

**K-12 Education Coordination Full Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 4, 2023 - CTE Conference Rm, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor State Capital, Bismarck**

K-12 Council Members Present: Chairman Luke Schaefer, Dr. Sarah Ricks, Sonia Meehl, Alexis Baxley, April Foth, Brandt Dick, Melissa Vollmer, Sara Medalen, Maria Neset

K-12 Council Members Virtually Present: Nick Archuleta, Superintendent Kirsten Baesler, Marc Bluestone, Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Dr. Jeff Fastnacht,

Others Present: Kayla Effertz Kleven, Wayde Sick, Jamie Mertz, Lisa Johnson, Shauna Marchus

Others Virtually Present: Ellie Shockley, Dawn Ulmer, Terry Effertz, Aimee Copas, Robert LaFavor

The meeting was called to order by Luke Schaefer at 1:03 p.m.

Chairman Luke Schaefer stated that it is important for us to work collaboratively as we have conversations. He quoted Brene Brown “People often silence themselves or agree to disagree without fully exploring the actual nature of the disagreement for the sake of protecting a relationship and maintaining connections. But when we avoid certain conversations and never fully learn how the other person feels about all the issues, we sometimes end up making assumptions that not only perpetuate, but deepen misunderstandings, and that can generate resentment.”

He emphasized the importance of ensuring the Council can have hard conversations, not just today, but in future meetings because they are going to be talking about what the next 2 years looks like, set the direction, and figure out what they are going to be working on and how to do the work.

**1 – Approve Meeting Minutes – December 1, 2022**

Marc Bluestone moved to approve the meeting minutes from December 1, 2022. Maria Neset seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**2 – Budget Update**

Jamie Mertz reported on the current and upcoming budgets. He stated the monthly budget report provided today is for the first 21 months of the biennium. He stated that this is a basic budget, and everything is tracking at or below what was projected. He has zero concerns with the current budget.

Jamie reported that in the upcoming budget, the K12 Coordinating Council is in the budget, however, the legislature did not designate a set dollar amount for the Council. Jamie will work with Luke and Kayla to develop a budget that works within the overall DPI budget.

**Action Item:**

1. Luke stated that since none of the legislators were present in the meeting, the Council may follow up with them to see what their intention was regarding the budget and dollar amount.

**3 – Legislative Review**

Luke stated that the bills submitted by Council members in the packet today may not have gone through the complete legislative process to the point of becoming a bill, but the plan today was to talk through what the bills are and what we can do to coordinate, find duplications, find innovations and find any best practices that can be recommended. There will be additional discussions about these bills at a later date.

**HB 1232:**

A bill that would appropriate \$500,000 to North Dakota Career and Technical Education (NDCTE) to add a virtual reality career exploration resource to our RUPrepareND platform.

Luke started the discussion by asking how the K12 Coordination Council and other organizations can assist in providing statewide awareness to ensure it is fully utilized.

Wayde Sick discussed how this investment relating to interactive virtual career exploration is an addition to the RUPrepareND education and career planning platform available to every student K through 12 across the state. Wayde stated that everyone involved needs to be communicating to their constituents that this resource is available. The more it is utilized will broaden the library will become. They are working with OMB Procurement office to get this out as early as the upcoming school year. CTE is working with Job Service, the Department of Labor, and WSI to push work-based learning. They are also planning an employer webinar in the summer.

Discussion was held about awareness of RUPrepareND amongst parents and stakeholders and the different applications available for various age groups. The log-in has been improved to a single log-in to make it easier to access.

**Possible Action Items:**

1. Member organizations can assist in providing statewide awareness, to ensure it is fully utilized.
2. Get language to explain the opportunities as they become available.
3. Find out what the roll-out timeline is and add that information to the communication plans.

## **HB 1398**

A bill that requires computer science and cyber security instruction in elementary and middle school in addition to a one-credit high school requirement for graduation. An integration plan is required by July 1, 2024.

**Actions taken:** NDCTE staff are working with DPI on how CTE can contribute to this requirement, whether it is identifying CTE courses that meet the graduation requirement, or how CTE programming can be a part of the middle school and high school integration plans.

**Actions Taken:** DPI will coordinate the rollout of supports for computer science / cyber security teacher credential training opportunities, share exemplars of standards integration plans, and coordinate coursework opportunities for schools to offer.

Luke asked if there is a role for the Coordination Council in computer science and cyber security in terms of finding best practices, duplications, and innovations, for coordination across the state.

Superintendent Baesler shared that EduTech, in partnership with DPI, will be creating some possible templates that school districts could use, but these would be school board-approved integration plans. This Council could act as a voluntary clearinghouse to be the place to collect proposed templates.

Clarifying questions were asked about time frames for the implementation of this requirement. It was determined that the requirement to have every elementary, middle, and high school offer a computer science and cyber security course needs to begin the 2023-2024 school year. The board must approve the integration plan by July 1, 2024, and the integration implementation must begin by the 2024-2025 school year. The first high school graduating class with this new requirement will be May 2026.

Dr. Rupak Gandhi cautioned that the suggestion for this Council to be a clearinghouse may go beyond the scope of the Council. He referenced HB 1123, specifically 7E, which provides the scope of the Council.

Clarifying discussion was held about how to develop implementation plans, which courses qualify, and the impact this will have on teachers. It was stated that the integration plan needs to ensure teachers have time to collaborate and train, every student has access to quality experiences, and also recognize the unique situation of each building to fulfill the requirement.

Maria Neset stated that elementary schools would be providing instruction by integrating with other teachings versus high schools requiring a class for credit as a graduation requirement.

Marc Bluestone stated a concern with at-risk kids and there may be a struggle with implementation to get each kid to finish the additional required class. With 88% graduation completion, this may make the graduation rate decrease. Marc also stated concern about finding the right teacher for this course.

Dr. Gandhi stated where this Council can coordinate is to make sure we are unified in how the standards are going to be assessed. Conversations need to be held with the private sector to make sure how we measure the proficiency of the standards is the same as what they expect for the individuals fulfilling the workforce industry.

**Possible Action Items:**

Refer to Support and Innovation Subcommittee to:

1. Follow up with the implementation of this new requirement.
  - a. Determine the role of the Council's activities as it relates to this topic.
2. Determine if there are specific policy recommendations.

**SB 2260**

A bill relating to fundamental parental rights and parental involvement in education.

Luke mentioned that this bill died but may come around again in the next session.

**SB 2284**

Section 13: Creates a legislative management study on school choice models.

Superintendent Baesler suggested using the interim to explore what it is our families want and have public schools serve that need.

Dr. Gandhi stated that we as a Council can create a set of philosophies and figure out a universal language of how to communicate what public education is, and how we measure success in public education.

Alexis Baxley brought up that the ND School Board Association is considering conducting school board school for anyone in the community. Members of the public can learn about the work of school boards and what they can expect from their school board. This can prepare people to be better able to engage their school board and better able to get an outcome while feeling less frustrated because they understand the process before they have a problem. Also, we may find better-trained candidates to be prepared for the work of the school board.

Maria Neset discussed that the Governor's Office is one of the entities that will be involved in the study of school choice. The intent is to bring an outside entity in to help provide a wide scope of what school choice is.

Sara Ricks stated that the study will provide info and data from other places. It will be important for all the different entities in this Council to envision a particular method of school choice, and how it will impact the groups we represent.

Superintendent Baesler discussed the need for school accountability and what that system should look like. Superintendent Baesler stated that we exist for student academic outcomes, and there are a lot of inputs that need to go into that including social emotional, well-rounded experiences, safe schools, and healthy relationships.

Dr. Rupak Gandhi suggested the Council make recommendations to individuals doing this study to do a true comparison by studying the choices that we want to offer that are currently not here.

**Possible Action Items:**

Duplication and Replication Subcommittee to:

1. Look at schools that are engaging family members, parents, and stakeholders in civic engagement.
2. Look into any existing local school communication plans with good two-way communication where parents have a voice and are sharing their concerns, and the concerns are being met and addressed by the school in a manner that increases trust.
3. Research other states that have similar legislation about school choice.

Full Council to:

1. Follow the interim study and respond to what they are either missing or respond with what the impact may be in the ND context for what they are suggesting.
2. Suggest to the individuals doing the study to do a regression analysis of performance. Understand the differences between a comparable choice and a ND public school.
3. Revisit this at the next Full Council meeting for further discussion.

**SB 2028**

A bill relating to interim assessment for students.

**Companion Bill: SB 2254:** Relating to intervention by the superintendent of public instruction for a chronically low-performing school or school district; to provide a report; and to declare an emergency.

Luke stated that he verified with DPI Director of Assessment that there is a ND State Assessment next year, the same one we have been using. The new ND A+ assessment will come out in 2025. Luke mentioned that assessments provide the baseline for who is identified for school improvement, which is what ESSA requires.

Superintendent Baesler clarified that there are some school districts that will be piloting the administration of the ND A+ in the spring of 2024. Superintendent Baesler explained that all school districts will have available to them three optional ND A+ interim assessments. The ND

A+ Summative assessment in Spring 2025 will be required for all school districts. If the school chooses to use the interim ND A+ assessments, the cost of the assessments will be paid for by the state. A school district can choose to continue to use the NWEA, MAP, Renaissance STAR, or any other interim assessment they may be using, but they will need to pay for them on their own as they have always done. The interim assessments used to be required for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders and are now required twice a year for K through 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and once in high school.

Superintendent Baesler explained that the ND A+ Assessment is a comprehensive assessment system that specifically aligns with ND state standards for ELA and math. She also explained that the results the student receives from the ND A+ interim assessments will be based on the student's level of proficiency toward mastering those standards. The report from NWEA and Renaissance STAR assessments reports where that child is in relation to all students in the nation that took that test.

Luke said no action is needed, we can just watch.

### **SB 1231**

A bill relating to the creation of a dyslexia and literacy task force, reading instruction competency for teacher licensure, and the dyslexia screening and intervention program.

New Language: The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall appoint a task force in collaboration with the kindergarten through the grade twelve education coordination council. The task force shall review all statutes in this code relating to literacy, dyslexia, and related teacher training and report the findings and recommendations of the task force, together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

Luke stated this bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to work with the Council in determining members for a task force who will carry out specific work and report to the legislature.

Luke asked Council members to suggest a name and rationale for someone they would like to see on the task force.

Suggestions were:

- A parent who has a child diagnosed with dyslexia.
- Tara Jordan, who is a classroom teacher, and literacy coordinator for the district.
- Special education personnel because they already work in that realm. They are knowledgeable in dyslexia and learning disabilities and diagnosing reading disabilities.
  - Faye Beck, Shawna Allard, Kiara Crosby.

- Lea Kugel at DPI. Having special education from the field along with someone from the department would be beneficial.
- SEEC, several schools did get a pilot bill and did a lot of work around dyslexia, so tapping into that work group would be beneficial. A UND professor who works in this area.
- Remedial Post Secondary English Instructor
- Tech Coordinator: Larissa Schwabb

**Action Item:**

1. Follow up with any further recommendations for the task force by Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.

**HCR 3022**

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying and clarifying the roles of the State Board of Public Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the board of public school districts, and the North Dakota High School Activities Association, as they relate to proper spectator conduct, including the clarification of expectations and consequences for violating those expectations, and the promotion of good sportsmanship and good citizenship, including embracing diversity.

**Companion Bill HB 1149:** a legislative management study regarding the impact of the North Dakota high school activities association on students.

**Action Request:** The Council may be able to help support the messaging around sportsmanship and even participation; convey the importance of activities and clarify what the expectations might be.

Maria Neset stated we can help coordinate messaging for people to understand what their role is in these activities. It is important for referees, umpires, administrators, and parents to understand the expectations.

Alexis Baxley discussed being appointed as chair of NDHSAA a sportsmanship committee. Her goal for the committee is not to be the punishment czar of sportsmanship, but the function of that committee can be to share information, promote good sportsmanship, and help people understand who can do what and what the rules are before a situation occurs.

**Action Item:**

1. Provide support and sharing of communication if the study is chosen.

**HB 1003**

This bill is the comprehensive higher education funding bill that includes a Dual Credit Study in section 43.

Luke stated the request from the provider was that we provide data and information around the coordination of several different entities, specifically for recommendations in the next session. Sounds like this should be referred to our Legislative committee.

No further discussion was held by members.

#### **4 – Annual Report**

Luke stated the annual report was provided in the packet you received today. This report is required for the K12 Coordination Council to provide. Luke presented many of the major themes in a PowerPoint to the Education Legislative Committee.

Discussion was held about some minor edits to the report. Kayla noted changes.

Kayla mentioned a special thank you to the Governor's Office for the photos for the annual report. Kayla mentioned the designer loved using real photos, and not trying to find photos of people.

Brandt Dick moved to approve the annual report. Alexis Baxley seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **5 – Executive Director Contract**

Luke stated that he was informed there is one more year of renewal remaining for the executive director contract. That means next year, the Council will need to start a new RFP for an executive director. Luke stated that when looking at the RFP, there needs to be serious consideration of the scope of work. The proposal that Kayla provided when she was initially awarded, has gone beyond that scope of work. The goal is to get the RFP open by January 2024.

Superintendent Baesler stated that DPI will determine what the costs are and create a budget for this Council for the biennium, so this Council can make decisions about the RFP for an executive director based on that budget.

Marc Bluestone moved to extend the contract for Kayla Effertz Kleven to continue as executive director. Maria Neset seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Marc Bluestone brought up wanting to discuss the gift fund rules, and Luke agreed to include the gift fund on the next agenda.

April Foth stated this was her last meeting, and she enjoyed working with everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

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Chairman Luke Schaefer

There are no upcoming meetings scheduled.

Minutes taken and prepared by Shauna Marchus