

STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 27, 2023

State Board of Public School Education members met in the CTE 15th Floor Conference Room at the State Capitol and via Microsoft Teams on Monday, November 27, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Sonia Meehl at 1:00 p.m.

State Board Members in Attendance:

Chairwoman Sonia Meehl
Vice Chairman Mike McHugh
Board Member Burdell Johnson
Board Member Josh Johnson
Board Member Lyndsi Engstrom

State Board Member Present Virtually:

Superintendent Kirsten Baesler
Board Member Eric Nelson

Others in Attendance: Allyson Hicks, Shauna Marchus (NDDPI)

Others Present Virtually: Luke Schaefer (K12 Coordination Council Chairman), Kayla Effertz Kleven (K12 Coordination Council Executive Director), Donna Fishbeck (NDDPI), Robert LaFavor (NDDPI)

1. Final approval of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order for the Annexation of property from the Drake Public School District No. 54 of McHenry County in North Dakota to the Rugby Public School District No. 5 of Pierce, Rolette, and Benson Counties in North Dakota. (Heintz Petition)

Burdell Johnson stated that he was absent from this meeting, but the cover page lists him as both present and absent, so he requested that the document be updated. Allyson Hicks stated she will remove his name from the present column on the cover page.

Lyndsi Engstrom moved to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order for the annexation of property from the Drake to the Rugby School District, known as the Heintz Petition. Mike McHugh seconded the motion. No discussion.

NAME	VOTE (Yes/ No)
Board Member Lyndsi Engstrom	Yes
Board Member Josh Johnson	Yes
Vice Chair Mike McHugh	Yes
Board Member Eric Nelson	Yes
Board Member Burdell Johnson	Yes
Chair Sonia Meehl	Yes
Superintendent Kirsten Baesler	Absent

The motion passed unanimously 6-0.

2. K-12 Education Coordination Council Update

Sonia Meehl stated that the meeting packet included a copy of the K12 Council report to the CTE Board with their suggested recommendation to the CTE board to consider items related to the virtual Career Tech Ed and CDE Tech Ed.

Luke Schaefer presented on the K12 Education Coordination Council legislative charges. He explained that the K12 Council is made up of several entities from around the state with teachers, administrators, legislators, policymakers, and the executive branch. Luke Schaefer stated that he felt as though they were moving in the direction that the legislators intended. He added that they do work not setting the vision, but rather checking to see that the vision that is set is moving forward and measuring that progress.

He reviewed each of the legislative charges listed on page 5 of the K12 Coordination Council 2022 Annual Report:

1. Assist in the implementation, dissemination, and communication of the statewide strategic vision and evaluate progress toward meeting the identified goals and strategies.
2. Perform a continuous review of the effectiveness and efficiency of access and delivery of education services and programs in the state.
3. Identify opportunities for increased collaboration among state education entities and stakeholders.
4. Identify gaps or duplications in education services and programs and provide recommendations for addressing those gaps or duplications.
5. Study and evaluate new and emerging educational initiatives and trends and provide recommendations for policy changes to state entities or the legislative assembly if necessary.
6. Support the implementation, dissemination, and communication of local or regional educational initiatives and practices, including innovative education programs, on a statewide level.
7. Establish a one-stop communication and information hub to provide the public and interested parties with seamless access to state entities that deliver education services.

Luke Schaefer shared a video that outlined the K12 Education Coordination Council. He stated that the subcommittees are coordinating around the topic of Tomorrow's School Employees. He then shared a detailed breakdown of each of the K12 Coordination Council's subcommittees and summarized the focus of work of each subcommittee.

Aspirational Goals Subcommittee

Luke Schaefer stated that this subcommittee is focused on the legislative mandate of assisting in the implementation, dissemination, and communication of the statewide strategic vision and evaluating progress toward meeting the identified goals and strategies. Luke Schaefer mentioned that this subcommittee is moving forward with a dashboard, where people can see the strategic vision at a quick glance, which was recommended by the K12 Council in the last legislative session. He stated that this dashboard is expected to be live around January 2024.

Statewide Projects, Duplication and Replication Subcommittee

Luke Schaefer stated that this subcommittee is responsible for a couple of the charges, including the review of the effectiveness of access and delivery of education services and programs in the state, identifying opportunities for increased collaboration, and identifying

gaps or duplications in education services and programs. He explained they are working to address whether school employees have the capacity to do the work, specifically looking at all the different roles in the schools.

Support and Innovation Subcommittee

Luke Schaefer stated that this subcommittee also has multiple charges, which include the implementation, dissemination, and communication of local or regional educational initiatives and practices. He explained that they will be focusing on how to reshape schools to prepare tomorrow's workforce. He stated they recognize there are legislative studies and the Governor's Task Force around teacher retention, so they will be following what those task forces will be doing specifically around administrators and teachers, but this subcommittee will be looking at different areas of the school such as nutrition staff, custodial staff, bus drivers, etc., ensuring they coordinate across all the different staffing patterns in North Dakota.

Review of Initiatives Subcommittee

Luke Schaefer explained that this is an ad hoc committee that meets only when they are presented with a new program or service that is available in North Dakota. He explained that this subcommittee exists so they can gain a deeper understanding of what the program or service is, how it relates to education in ND, and they look for the strengths and opportunities that exist in it and then provide recommendations to the Full K12 Council in terms of how to interact with that opportunity.

Legislative Approval Initiative Subcommittee

Luke Schaefer stated that this is an ad hoc subcommittee that looks for any new charges that the legislature might provide to the K12 Council. He explained that they exist to identify any possible recommendations that should be presented as policy, and then draft those policy recommendations to be reviewed by the Full K12 Council.

Executive Committee

Luke Schaefer explained that the role of the Executive Committee is to ensure the operations of the K12 Coordination Council can continue to not only exist, but that it can grow into the body that they believe the legislative body is requesting.

Luke Schaefer mentioned that the K12 Coordination Council will have a new annual report and video that will be released around February 2024.

Josh Johnson asked Luke Schaefer if the K12 Council anticipates CTE education, including virtual education, being a focus going forward into 2024. Luke Schaefer answered no he does not anticipate that they would take another look at the delivery of CTE. Luke Schaefer added that with the influx of funds, they might revisit if there should be a shift in how programs and services are delivered.

Lyndsi Engstrom asked how the topic of CTE and virtual education was identified. Luke Schaefer answered that the K12 subcommittee identified multiple programs that had possible sets of duplication or replication, and they focused on the one that was statewide with the greatest depth of participation.

Lyndsi Engstrom asked if the recommendations in the report were listed in a certain order of priority. Luke Schaefer answered no, there was not a priority.

Chair Meehl asked when the board can expect to see the final annual report. Luke Schaefer answered February 2024. Kayla Effertz Kleven agreed with that time frame, but she stated that it must first be approved by the Full K12 Council at their February meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 25, 2023 and October 23, 2023

Josh Johnson moved to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2023 and October 23, 2023 meetings. Lyndsi Engstrom seconded the motion.

Mike McHugh requested that it be noted in the September 25th meeting minutes that he rejoined the meeting. Allyson Hicks instructed to add a sentence indicating when he rejoined the meeting.

There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously. Both meeting minutes were approved.

Sonia Meehl updated the board on the County Superintendent Training. She explained that a committee, which included herself, Ms. Hicks, and Supt. Baesler met on October 31, 2023, to discuss the training requirement mandated by the legislature. She stated that the Attorney General's office will prepare the training document, and the training is intended to take place in July 2024.

Supt. Baesler stated that the meeting also included the Executive Director of the North Dakota School Board Association (NDSBA) and the Executive Director of the North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACo). She explained that the county superintendents fall under the purview of the NDACo as members. She discussed that the plan is for the counties to work with the Executive Director of the NDACo, and the NDACo will take care of the logistics of the meeting space, time, invitations, and notifications. NDDPI will provide the training relating to reporting to federal and state, including basic superintendent operational duties of running a K12 system. Then the Attorney General's office, Allyson Hicks, is going to provide training specific to what the State Board of Public School Education needs regarding annexations, dissolutions, and reorganizations.

Chair Meehl mentioned that since the training will not be available to county superintendents until July, this board may continue to see some of the challenges with annexations for the remainder of the year.

Supt. Baesler asked Allyson Hicks if it was possible to prepare the training materials earlier than July 2024. Allyson Hicks answered that she plans to prepare a manual with instructions for the requirements of law and walk through definitions, the steps needed, requirements, etc., and then put it on the NDDPI website to be accessible for county and school superintendents, and parents. She stated she would work on it as soon as possible and hopes to have a draft by the March State Board meeting for the board members to review.

Further discussion was held amongst the group about what to include in the training and manual, such as common reasons for approval/ disapproval from the board, school finance, certificates of levy, building funding, examples of good packets, checklists, addendums, etc.

Shauna Marchus mentioned that all State Board of Public School Education meeting minutes are available on the DPI website for anyone to review as a reference. Discussion was held about whether the Findings of Fact should also be included on the website for public access. Allyson Hicks stated that they are open records, and it is up to the board to include them on a

website.

NEXT MEETING – January 22, 2024

Chair Meehl stated there is no December meeting, and the next meeting is scheduled for January 22nd. Agenda items for that meeting include the Jacobson Annexation Appeal hearing, and the Seil petition is still being considered.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Shauna Marchus

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Sonia Meehl
Chairwoman

Kirsten Baesler
Executive Director & Secretary