



## **NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION**

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

**Approval of February 25, 2022 General Session Meeting Minutes:** Motion by D. Casey to approve the minutes; Second by D. Moss. Roll Call vote taken. Motion approved.

**Report of April 22, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting – Lenihan** reviewed the minutes from the April 22, 2022 meeting.

**Recognition of NCTE Retiring Members’ Service – Lenihan** recognized these NCTE retiring members: Kathleen Wheeler, Paula Peal, Tim Cook, George Conrad, Randy Ernst, and Guy Trainin.

#### **Informational Items:**

- **Legislative Update: Dirksen – NDE**  
LB1218 was passed by legislature into state law. LB1218 includes:
  - Teach in NE Today Act--\$5000 funding made available for people going into the teaching profession. Will probably be implemented next year, as the program needs to be designed first.
  - Are no changes to the definition of Basic Skills Competency; however, LB1218 does not require a minimum basic skills competency. Rule 20, though, currently says basic skills competency is a requirement—this will need to be changed according to LB1218. The IHEs can individually require basic skills competency, though, as part of their teacher education program. There is continued conversation at State Board level on pathways/changes in Rule 23 concerning Basic Skills competency from the certification standpoint.
  - Educator/certification fees can now be set by the Commissioner, rather than through the legislature. Regulating the certification fees is an ongoing conversation.
  - Out-of-state certification issues will be reviewed in Rule 21.
  - AETP program has been provided \$1000 in additional funding for those in the program.
- **First Reading: English Language Arts and Secondary English Endorsements – M. Payzant and A. Burke – NDE**
  - Grade levels changed from 7-12 to 6-12
  - Language was changed to reflect instructional shifts in standards
  - Emphasize foundational skills in reading and support for learners no matter what their level of reading is, to try to accelerate learning
  - Changes were made to the guidelines
  - Discussions are continuing regarding changes in the programs of study for teaching foundational skills, especially at the adolescent age level
  - These endorsements could possibly be in effect by Fall of 2023
- **Rule Statute Reports – NDE**
  - Rule 20, *Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs* – Heineke
    - Basic Skills Competency has been removed for admission into an EPP
    - Administrator standards are now included in the Rule
    - A Flexibility section is now included, rather than a Waivers section. This allows the EEPs some freedom/flexibility on issues they are dealing with.
    - This revised version of Rule 20 is now at legal for review
  - Rule 21, *Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Counsel, Supervise, and Administer in Nebraska Schools* – Dirksen
    - Alternative and non-traditional certification pathways have been added
    - Changes were made to military certification
    - Reciprocity—To obtain the Nebraska Entry Permit, an out-of-state teacher must have a valid certificate from a different state for at least one full year and must have a contract from a school district showing they will have employment in the coming year. If a candidate has an alternative certificate permit, it can lead to a

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Nebraska certificate if they have taught for 3 years in the same school system. If the candidate doesn't teach for 3 years in same system, an additional 15 hrs. of coursework is required. Also, if a candidate is trained in another state but may have only taught for one year or less, an additional 15 hrs. in foundational coursework is necessary. If an out-of-state candidate has taught content for a number of years, taking the content test in that content area would be eliminated.

- Trying to eliminate barriers in renewing certification
- Eliminate the temporary certificate—use the conditional certificate instead, as this pertains to HRT training and/or the lack of HRT training
- Want the local substitute teaching permit to be portable to allow teaching in multiple schools
- Are trying to remove some types of permits by using alternative pathways/permits instead
- Rule 23, *Regulations for the Basic Skills Competency Testing of Teachers, and Administrators* – Dirksen
  - Are looking at various aspects/policies/legal options in the revision of Rule 23
- Rule 24, *Regulations for Certificate Endorsements* – Heineke
  - Presented revisions of ELA and Secondary English endorsements to NCTE Executive Committee. Special Education endorsement *ad hoc* committee meeting will be held on July 11, 2022.
  - Waiting for governor's approval of 2021 version

**Break: 11:09-11:23**

#### **Informational Items (cont.)**

- **Program Approval Schedule – Heineke**
  - Midland University Onsite Visit: Took place on May 2-3, 2022 State Review Team
  - Peru State College Onsite Visit: September 18-20, 2022 CAEP
  - University of Nebraska-Omaha Onsite Visit: October 2-4, 2022 AAQEP
  - Nebraska Wesleyan University Onsite Visit: November 15-16, 2022 AAQEP
  - Wayne State College Office Visit: April, 2023
  - College of St. Mary Offsite Visit: June/July 2023 State Review
  - Union College Offsite Visit: Fall/Winter 2023
  - University of Nebraska-Kearney Offsite Visit: Fall/Winter 2023
  - York University Offsite Visit: Fall/Winter
- **NDE Updates – Heineke**
  - Received the RESPECT Grant – Purpose is to provide pathways for early childhood educators as they move from associates degree to bachelor's degree.
  - Teacher Education Forum – Save the Date: August 8, 2022; Cornhusker Marriott
- **Certification Update – Dirksen**
  - Processing of certificates and applications has greatly improved—increased staff numbers and streamlined the work being done. Is a great improvement compared to past years' service. Getting more efficient with help from quality staffing.
- **Standing Committee Agenda Review – Lenihan**
  - English Language Arts and Secondary English Endorsements
  - Educator Shortage Follow-Up
  - Annual NCTE State Board Update Report Statement
  - Election of Committee Chairs

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- **Standing Committee Meetings – First Meeting Emphasis on:**

- Committee 'A' – English Language Arts and Secondary English Endorsements Approval
- Committee 'B' – English Language Arts and Secondary English Endorsements Approval
- Committee 'C' – English Language Arts and Secondary English Endorsements Approval

- **Standing Committee Reports**

- Committee 'A' – Kim Saum-Mills for Chair Lorinda Sankey; concerned with implementation of the ELA and Secondary English endorsement revisions. Approved the revised endorsements
- Committee 'B' – Caroline Rice for Chair Sharra Smith; concerned with implementation of the ELA and Secondary English endorsement revisions at EPPs – more discussion needed
- Committee 'C' – Donna Moss, Chair; liked the revised endorsements – were approved by Committee C

**12:30 P.M. Working Lunch: Discussion on English Language Arts and Secondary English Endorsements**

**1:27 SECOND GENERAL SESSION – President Lenihan Presiding**

- **Recommendations/Findings of Standing Committees**

- Committee 'A' – Kim Saum-Mills for Chair Lorinda Sankey; recommends moving ELA and Secondary English endorsements forward for full council vote
- Committee 'B' – Caroline Rice for Chair Sharra Smith; recommends holding the ELA and Secondary English endorsements for further discussion
- Committee 'C' – Donna Moss, Chair; recommends moving ELA and Secondary English endorsements forward for full council vote
- A major concern with these revised endorsements were problems with the timing of these revised endorsements, especially at the IHEs, since they didn't have time to review them with their faculties.

- **Full Council Action and/or Discussion (roll call vote)**

Kim Saum-Mills made a motion to vote for approval of the revised English Language Arts and Secondary English endorsements for final reading; Summers seconded; motion passed.

- **Standing Committee Meetings – Lenihan** reviewed duties of committee chairs, which is a 2-year term

- **Committee 'A' – Kim Saum-Mills for Lorinda Sankey**

Continued discussion and action on teacher shortage—Teacher summit was great; edits to rules were good; statewide campaign, 'Rooted in Nebraska – Come Grow With Us' will be launched to build /maintain community support and help recruit education professionals. Paying student teachers helps. Challenges include teacher retention issue – is a need for leadership and a coordinated effort statewide to address this issue. There is a need to eliminate certification barriers that negatively affect individuals from entering the teaching profession. Need to develop alternative pathways concerning testing and adding endorsements to current teaching certificates while maintaining high standards. Develop reciprocity standards for educators entering Nebraska to teach with minimal additional requirements.

NCTE Annual Report to the State Board – Need rationale on why high stakes testing can't have some variations; think NDE needs to take a lead on teacher shortage—look at data as to why teachers are leaving the profession.

Elected Susan Stake as committee chair; Vickie Kauffold as vice-chair, and Kris Swain as Secretary

- **Committee 'B' – Caroline Rice for Sharra Smith**

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Teacher Shortage – Finding alternate ways to certification is a plus; paying student teachers is also a plus; suggestions include when reviewing Rule 24 endorsements, do not add more hours to them. Need to look at Rule 20 for more flexibility.

Three ways to celebrate how the teacher shortage is being addressed includes: use of alternative certification; school districts are working on ways to get paras and student teachers paid; and being flexible concerning teacher shortage issues. Things that need improvement: more diversification is needed; perception of teaching profession needs to be more positive; and the on-going decline in teacher retention numbers needs to be addressed.

NCTE Annual Report to the State Board – Need to explain what NCTE really is and express our appreciation working with the state board and their continued support of NCTE. Would like the state board to know the power and purview of their office and the influence it has in education. Glad the state board allows for local control supporting all areas of education. Would encourage this specific statement be shared: “NCTE understands the importance of being in a state that has an elected board of education that supports local control with a focus on quality education for all students in Nebraska.”

Elected Caroline Rice as chair; Tim Frey as vice-chair; and Pat Ludeke as secretary

#### ○ **Committee ‘C’ – Donna Moss**

Teacher Shortage issue—Other states are looking to Nebraska for leadership on this issue. Three ways to address teacher shortage is with reciprocity, removing barriers, and providing alternative pathways.

Existing challenges with the teaching profession include the public perception of teacher shortage and that it is not for K-12 grades only—it pertains to the entire education system (P-20); education field needs to be projected positively as a profession, not the negative image currently being seen; issues with Rule 21; state board appointed by the governor.

NCTE Annual Report to the State Board - Would like state board to know the power and purview of their office and the influence it has in education. Need unified effort and ongoing communication with the state board, especially in discussions concerning elevating the profession, recruitment, and retention. Perceptions and salaries affect teacher education. Need to promote Nebraska as a safe place to teach.

Elected Jenny Jansky as committee chair; Tanishia Jacobs as vice-chair; and Dawn Lewis as secretary.

**Adjournment-** Lenihan adjourned meeting at 3:05 p.m.