

State Board of Education Special Meeting
Thursday-Friday March 30-31, 2023
Hilton Omaha, Hill Room, 1001 Cass Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102
[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)

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, March 30, 2023, 7:45 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Gubbels called the meeting to order at 7:48 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Lisa Fricke	Patti Gubbels	Jacquelyn Morrison (arrived at 7:59 a.m.)
Patsy Koch Johns	Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Deborah Neary
Sherry Jones	Kirk Penner	

Deputy Commissioner Frison was also in attendance.

1.2. President Gubbels led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Gubbels announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. BUSINESS

2.1. Conduct Interviews of finalists for the position of Commissioner of Education

The Board conducted an interview with Brian Maher.

President Gubbels called for a break at 10:25 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:33 a.m.

The Board conducted an interview with Summer Stephens.

President Gubbels called for a break at 12:15 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:10 p.m.

The Board conducted an interview with Melissa Polonicic.

3. ADJOURNMENT

President Gubbels adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

The State Board of Education will reconvene Friday, March 31, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Omaha, Hill Room, 1001 Cass Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, March 3, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Patti Gubbels called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Sherry Jones	Patti Gubbels	Elizabeth Tegtmeier
Patsy Koch Johns	Lisa Fricke	Deborah Neary (arrived at 9:18 a.m.)
Jacquelyn Morrison	Kirk Penner	

Deputy Commissioner Frison was also in attendance.

1.2. President Gubbels led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Gubbels announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. BUSINESS

2.1. Discuss the finalists

President Gubbels thanked the Department Staff, stakeholders, the Ad Hoc Search Committee and the consulting firm for their diligence and work over the past several months.

Board Members discussed the interviews held on March 30, 2023, and the strengths of each of the three finalists.

2.2. Authorize the Board President to make an offer and negotiate a contract with a finalist for the office of the Commissioner of Education

Motion by Jacquelyn Morrison, second by Patsy Koch Johns that the State Board authorize the Board President to make an offer and negotiate a contract with Brian Maher for the position of Commissioner of Education.

Board Members discussed the pending motion with comments on the process for selecting the next Commissioner.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	No
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	No
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	No

The motion passed.

Executive Session

Motion by Lisa Fricke, second by Jacquelyn Morrison to go into executive session for protection of public interest to receive advice from Legal Counsel regarding negotiation strategy in connection with the Commissioner's contract.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes

Sherry Jones:	No
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	No
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	No

The motion passed.

At 10:22 a.m., the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss the negotiation strategy in connection with the Commissioner's contract.

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Sherry Jones to adjourn executive session at 10:56 a.m.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Yes
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

3. ADJOURNMENT

President Gubbels adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, April 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Lincoln, NE.