

State Board of Education Work Session and Business Meeting.

Friday, September 8, 2023

The Leadership Center, 2211 Q Street, Aurora, NE, 68818, Mather East/Mather West

[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, September 8, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Patti Gubbels called the meeting to order at 9:00 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
Jacquelyn Morrison (arrived at 9:31 a.m.)	Kirk Penner	

Commissioner Maher 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. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

2.1. Lexington Public Schools Yearbook Recognition

Board Member Tegtmeier introduced members of the Lexington Public Schools Yearbook staff, who have won several national awards for their yearbook publications.

2.2. Hampton Public Schools Hawk Herd

Board Member Penner introduced members of the Hampton Public Schools administrators and members of the Hawk Herd. The Hawk Herd focuses on serving locally raised beef for school lunches and provides hands-on opportunities with calve production.

Deborah Neary left at 9:34 a.m. and returned at 9:35 a.m.

2.3. Adopt the resolution to recognize September as Attendance Awareness Month and commence the “Nebraska Every Day Counts!” campaign

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Patsy Koch Johns to adopt the resolution to recognize September as Attendance Awareness Month and comment the “Nebraska Every Day Counts!” campaign

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

2.3.A. Improving School Attendance in Participating Metropolitan Omaha Education Consortium (MOEC) Schools, an Innovation Grant funded program.

Shirley Vargas, Administrator of Coordinated School, and District Support introduced Dr. Terry Haack, Executive Director, Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC).

Elizabeth Tegtmeier left at 9:44 a.m. and returned at 9:48 a.m.

Jacquelyn Morrison left at 9:44 a.m. and returned at 9:56 a.m.

2.4. Annual Presentation from the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE)

Brad Dirksen, Administrator of Accreditation, Certification & Approval, introduced Sara Skretta, President of the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE)

Kirk Penner left at 10:13 a.m. and returned at 10:15 a.m.

3.2. Nebraska Teacher of the Year Quarterly Report

The 2023 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Renee Jones, English teacher, Lincoln High School, Lincoln, Nebraska provided an update on the activities she has been involved with as Teacher of the Year.

3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Maher delivered the Commissioner's Report.

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

3.1.A. Commissioner's recommendation and items to be removed from consent agenda.

Consent agenda item 5.3.E. was requested for removal.

President Gubbels called for a break at 10:27 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:38 a.m.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Gubbels delivered the President's Report.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Patsy Koch Johns to approve the Consent Agenda without agenda item 5.3.E.

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.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1. **Executive Committee** – Patti Gubbels, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

6.2. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Patsy Koch Johns, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

6.2.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

There was no further discussion on this item.

Jacquelyn Morrison left at 11:18 a.m. and returned at 11:20 a.m.

6.2.B. Action Item: Approve school districts’ requests for exclusions to the budget limitation in accordance with the provisions of the Tax Equity & Educational Opportunities Support Act

Motion by, Patsy Koch Johns second by Lisa Fricke to approve school districts’ requests for exclusions to the budget limitation in accordance with the provisions of the Tax Equity & Educational Opportunities Support Act.

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.

6.2.C. Action Item: Approve request from school districts for payment of half their total 2023/24 Aid

Motion by Elizabeth Tegtmeier, second by Patsy Koch Johns to approve request from school districts for payment of half their total 2023/24 aid.

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.

6.2.D. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve medical consultant contract for the Office of Disability Determinations

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Lisa Fricke to approve medical consultant contract for the Office of Disability Determinations.

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.

- 6.2.E. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve a new grant to ESU 7 for prekindergarten through grade 2 professional development

NDE Representative, Kristine Luebbe, provided additional information on the contract.

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Sherry Jones to approve a new grant to ESU 7 for prekindergarten through grade 2 professional development.

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.

- 6.2.F. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, Munroe-Meyer Institute to provide statewide external evaluation services for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Patsy Koch Johns to contract with The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, Munroe-Meyer Institute to provide statewide external evaluation services for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program.

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.

- 6.2.G. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve McKinney-Vento Grants for the 2023-24 school year

NDE Representative, Ann Carmoney, provided additional information on the grant.

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Lisa Fricke to approve McKinney-Vento Grants for the 2023-24 school year.

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.

- 6.2.H. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to extend and expand the contract with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to augment the Nebraska Statewide Family Engagement Center and implement the Nebraska Growing Readers Project

Motion by Elizabeth Tegtmeier, second by Patsy Koch Johns to extend and expand the contract with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

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.

- 6.2.I. Discussion item: Review potential deficit budget items with the Board in preparation for an October Board agenda item to authorize the Commissioner to submit the department's deficit budget request for fiscal year 2023-24

NDE Representative, Bryce Wilson, provided additional information on the deficit budget items.

- 6.3. **Planning and Evaluation Committee Report** – Deborah Neary, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

President Gubbels called for a break at 12:36 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:03 p.m.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- 8.1. Greg Epp spoke with regard to the President's report and the Health Standards from the previous Commissioner's tenure.

Gregg Kremer spoke with regard to the books in schools and thanked the Board for the work they do.

Woody Ziegler spoke about the presentations at the beginning of the meeting preparing kids for the future with no pronouns, no CRT.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS, Cont.

- 6.3.A. Action Item: Approve the Priority School Progress Plan for Isanti Elementary School

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Patsy Koch Johns to approve the Priority School Progress Plan for Isanti Elementary School.

NDE Representative, Shirley Vargas, provided additional information on the Priority School Progress Plan for Isanti Elementary School.

Lisa Fricke: Yes

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

The motion was lost.

6.3.B. Action Item: Approve the Priority School Progress Plan for Isanti High School

Motion by Lisa Fricke, second by Deborah Neary to approve the Priority School Progress Plan for Isanti High School.

NDE Staff provided additional information on the Priority School Progress Plan for Isanti High School.

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

The motion was lost.

6.3.C. Action Item: Adopt the Alt ELPA cut scores

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Jacquelyn Morrison to adopt the Alt ELPA cut scores.

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.

6.3.D. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to amend the current 2021 ACT, Inc contract for statewide assessment services for the 2023-2024 school year

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Jacquelyn Morrison to amend the current 2021 ACT, Inc contract for statewide assessment services for the 2023-2024 school year.

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.

6.3.E. Action Item: Approve the Rule 11 teacher waiver request from Scottsbluff Public Schools

Motion by Lisa Fricke, second by Deborah Neary to approve the Rule 11 teacher waiver request from Scottsbluff Public Schools.

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.

6.3.F. Discussion Item: Approve Rule 11 teacher waiver request from Auburn Public Schools

NDE Representative, Kristine Luebbe, provided additional information with regard to the Rule 11 teacher waiver request from Auburn Public Schools.

6.4. **Rules and Regulations Committee** – Elizabeth Tegtmeier, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

6.4.A. Report on Rules

There is no action on rules.

7. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

5.3.E. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract Heather Robbins dba Heather’s Behavior Support

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Jacquelyn Morrison to contract with Heather Robbins dba Heather’s Behavior Support

NDE Representative, Amy Rhone, provided additional information on the contract with Heather Robbins dba Heather’s Behavior Support.

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.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, Cont.

8.2. Written Public Comment

Submitted written public comments are linked through SPARQ in Board Agenda item number 8.2., SBOE Written Public Comment September 2023.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

President Gubbels referred Board Members to review information items and reports.

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

President Gubbels shared that the October Board Meeting is in Gering, NE. On Wednesday, October 4, 2023, there will be a tour of the Scottsbluff Career Academy.

The National Association of State Board of Education (NASBE) Annual Conference will be October 25-28, 2023, in San Diego, CA.

Lisa Fricke shared that the Thriving Children and Family Conference is September 19, 2023, in Kearney, NE.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Gubbels adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, October 6, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Gering, NE.