

State Board of Education Annual Orientation and Business Meeting.

Friday May 6, 2022

Sandhills Convention Center, North Platte River Room, 2012 S Jeffers St, North Platte, NE 69101

[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, Friday, May 6, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Patsy Koch Johns called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Maureen Nickels

Robin Stevens

Patsy Koch Johns

Lisa Fricke

Kirk Penner

Patti Gubbels

Commissioner Blomstedt was also in attendance.

Absent: Deborah Neary 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. North Platte Public Schools Student Presentation

Commissioner Blomstedt introduced students from North Platte Public Schools Future Farmers of America (FFA). Elleigh Fisher, Emily Hansen and Jake Henry presented to the Board about the North Platte Public Schools FFA program.

2.2. Impact Story of ESSER Fund Investments

Lane Carr, NDE Representative, introduced Superintendent Tim Vanderheiden from McPherson County School who shared the impact of the ESSER Fund Investments on McPherson County School.

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 Koch Johns delivered the President’s Report.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Absent
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 had one action item, reaffirm State Board Bylaw B20, *Board Membership in Associations*.
The Committee had no concerns in reaffirming this bylaw.

The Committee discussed the report on the Commissioner’s Appraisal Process.

6.1.A. Reaffirm State Board Bylaw B20, *Board Membership in Associations*

Motion by Robin Stevens, second by Patti Gubbels to reaffirm State Board Bylaw B20, *Board Membership in Associations*.

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

The motion passed.

6.1.B. Discuss Report on Commissioner Appraisal Process

Commissioner Blomstedt provided a self-appraisal report to the Board.

6.1.B.1. Potential executive session at end of business meeting.

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

The Committee discussed the contract with Three Pillars Media Inc. The NDE has worked collaboratively with the Department of Economic Development on this project.

The NDE reviewed the 2021 Single Audit with the Committee. No asset misappropriations or fraud concerns were reported.

The NDE staff reviewed the need for additional early childhood support. The grants will be directed to ESU's and since the programs will be administered by ESU's, both public and non-public schools may benefit.

The Committee discussed the plan to accept funds from DHHS, supported by Federal ARP dollars and what the funds will be used for.

The Committee discussed the allocation of the funds from DHHS for the purposes noted in the previous item.

The Committee discussed the contract with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation and the purpose is to provide wraparound services for families and districts in rural Nebraska.

The Committee discussed the Community Living, Traumatic Brain Injury State Demonstration Grant, reviewed the source of the funds and who the funds support.

There was no further Committee discussion on the contract with partners for Insightful Evaluation (PIE), the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska (BIA-NE), and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The Committee discussed the need to improve the understanding of school finance. The Committee discussed the desire to complete training in small segments with a focus on upcoming financial deadlines.

The Committee discussed mental health supports, including a report provided by the NDE for the Committee's review prior to the June meeting.

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: Accept the 2021 Single Audit

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Kirk Penner to accept the 2021 Single Audit

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

The motion passed.

- 6.2.D. Action Item: Approve the use of up to \$1,560,000 to fund grants to selected educational service units for preschool through grade two support

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Lisa Fricke to approve the use of up to \$1,560,000 to fund grants to selected educational service units for preschool through grade two support.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Absent
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

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Patti Gubbels to sign an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Absent
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 enter into a new contract with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for staff augmentation services in support of the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Records System (NECPRS)

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Robin Stevens to enter into a new contract with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for staff augmentation services in support of the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Records System (NECPRS)

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Absent
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 contract with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to design, implement, support, and evaluate a full-service community schools program focused on rural schools

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Patti Gubbels to contract with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to design, implement, support, and evaluate a full-service community schools program focused on rural schools.

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

The motion passed.

6.2.H. Action Item: Accept the Community Living, Traumatic Brain Injury State Demonstration Grant

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Patti Gubbels to accept the Community Living, Traumatic Brain Injury State Demonstration Grant.

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

The motion passed.

6.2.I. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Partners for Insightful Evaluation (PIE), the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska (BIA-NE), and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Robin Stevens to contract with Partners for Insightful Evaluation (PIE), the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska (BIA-NE), and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Absent
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.

The NDE presented to the Committee information related to the waiver request process, provided information about the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility (NCYF) compliance monitoring actions taken from 2018-2022.

The NDE review Rule 18 Regulatory Authority and provided a list of Rule 18 schools for 2022-2023 to the Committee.

The NDE reviewed the list of Education Service Units appearing on the accreditation list for 2022-2023.

Committee members shared something liked about the current draft on Mathematics Content Area Standards. The NDE shared a timeline of next steps and reviewed talking points and a comparison table of the differences from the 2015 version of the standards.

NDE Staff provided a report to the Committee on the Spring NSCAS Growth assessment and presented details of the assessment contracts for NWEA and DRC for 2022-2023.

NDE Staff reviewed statutory requirements for the designation of priority schools. A status report of former and current priority schools was provided to the Committee.

6.3.A. Action Item: Approve the waiver request from the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility (NCYF) to waive the requirements found in Rule 10 (92 NAC 10), Section 007.04A, *Media Specialist* in accordance with the waiver provisions in Rule 10 (92 NAC 10), Section 013.01, *Special Purpose Agreement*

Motion by Patti Gubbels, second by Maureen Nickels to approve the waiver request from the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility (NCYF) to waive the requirements found in Rule 10, Section 007.04A *Media Specialist* in accordance with the waiver provisions in Rule 10, Section 013.01, *Special Purpose Agreement*.

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

The motion passed.

6.3.B. Action Item: Approve Interim-Program Schools to operate for the 2022-2023 school year under Rule 18 (92 NAC 18), *Regulations and Procedures for the Approval of Interim-Program Schools in County Detention Homes, Institutions and Juvenile Emergency Shelters*

Motion by Patti Gubbels, second by Lisa Fricke to operate for the 2022-2023 school year under Rule 18 (92 NAC 18), *Regulations and Procedures for the Approval of Interim-Program Schools in County Detention Homes, Institutions and Juvenile Emergency Shelters*.

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

The motion passed.

- 6.3.C. Action Item: Approve accreditation for the Educational Service Units appearing on the accompanying list for the 2022-2023 school year in accordance with the provisions of Rule 84 (92 NAC 84), *Regulations for Educational Service Units*

Motion by Patti Gubbels, second by Maureen Nickels to approve accreditation for the Educational Service Units appearing on the accompanying list for the 2022-2023 school year in accordance with the provisions of Rule 84 (92 NAC 84), *Regulations for Educational Service Units*.

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

The motion passed.

- 6.3.D. Discussion Item: Report on Mathematics Content Area Standards

Board Members discussed the removal of social emotional learning from the standards.

- 6.4. **Rules and Regulations Committee** – Lisa Fricke, reported on the Committee

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

The Committee received an update from NDE Staff on the Rule 20: *Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs* revision process.

The Committee received an update from NDE Staff on the review of Bylaw B13, *Rule Development*.

- 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.

7. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

No items for additional business.

President Koch Johns called for a break at 10:49 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:58 a.m.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- 8.1. The following individuals from the public spoke against the Health Standards: Barb Langley, Carol Friesen, Carol Watson, Cheryl Harkinson, Clark Spivey, Elissa Martin, Jenna Derr, Jennifer Thomas, Mike Meyer, Patrick Martin, Sherry Jones, Tawney Morris, Vicki Bauer

The following individuals from the public spoke against Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in the Mathematics Content Area Standards: W. Pat Moore, Theresa Thibodeau, Trent Loos

Brenda Fourtuer spoke to scrap Rule 10 for rural schools, let those schools focus on the things that matter such as their teachers

Rita Fritch spoke about transparency with Board Agenda Items

Miriam Nikkila spoke about the LPS Equity Cadre, and those students are being programmed to cause more division in the country

8.2. Written Public Comment

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

President Koch Johns called for a recess at 12:23 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:05 p.m.

Executive Session

Motion by Robin Stevens, second by Lisa Fricke that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the Commissioner's Appraisal and to prevent needless injury to the reputation of the individual.

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

At 1:07 p.m., the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss the Commissioner's Appraisal.

Motion by Robin Stevens, second by Patti Gubbels to adjourn Executive Session at 3:11 p.m.

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

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

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

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Patti Gubbels shared that the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Annual Conference will be in Phoenix, AZ October 26-28, 2022. An email was sent out to Board Members to complete a short summary on what State Board Members would like to learn or hear about at the annual conference.

Robin Stevens, on behalf of the seventh district, thanked the Sandhills Convention Center and the North Platte Catholic Schools and Public Schools for Nebraska State Board of Education coming to North Platte.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Koch Johns adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, June 3, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in Lincoln, Nebraska.