

ESUCC

Legislative Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 2016, 3:00 PM

Technology Committee Meeting Educational Service Unit No. 11 412 W 14th Ave Holdrege, NE 68949 DL: ESUs 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 (host), 13, 18, 19, 6949 South 110th Street, LaVista, NE 68128

Attendance Taken at 3:26 PM.

Beatty ESU 16:	Present
Bell ESU 10:	Present
Gegg ESU 05:	Present
Jeff West (NE):	Present
Dr Kraig Lofquist:	Present
Standish ESU 18:	Present
Dan Schnoes (NE) (ESU 03):	Present
Paul Calvert (ESU 15):	Present

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Agenda Item

3.1. 2016 Legislative Session

3.1.1. LB 958 - Change provisions relating to budgets, the valuation of agricultural land, and levy limitations (Gloor)

3.1.2. LB 959 - Change and eliminate provisions relating to school funding, budgets, and levy authority (Sullivan)

3.1.3. LB 903 - Change and eliminate provisions relating to learning communities (Baker)

3.1.4. LB 1067 - Change provisions relating to learning communities (Sullivan)

3.1.5. LB 1002 - Permit educational service unit boards to pay membership dues to associations of school boards (Baker)

3.2. Legislative Planning Committee - June 8 or 9

3.3. Long Term Legislative Goals

3.4. ESU 1/8 Legislative Process

4. Next Meetings Agenda Items

5. Executive Session

6. Adjournment

{{Name: Agenda Item Name}}

{{Discussion: Agenda Item Discussion}}

{{Comments: Agenda Item Comments}}

{{Actions: Agenda Item Actions}}

From: jb@brommandassociates.com
To: "Curt Bromm" <curt@wahoolaw.com>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 1:41:49 PM
Subject: BAA - 2016 Session Update - Review

This Wednesday, January 6, was the beginning of the “short session” for the Nebraska Legislature. This sixty day session ([found here](#)) is calendared to go through April 20th and has already proven to be moving very quickly as there are 400 bills already on carry over from 2015 and almost 200 bills introduced already through Friday.

Speaker Hadley would like to get started early on priority bills and has announced that he will be accepting senator and committee priority designations and requests for speaker priority designations as early as Monday, January 11th.

This session will be the last for 22% of the body as 11 of 49 senators are term-limited out. With this brings turnover in the committee chairs and the potential for some posturing and positioning as the session goes on. The newest member, Omaha Senator Nicole Fox, was appointed last fall and additional information can be found [here](#). Senator Mark Kolterman has been elected as the new Retirement Systems chair and you can find the makeup and slight committee changes to the 14 standing committees [here](#).

Also, Governor Rickett's will give the State of the State Address this Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and you should be able to view it live from [this page](#).

We are reviewing and compiling all of the bills and will soon send out a report when all of the bills are in. Public hearings will begin on Jan. 19th and the last day of bill introduction is Jan 20th. Also, parking seems to be increasingly difficult, so please let us know if you are traveling here and we can try to assist with parking.

Speaker Hadly has also announced that we will be working through lunches starting March 15th and will try to adjourn by 7:00pm. Additional dates from the Speaker's office can be found [here](#).

Both Curt and I are looking forward to working with you again this year and please let me know if you have any questions.

JB

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**Education Committee
LB 959
February 9, 2016**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Governor Ricketts, Senator Sullivan, and Senator Gloor for their time, effort, and commitment to address a growing concern regarding property taxes across the state of Nebraska. Your work is greatly appreciated!

In collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Education, the vision and purpose for the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC) is designed to provide efficient and effective services for students, teachers, and school districts throughout the state. This purpose has been defined within 79-1246, which reads as follows:

The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council shall work toward statewide coordination to provide the most cost-effective services for the students, teachers, and school districts in each educational service unit. The council's duties include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Preparation of strategic plans to assure the cost-efficient and equitable delivery of services across the state;
- (b) Administration of statewide initiatives and provision of statewide services; and
- (c) Coordination of distance education.

As the Executive Director of the ESUCC and former Chief Administrator for ESU 2, the purpose and focus of our work has been clearly defined. That focus has been and will continue to be the delivery of cost-effective, efficient, and equitable services for the 17 ESU's, 245 school districts, 22,000 teachers, and the 307,000 students within the state. This ongoing support for teaching and learning is based upon a level of funding in support of the vision and purpose.

Although valuation of agriculture land has increased during the past several years, Core Funding for ESU's decreased 5% beginning with the 2011-12 year and has increased 0% each year thereafter. When considering the total restrictive funds (Core Funding and Levy Funding) for ESU's, this level of funding will continue to be a concern as the valuation of agriculture land begins to stabilize and Core Funds remain at a 0% growth.

Within LB 959, the ability for ESU's to exceed the budgeted restrictive funds would decrease from 110% to 105%. After review of the current data, one ESU (ESU 18) would be impacted in the amount of \$218,000. Even though one ESU would experience a decrease at this time, it is difficult to determine the ongoing impact this decrease may have on other ESU's in the future.

Again, I appreciate your commitment in providing a solution to an ever-increasing need. In light of property tax relief and the budget shortfall, the ESUCC is not asking for increased funding at this time, but rather stabilization in funding as we consider the needs of 307,000 students.

If you should have any questions or comments, please contact me via email (dludwig@esuucc.org) or my cell (402-380-8571).

Take care,

David M. Ludwig
ESUCC Executive Director

ESU 1 and 8 Superintendent Meeting
Monday, December 7, 2015
Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk
9:00-3:00

9:00-10:30 Welcome

Purpose for the Day

- ESU 1 and 8 Legislative Committee
 - Why are we here?
 - How will we know we are successful?
- Introduction of Guests
 - Rachael Wise, NE State Board President
 - Mike Dulaney, NCSA Director
 - Dave Ludwig, ESUCC Director

Activity 1:

Identify Major Educational Themes

- Consensus Process

10:30-10:45 **BREAK**

10:45-12:00 Activity 2:

Create Shared Vision/Message for Major Educational Themes

12:00-12:45 **LUNCH**

12:45-1:45 Activity 3:

Sharing our Message with State Senators

- What's it like at the Legislature? An Administrator's Perspective
- Contextualize the Message when meeting with State Senators
- Superintendent Mini-work Session

1:45-2:00 **BREAK**

2:00-3:00 Activity 4:

Large Group Wrap-Up

- Superintendent Work Session Report Out
- Next Steps
- Final Thoughts/Thank You to Participants
 - *The Charge to Carry the Work Forward*

EDUCATION IS IN OUR HANDS

Promotion of Leadership and Public Education

The 45 superintendents and ESU administrators representing northeast Nebraska promote equitable learning experiences for all of Nebraska's children.

In collaboration with ESUs 1 and 8, the Nebraska Council of School Administra-

tors (NCSA), the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), and the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC) — and through a strategic process — we have identified five major themes that impact each of our school districts.



The five major themes are:

- Increasing Opportunities from Birth to Kindergarten
- College & Career Readiness
- Mental Health & Behavior
- Changing Demographics
- Infrastructure

We recognize the diversity that exists among our school districts and among the children who attend each of our schools.

Working together for the greater good of the state's children, the 45 representatives of northeast Nebraska are willing and ready to collaborate with Senators to develop sound policy that supports learning experiences for all Nebraska students.

Changing Demographics

- All changing — diverse needs
- Family dynamics lead to higher needs (poverty, SPED, behavior, social services)
- Aging community/population
- Pride ourselves on meeting individual needs

Mental Health & Behavior

- Impact on student achievement
- Deterioration of society/family structure
- Availability of quality supports

Infrastructure

- We request that the legislature consider a funding mechanism outside of instructional resources for safety/security, maintenance and improvements of infrastructure
- IMPORTANT: We recognize work already being done by NDE (Safety)

Increasing Opportunities from Birth to Kindergarten

- Strong research base
- Community need (universal, regardless of size)
- Not all Early Childhood experiences are of equal quality
- Levels the playing field for children of diverse needs
- Providing these quality services requires additional funding
- Research shows this is the most cost effective investment we can make — there's a HUGE return on investment!

College & Career Readiness

- Support CTE reVISION process
- Chronic labor shortage in education (financial incentives)
- Expand career and technical education offerings (Concerns: space; finding and retaining quality staff)
- Support and simplify dual-credit acceptance
- Embed 21st-century soft skills into K-12 curriculum
- Allow for educational innovation



Wakefield Community School

Superintendent Mark Bejot

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www.wakefieldschools.org

Wakefield is located ten miles east of Wayne, NE, along Highway 35. Community population is 1,450 people. Wakefield Community School demographics reflect 457 students of which 50% Caucasian and 50% Hispanic. Free and reduced lunch is 57%. Wakefield, economically, is heavily agricultural, including agricultural production and agribusiness such as Michael Foods, which our largest employer. Michael Foods is the largest egg business in Nebraska. Dairying is another large agribusiness and includes two large dairy farms in the community. Wakefield is the smallest school in the state with 50% mix of Hispanic and White population. Graduation rate was 88% in 2014-15. AQuESTT school rating is "Great" for the elementary and high school.

Developed 12-17-2015

Changing Demographics

- Free Reduced Lunch is slowly increasing — FY 2011: 50%, FY 2012: 54%, FY 2013: 52%, FY 2014: 48%, FY 2015: 57% based on Sept. 30 count.
- Poverty level is decreasing among Caucasian families. Poverty level is increasing among Hispanic families, while demographic mix remains the same at 50% White/Hispanic.
- 90%+ of preschool students are Free Reduced Lunch.
- Increase in newcomer students four years ago: 1 or 2 students, FY 2014: 12, FY 2015: 18 students preK-12.
- Special education seeing more diverse population of exceptionalities. Zero autistic students five years ago, six students this year. Students with Russell-Silvers Syndrome and Williams Syndrome.
- The median income for all household in Wakefield for 2015 is \$38,732. State median income for 2014 is \$52,686. The 20-to-34 age group and 55-to-64 age group experienced the largest increase in population from 2000 to 2010.
- Wakefield has a housing shortage of adequate rental, beginning starter homes, higher income homes and transition homes. Wakefield is projected to have a 2% population growth by 2025.
- School district is moving to a non-equalized district, state aid from FY 2012-13: \$1,536,392 to FY 2015-16: \$437,929.

College & Career Readiness

- Career & Technical Education offerings in Industrial Technical Education (ITE), Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) and Business Education.
- Student Microsoft Certification in Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- Reorganized FCS program in 2013-14 into three career clusters: Food & Nutritional Sciences, Health Sciences, and Education & Training.
- FCS students offered Certified Nurse Aide and Medication Aide pathways. Added Culinary Foods to Nutritional Sciences.
- Business Education added Web Design course.
- Students take on-line coursework from NECC, UNL, UNK, UNL-Curtis.
- Dual Credit from NECC in Literature and Speech.
- Collaborative agreement with Allen Consolidated Schools for agriculture courses and FFA.

Infrastructure

- Completed \$1.9 million energy conservation for elementary and high school in 2014.
- Nearing compliance for Energy Star Rating (top 25% of schools nationally) at Wakefield High and Elementary. Energy and maintenance savings approximately \$45,000 to \$50,000 annually.

Mental Health & Behavior

- Mental health services are limited locally to Wayne (one therapist) or South Sioux City at Heartland Counseling. No regular mental counseling available in Wakefield or Wakefield Community School.
- Student and family needs difficult to determine, typically three or four families request help. Many individuals and families are under served. A family of four moved out of state due to at-risk behaviors.
- Educational Service Unit #1 provides behavior support through Tower School; however, the service has a five-to-six student waiting list.
- Based on Nebraska Risky Behaviors Survey, 27 students at the high school level would need mental health services, including suicide prevention, which is steady at 8%. Fifteen students would need mental health assistance. Services largely occur through the local school counselors.

Increasing Opportunities from Birth to Kindergarten

- Wakefield serves all local students within the district in the 3-year-old and 4-year-old programs.
- Provide special education to all eligible special education students birth to five.
- Primary focus of half-day 3-year-old program is language development, behavior and social development. This is a unique program to Wakefield.
- Focus of 4-year-old preschool is academic and language development
- 80% speak a language other than English in 3- and 4-year-old program.
- Based on Brigance Assessment, 80% of preschool students entering kindergarten are meeting grade level expectations in all subcategories.
- Preschool program is Nebraska State Accredited with three certified preschool educators, masters level teachers and ELL & Special Ed endorsements.
- Low percentage of ELL students (4%) transition to middle school.
- Only preschool in the district; all other programs are day care.