



Nebraska Council on Teacher Education

Nebraska State Board of Education Educator Preparation Advisory Committee

Full Council Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2022

The Cornhusker Marriott – Lincoln, NE

- Present:**
- HED – P. Adams; S. Alford; A. Buschelman; E. DeHart; E. Griesch; S. Holmes; J. Jansky; B. Jech; D. Karr; D. Mickey; L. Nelson; M. Ritzdorf; C. Rust; L. Sankey; S. Skretta; K. Swain
 - NASB – D. Blakely; L. Wagner
 - NCAPE – B. Ziegler
 - NCCA – C. Wittstruck
 - NCSA – J. Beach; C. Boyer; J. Harris; M. Lenihan; D. Lewis; S. Smith
 - TSB – M. Fouts; K. Mace
 - NSEA – J. Benson; D. Casey; M. Edquist; D. Garcia; S. Loney; P. Ludeke; C. Rice; D. Rohan; M. Simsic; S. Stake; E. Ventura
 - NDE – B. Dirksen; K. Heineke

- Alternates:**
- HED – C. Diaz; A. Geidel; J. Hearn; S. Kemp; E. McDonnell-Jones
 - NDE - B. Dirksen

- Guests:**
- HED – D. Perkins
 - ESU – B. McNiff
 - Omaha Archdiocese – C. Nelson
 - NLPS – S. Nelson Barrett
 - NSEA – T. Tystad
 - NDE – M. Beiermann

- Absent Without Alternate Replacement:**
- NCSA – J. Schwartz; K. Lofquist; J. McDowell; C. Worrell
 - NSEA – S. Brown; D. Moss; Lee Perez
 - NDE – K. Heineke

<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

- 9:30 A.M. **First General Session** – President Mark Lenihan Called to order at: 9:31 a.m.
- Declaration of Legal Meeting – 9:31 a.m.
 - Announcement of placement of Open Meetings Act
 - Call for public comments
- 9:35 A.M. **Guest Speaker** Commissioner Bloomstadt – NDE
 Commissioner spoke of his appreciation for the NCTE and their work with the State Board. This is an important group. Their emphasis is to do what is best for the education of our students and what is best for the education profession.

9:48 A.M. **First General Session (continued)** - Lenihan

- Approval of June 8, 2022 Full Council Meeting Minutes. Motion for approval by: Rohan; Seconded by: Ventura. Motion approved.
- Report of August 12, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting
- Introductions of Executive Committee Members: S. Stake, C. Rice, J. Jansky, S. Skretta, B. Dirksen, and K. Heineke. New NCTE members were introduced and included: M. Fouts, A. Geidel, J. Hearn, S. Kemp, K. Mace, L. Nelson, M, Ritzdorf, C. Rust, and B. Ziegler.
- Meeting Norms- Explained importance of getting an alternate when not able to attend meetings. An explanation was given on how the NCTE meetings are run.

10:00 A.M. **Informational Items**

- Guest Speaker and Legislative Update- Colby Coash – NASB, discussed working with the state legislature and legislative issues currently affecting education.

10:30 A.M. **Break**

10:45 A.M. **Informational Items (cont.)** Dirksen explained the rule-making process and its implementation regarding rule review. NCTE is an advisory group to the State Board; State Board policy outlines a 4-year rule review cycle at a minimum.

- Rule Status Reports – NDE
 - Rule 20, *Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs* – Dirksen for Heineke; creating minimum standards for administrators; flexibilities with program standards were implemented in the rule. Rule 20 was sent to state attorney general's office and returned for further revision work.
 - Rule 21, *Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Counsel, Supervise, and Administer in Nebraska Schools* – Dirksen; Alternative teaching pathways and removing barriers to teaching are a priority with State Board; substitute permits are undergoing changes; trying to make Rule 21 less complex, more simplified, but still provide flexibility.
 - Rule 23, *Regulations for the Basic Skills Competency Testing of Teachers, and Administrators* – Dirksen; Would potentially like to repeal Rule 23—take parts of Rule 23 and embed them in Rule 21—allow more flexibility with Basic Skills testing. Embed waivers and/or coursework considerations for equivalency into Rule 21 regarding basic skills competency.
 - Rule 24, *Regulations for Certificate Endorsements* –Dirksen for Heineke; Currently under revision and will then go through routing process for approval.
 - Program Approval Schedule – Dirksen for Heineke

- Peru State University Onsite Visit held on September 18-20, 2022 by CAEP
 - University of Nebraska-Omaha Onsite Visit held on October 2-4, 2022 by AAQEP
 - Nebraska Wesleyan University Onsite Visit scheduled November 15-16, 2022 by AAQEP
 - Wayne State College Offsite Visit in April 2023
 - College of St. Mary Offsite Visit in June/July 2023 State Review
 - Union College Offsite Visit in Fall/Winter 2023
 - University of Nebraska-Kearney Offsite Visit in Fall/Winter 2023
 - York University Offsite Visit in Fall/Winter 2023
- NDE Updates –Dirksen
 - Special Education Endorsement Update -Ad hoc group met; working on redline revisions; may potentially be presented at Feb. NCTE meeting
 - Call for folio reviewers for 2023
 - Additional updates – Commissioner replacement process—8-9 month process historically.

11:15 A.M. **Standing Committee Agenda Review** – Lenihan

- Address education and experience equivalent to Basic Skills/Praxis I/Core test
- Praxis I vs. Praxis II testing
- Explain Promoting the Profession Panel activity (activity will occur during lunch)
- Lunch/panel
- Discussion: Based on the presentation by the Promoting the Profession Panel, how can NCTE members use the information presented to promote the education profession? Committees should prepare recommendations.
- Committee Chairs report on discussion/recommendations to Full Council.
- Standing Committees reconvene to address recommendations and to write a position statement of recommendations. The position statement of recommendations will be combined into a cohesive statement by the NCTE Executive Committee for the February 2023 NCTE meeting, and ultimately be presented to the State Board of Education (break as needed).
- Standing Committee Chairs share position statement recommendations with the Full Council.

11:30 A.M. **Lunch**

11:50 A.M. **Lunch: Promoting the Profession Panel**

- Guest panelists: Sally Nellson-Barrett- Who Taught You, and Chris Nelson- Omaha Archdiocese. Both panelists discussed actions taken by their representative group in promoting the teaching profession.

12:30 P.M. **Standing Committee Meetings**

- Committee 'A' – Olive Branch room A: Initial discussion, recommendations
- Committee 'B' – Hawthorne room B: Initial discussion, recommendations
- Committee 'C' – Arbor 1,2 meeting room: Initial discussion, recommendations

1:19 P.M.

Second General Session – Lenihan reconvened second general session.

Standing Committee Reports

- Standing Committee Chairs present recommendations/findings
 - Committee 'A' –Susan Stake, Chair;

Praxis Core: Shared what the IHEs are doing about the Praxis Core requirement. IHEs need to require coursework that is non-remedial concerning Praxis Core test, possibly embed coursework or course requirements to include a grade of C or higher or have a GPA of 2.5 for admission to an educational preparation program. Other options to meet the basic skills requirement could include taking the exam with a combination of college level/non-remedial coursework or sign an Institutional Verification form provided by the IHE indicating a student has met the basic skills requirement. If someone has been teaching on a permit or certificate, could this be determined as an equivalent to passing the Praxis Core requirement?

Promoting the Teaching Profession: Need to update and make the Teach Nebraska website more user friendly and more of a resource. Start in middle grades in promoting teaching profession. Do more to identify students who would be good teachers—work on recruiting people in Nebraska schools and utilize out-of-state resources as well in recruiting. Include financial assistance with tuition and room and board.
 - Committee 'B' – Caroline Rice, Chair;

Praxis Core: Basic Skills competency requirements can be met by passing the Praxis Core test. Any area not met within the exam can be substituted with coursework approved by the institution or by completing a bachelor's degree program.

Promoting the Teaching Profession: Continue to support the State School Board, especially with a new Commissioner to be appointed. Increase the use of social media in marketing/promoting the teaching profession, especially among younger people. The Department of Education needs to expand their role as an agent of federal funding as it pertains to the teaching profession. Continue maintaining flexibility and quality when working with school and certification requirements. Make the Teach Nebraska website more extensive and easier to use. Making connections with other teachers in a school district or across the state can help to retain teachers.

- Committee 'C' – Jenny Jansky, Chair;
Praxis I (now Praxis Core): Could be three ways to demonstrate basic skills: 1.) Taking Praxis Core or another approved test; 2.) Coursework can include AP courses, dual credit courses, or obtain a bachelor's degree; 3.) Successful work experience to include 2-3 years as teacher of record.

Promoting the Teaching Profession: Discussed how NCTE can promote the profession through the use of campaigns, such as Teach Nebraska campaign. However, how much money is available for promotion?

2:00 P.M. **Standing Committee Meetings, Continued (what does NCTE want the State Board to do?)**

- Committee 'A'- Continued discussion and action on promoting the profession and alternative pathways to Praxis I
- Committee 'B'- Continued discussion and action on promoting the profession and alternative pathways to Praxis I
- Committee 'C'- Continued discussion and action on promoting the profession and alternative pathways to Praxis I

2:45 P.M. **Standing Committee Chairs present recommendations:**

- Standing Committee Chairs present position statement recommendations
 - Committee A – Stake; Recommend that certification applicants demonstrate basic skills competency through:
 - a. a basic skills examination, such as Praxis Core;
 - b. Two years of successful-time teaching experience on a certificate or a permit OR a combination of the basic skills examination and reading, writing, and math college-level coursework (3 credit hours per course) OR implementing Rule 24- Section 008 which provides accommodations.

Promoting the Profession:

- a. Recommend the state board of education allocate resources to further develop the Teach Nebraska website to include promotion of the profession, certification, professional pathways, and retention in the profession.

- Committee B – Rice; Recommend that certification applicants demonstrate basic skills competency through:
 - a. Passing the Praxis Core exam.
 - b. Possibly substitute coursework for areas not met within the exam, as long as the coursework is approved by the institution.
 - c. Completing a bachelor's degree could demonstrate Basic Skills proficiency.

Promoting the Profession:

- a. Market the teaching profession using various social media, especially with younger people.
 - b. Make the Teach Nebraska website more extensive and easier to use. Making connections with other teachers in the school district or across the state can help retain teachers.
- Committee C – Jansky; Recommend that certification applicants demonstrate basic skills competency through:
 - a. A bachelor’s degree with a 2.75 GPA for certification demonstrates competency and skills and should be equivalent to the Praxis Core exam.
 - b. Two years of successful work experience as the teacher of record, which aligns with other permits, as an equivalency to demonstrating basic skills competency.

Promoting the Profession:

- a. Have an open forum for the State Board where educator stakeholders can share stories, programs, and hear the needs for promoting the profession.
 - b. Participate, encourage, support, and finance campaigns for promoting the profession.
 - c. Make equitable opportunities for career exploration available to all students in Nebraska, including rural districts.
- Full Council action and/or discussion related to Standing Committee Reports (roll call vote if needed) – None at this time

3:30

Adjournment – 2:10

***Please mark your calendars! NCTE Meeting Dates for 2022-2023:
February 17, 2023, and June 9, 2023
Thank you for your service this year!***