STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 25, 2022

Members of the State Board of Public School Education met at the CTE Conference on the 15th floor of the State Capitol and via Teams on Monday, April 25, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sonia Meehl at 1:02 p.m. with the following State Board members in attendance:

Dr. Jeff Fastnacht
Mr. Burdell Johnson
Ms. Lyndsi Engstrom
Dr. Steve Holen
Chairman Sonia Meehl
Superintendent Kirsten Baesler
Mr. Josh Johnson

Also present: Luke Schaefer, Allyson Hicks, Ann Ellefson, and Laura Doll

Present Virtually: Adam Tescher, Alice Johnson, Donna Fishbeck, Maria Neset, Kayla Effertz Kleven, Cory Steiner, and Brian Lawton (GNWEC)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Superintendent Baesler moved to approve the minutes from the March 28, 2022 meeting. Dr. Jeff Fastnacht seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO THE GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE SCHOOL BOARD
The State Board members reviewed the appointment of the new school board member for the Grand Forks Air Force Base. Josh Johnson moved to accept the appointment of Ms. Michelle Shepperd to the Grand Forks Air Force Base School Board. Burdell Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
REVIEW THE RECORD, DISCUSS, AND TAKE ACTION ON THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY FROM WILLISTON BASIN SCHOOL DISTRICT #7 TO EIGHT MILE SCHOOL DISTRICT #6 (DANSIE PETITION).

Chairman Meehl read the annexation petition.

Dr. Jeff Fastnacht made a motion to approve the Dansie Annexation property between Williston Basin School District #7 to Eight Mile School District #6 with the following reasons in the record, it was approved unanimously by the county board 5 – 0 with no opposition with special notice in the record of Mr. Miller’s testimony that he did note that he was not opposed to this annexation, also noted the value of the property exchange appears reasonable and the petitioners are aware of the tax impact and tax increase. Ms. Lyndsi Engstrom seconded the motion. Motion passes 7 - 0.

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REA AUDIT PRESENTATION

G N W E C (Great Northwest Education Coop) – Brian Lawton presented the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2021. Mr. Lawton discussed the significant findings of the audit, the weaknesses that were identified, and the remedies that are being taken to address those weaknesses. Mr. Lawton stated the following:

- All transactions have proper authoritative guidance and were recognized in financial statements within the proper period.

- Financial statement disclosures were neutral, consistent, and clear.

- Auditors encountered no difficulties in dealing with management or completing the
audit and there were no instances with laws, regulations, or grant and contract agreements.

- All misstatements that were identified were corrected and there were no disagreements between the management and auditors during the course of the audit.
- Their board approved the audit report on April 20, 2022.

Josh Johnson added that he feels Mr. Lawton did not receive the new framework for an R.E.A. Audit presentation the board has been using. Mr. Josh Johnson asked that Mr. Lawton come back and present that to the board. Chairperson Meehl asked Mr. Lawton if he received the State Board of Public School Education Framework for an audit presentation. Mr. Lawton offered to address questions at this time, however, Chairperson Meehl asked that Mr. Lawton have the time to highlight his best and brightest achievements and any challenges at the next board meeting. Mr. Lawton agreed to this request.

K12 EDUCATION COORDINATION COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

- The members of the council have remained the same. The only recent change was the replacement of Senator Bakke replacing Senator Oban.
- Council responsibilities and operations.
- The council consists of 18 members, much of the work is done in the subcommittees.
- Executive Committee’s focus is to ensure that all of the operational guidelines are set out to function as intended.
- The Strategic Themes subcommittee was the most exciting committee in the last year with the enormous amount of work that was completed, which consisted of adopted goals to include aspirational goals and a long-term outcome.
- The Statewide Projects, Duplication & Replication Subcommittee will continue to evaluate programs and agencies.
- Innovation Program review was at the Bismarck Public Schools where their innovation waiver was reviewed in their Empower[Ed] program with a SWOT analysis conducted.
- The Review of Initiatives subcommittee comes with some recommendations. They brought
forward eight different recommendations broken down into short term, medium term, and long term focus.

- The Support and Innovation subcommittee has been strategizing about how can they understand the support and innovation that is occurring in ND and how can that be shared. Therefore, Roadshows were created, with the first one at Bismarck Public Schools for Empower[Ed].
- The Legislative Approval Initiatives subcommittee is the group that every requirement that the legislature gave to the council, and they did the work.
- The website portion is the most challenging of all of the work. A subcommittee is being formed specifically for the website portal.
- Federal Funding for Mentorship Program was for first-year teachers in North Dakota to provide support.

Superintendent Baesler added that everyone should take the time to read the letter from Chairman Luke Schaefer. It is a powerful message. Superintendent Baesler thanked Luke for all of his work, adding this is a group of very strong leaders that are passionate about the work they do and the student outcomes for the students.

Ms. Engstrom asked where the work is being shared in other contexts. Luke added there is not a place for the report to be shared or posted online, that is why the work on the website portal is important.

Dr. Jeff Fastnacht thanked Luke for the good work the coordination council has done and he encouraged them to tell their story and involve others. There was continued discussion in regard to aspirational goals and the REA framework.

Superintendent Baesler made the motion to accept the K12 Coordination Council 2021 Annual Report. Dr. Jeff Fastnacht seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON NORTH DAKOTA LEARNING CONTINUUM**

Ann Ellefson from the NDDPI was a guest presenter and provided the ND Learning Continuum current draft final, pending State Board approval. Handouts were shared and presented to the Board. Ann shared the highlights for review:

- Draft a forward that would explain what a learning continuum is, why to implement a
continuum and how it relates to the mastery framework, the section of policy in SB2196

- There are placeholders in the document (a bright blue line) where we are working with a graphic designer to have the content be represented in an illustration or something more visually pleasing than paragraphs and bullet points

- Throughout the document information was changed from ND Portrait of a Graduate to Essential Skills.

- There are additional addendums that were included as to who was on what committee, etc.

Dr. Jeff Fastnacht asked Ann how many days it may be before the graphics are completed for approval of the final document.

Ann stated she feels it is at least a month away before the final satisfactory graphics are complete. Ann stated this will be a digital version, so it needs to be ADA accessible, which entails more work. Ann did state the content of the graphics is in place. Further discussion was held regarding the adjustment to the title.

Dr. Fastnacht questioned if the content is all in the document and not going to change, can a provisional approval be given even though the final will be coming after the graphics are completed?

Chairman Meehl asked Allyson Hicks if she was comfortable with the board approving subject to graphic improvements. Ms. Hicks confirmed if the content is there and the board is okay with the content then they are essentially changing pictures, so if the board is okay with it, they can certify it.

Ann added there was an error to point out that there is a missing page 18, it was a blank page, which was removed and did not renumber the pages. Ann noted there is no missing content in the document, it was an error.

Dr. Jeff Fastnacht moved to approve the North Dakota Learning Continuum in its form. Burdell Johnson seconded the motion.

Dr. Holen asked for clarification of the portrait of a graduate was something was discussed extensively and to clarify as an appendix this document, a school district is required to have one of their own in order to utilize the learning continuum, they don’t have to adopt a unilateral one? Dr. Holen asked whether the list of examples is just for a reference piece as far as what a school district is required to implement.

Chairman Meehl read from the document and stated that it does not say that a district has to have their own mastery framework.
Ann provided clarity by stating the way that the ND Century Code reads is that in order to issue mastery credit off of the master framework and mastery policy, a district must show alignment to the North Dakota Learning Continuum. Ann further stated it does not mean you have to have a portrait of a graduate; but it does mean, the way that we interpret it is similar to our contents standards, that a district must meet or exceed the current content standards set by the state and relatively to issue mastery credit you must meet or exceed the elements of the North Dakota Learning Continuum as approved by the state board. It would include the elements that are listed in the document under essential skills.

Chairman Meehl added that once the board approves the learning continuum today, the board’s work is done regarding the learning continuum at this time. The board is not responsible to approve each school district’s replies.

Ann responded, no, currently in statute it is the local school board that approves their board policy and their mastery framework, the state board and DPI do not oversee that. Ann continued to say that it is in statute that this board certify a learning continuum, and this will have some type of a life cycle and a revision cycle. No further discussion was held. Motion passes 6 – 0.

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**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2022, with a possibility of foregoing due to scheduling conflicts and meeting on Monday, June 27, 2022, at 1:00 PM.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Laura Doll