Scherling, NDE Representative, will review the process. The

Board will receive the appraisal by email on April 8, 2022, and have two weeks to complete the appraisal instrument.

Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) was contacted for more information to support a Board survey for the Commissioner's Appraisal process.

The Committee discussed the Ad Hoc Committee recommendations and that there are three areas that the Committee was asked to provide leadership in this process.

6.1.A. Review 2022 Proposed State Legislation

Brian Halstead, Deputy Commissioner, provided an update on the current Legislative Session. There was no Board action on this item.

6.1.B. Discuss State Board Bylaw B20, *Board Membership in Associations*

There was no additional discussion.

6.1.C. Presentation on Proposed Board Policy Structure Revisions

Patti Gubbels provided a presentation to the Board proposed revisions to the Board Policy Structure.

Board Members discussed reaching out to National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) for their research assistance with the reorganization of policies.

Kirk Penner left the meeting at 11:08 a.m., returned 11:11 a.m.

Robin Stevens left the meeting at 11:16 a.m. returned 11:20 a.m.

6.2. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Maureen Nickels, Chair, reported on the Committee Meeting.

The Committee discussed the plan for the remaining use of ESSER set aside funds and project next steps for USDOE compliance. NDE staff reviewed the plan for the remaining use of ESSER funds.

The Committee discussed the funding recommendations for the federally funded expanded learning collaborative sites. The locations were selected based on designations Comprehensive Support and Improvement, Targeted Support and Improvement and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement schools, achievement data and Covid19 impacts.

The Committee discussed the plan to accept funds from DHHS and the concerns about spending money on a data system and if the NDE or DHHS made decision on how these funds were allocated.

The Committee discussed the obligation of the funds for the Nebraska Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) and DHHS's desire to work with the NDE to create a data system that collects data to benefit both agencies.

The Committee discussed new and expanded Early Childhood Education Program grants, reviewed the source of the funds and how these funds are used.

The Committee reviewed the Monthly Board Travel Expense Report and noted total expenditures are still very low compared to years prior to the pandemic. There were no concerns on the report by Committee Members.

The Committee reviewed in-state travel authorizations with no issues or concerns.

The Committee will review its description and report back to the Board with any further recommended revisions by the June 2022 Board Meeting. The Committee discussed potentially working on a portion of the Strategic Plan and being more involved in strategic investments.

The Committee discussed a mental health program and the possibility of ESU#5 present to the Committee on a comprehensive mental health program in the future.

6.2.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

There was no further discussion on this item

6.2.B. Review In-State Travel Authorization Reports

There was no further discussion on this item.

6.2.C Action Item: Discuss plan for remaining use of ESSER set aside funds, and project next steps for USDOE compliance

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Patti Gubbels to affirm the revised plan for the remaining use of ESSER set aside funds.

Lisa Fricke:	Absent
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Abstain
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Yea
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Absent
Kirk Penner	Yea

The motion passed.

6.2.D. Action Item: Approve funding recommendations for the federally funded expanded learning collaborative sites

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Kirk Penner to approve funding recommendation for the federal funded expanded learning collaborative sites.

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

The motion passed.

6.2.E. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to sign an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to accept funds to support early childhood infrastructure related activities

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Patti Gubbels to sign an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to accept funds to support early childhood infrastructure related activities.

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

The motion passed.

- 6.2.F. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to obligate resources from the agreement with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for the Nebraska Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Deborah Neary to obligate resources from the agreement with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for the Nebraska Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)

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

The motion passed.

- 6.2.G. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve awards for new and expanded Early Childhood Education Program grants to the identified public-school districts

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Kirk Penner to approve awards for new and expanded Early Childhood Education Program grants to the identified public-school districts.

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

The motion passed.

- 6.3. **Planning and Evaluation Committee** – Patti Gubbels, Chair, reported on the Committee.

Brad Dirksen and Micki Charf, NDE Representatives, presented an overview of Rule 14 and recommended approval of the nonpublic schools appearing on an accompanying list to operate for the 2022-2023 school year under Rule 14 (92 NAC 14), *Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic schools*.

Shirley Vargas and Lane Carr, NDE Representatives, provided feedback received from stakeholders about an addendum to the state’s ESSA plan that is being pursued to allow for a one-year accountability transition year. The Committee requested that Shirley Vargas and Lane Carr provide the Board a brief explanation for the submission of the addendum.

The Committee reported on the Ad Hoc Committee recommendations and accepting the responsibility of guiding development, monitoring progress, and affirming revision of the NDE staff-managed Content Area Standards Development Process.

6.3.A. Action Item: Approve the nonpublic schools appearing on the accompanying list to operate for the 2022-2023 school year under Rule 14 (92 NAC 14), *Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools*.

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Maureen Nickels to approve the nonpublic schools appearing on the accompanying list to operate for the 2022-2023 school year under Rule 14 (92 NAC 14), *Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools*

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

The motion passed.

6.3.B. Discussion Item: Provide an update to the Board on fall 2022 accountability requirements and federal flexibilities being sought

Shirley Vargas and Lane Carr, NDE Representatives, provide an update to the Board on the Fall 2022 accountability requirements.

6.4. **Rules and Regulations Committee** – Maureen Nickels, reported on the Committee

The Committee did not have any action items on the agenda.

The Committee discussed Policy B13 revisions and Patsy Koch Johns provided her assent for revising.

The Committee reviewed the Rule Revision Calendar and discussed the current practice and what the practice now will be with the Committee.

Brad Dirksen, NDE Representative, provided the Committee an update on the proposed technical amendments to Rule 10 (Accreditation) and Rule 14 (Approval) due to the revised Nebraska Statutes related to civics, character education, and financial literacy.

Brad Dirksen, NDE Representative, provided the Committee an update on revisions to Rule 21 (Educator Certification) due to legislative changes and progress toward State Board regulatory priorities.

6.4.A. Report on Rules

Commissioner Blomstedt reported on the rules.

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

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 51 is with the Governor awaiting approval.

President Koch Johns called for a recess at 12:24 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:17 p.m.

Kirk Penner left the meeting at 12:24 p.m.

7. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

No items for additional business.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

8.1. The following individuals from the public spoke against the Health Standards: Amanda Ripley, Amber Parker, Brenda McGill, Cheryl Perkins, Jeanne Greisen, Lee Todd, Julie Sheldon, Katie McClemens, Kelli Brady, Liz Davids, and Teresa Roeloffs.

The following individuals from the public spoke for the Health Standards: Garren Hostettler and Amy Hostettler.

Nicholas Norton spoke about the costs of a records request and transparency.

8.2. Written Public Comment

Submitted written public comments are linked through SPARQ in Board Agenda item number 8.2., SBOE Written Public Comment April 2022 Final.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

9.1. President Koch Johns referred Board Members to review information items and reports.

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Maureen Nickels reported out on the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Legislative Conference.

Robin Stevens reported on the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) listening session attended by Kirk Penner, Patti Gubbels, Maureen Nickels and Robin Stevens.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Koch Johns adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, May 5, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in North Platte, Nebraska.