

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

LEARNING COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL

**February 4, 2010**

A meeting of the Coordinating Council of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties was held on February 4, 2010, at the Thompson Center at UNO, 6705 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68182. Notice of the meeting, containing the date, time, place and agenda, was given in advance thereof by publication in the Daily Record on January 28, 2010, in the Bellevue Leader, Douglas County Post-Gazette, Gretna Guide, Omaha Star, Papillion Times, and Ralston Recorder between January 27, 2010 and February 3, 2010 and in the web site edition of Nuestro Mundo. The proofs of publication have been received and will be made a permanent part of the record of the meeting. Notice of the meeting was given to all members of the Council by U.S. mail or email on February 2, 2010.

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was convened and called to order by Chair Kolowski at 6:08 p.m.
2. **Public Notice & Compliance with Open Meetings Act.** Chair Kolowski announced that the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted at the entrance to the room and that copies of materials being reviewed by the Council were available to the public.

3. **Roll Call.**

Voting Members Present: Avery, Long, Thompson, Bradley, Chang, Takechi, Jacobson, Werkheiser, Burwell, Pedersen, Gray, Wayne, Hansen, Hartnett, Synowiecki, Kolowski

Voting Members Excused: Sophir

Voting Members Absent: Chambers

Nonvoting Members Present: Krzycki, Grimm, Meradith

Nonvoting Members Excused:

Nonvoting Members Absent:

Staff Present: Brewer, Benzel

4. **Approval of Minutes.** Chair Kolowski presented the Minutes for the January 21, 2010 meeting of the Council. Motion made by Mr. Hartnett, seconded by Ms. Chang, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on January 21, 2010 as presented. Yeas: Avery, Long, Thompson, Bradley, Chang, Takechi, Jacobson, Werkheiser, Burwell, Pedersen, Gray, Wayne, Hansen, Hartnett, Synowiecki, Kolowski. **Motion carried.**

5. **Reports.** Chair Kolowski reported on his activities since the prior meeting of the Council. Mr. Kolowski attended a meeting with Building Bright Futures concerning data gathering. Chair Kolowski also attended a meeting with the City of Omaha regarding lease possibilities for the Elementary Learning Centers. Chair Kolowski indicated he and Ms. Brewer attended the Senate Education Committee hearing on February 2, 2010. Chair Kolowski presented changes to the Administrative Policy on Public Notice. Motion made by Ms. Bradley, seconded by Ms. Gray, on proposed update language for Public Notice Policy. Update paragraph two informational notices to public from Nuestro Mundo to El Perico and remove language regarding ESU #3 and member school districts posting our meeting notices on their websites now that the Learning Community's website is fully functional. Yeas: Werkheiser, Jacobson, Pedersen, Burwell Takechi, Thompson, Long, Avery, Chang, Bradley, Hartnett, Hansen, Wayne, Gray, Kolowski. Nays: None. Abstain: Synowiecki. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Burwell presented the Treasurer's report. Motion made by Mr. Burwell, seconded by Mr. Pedersen, to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Yeas: Thompson, Long, Avery, Werkheiser, Jacobson, Synowiecki, Hartnett, Hansen, Wayne, Gray, Pedersen, Burwell, Takechi, Chang, Bradley, Kolowski. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

Ms. Brewer, COO, reported on her activities since the prior meeting of the Council. The National School Board Association membership has been submitted. Ms. Brewer indicated that the UNL Seed Grant has been submitted. Ms. Brewer provided a web site usage update. Ms. Brewer met with Dick Schoonover of the Nebraska Department of Education to discuss accessing information from the Nebraska Student and Staff Record System (NSSRS).

Mr. Brashear of Brashear LLP provided an update to the Council on pending legislation. Mr. Brasher requested the Council go into closed session to discuss litigation involving the Learning Community at the end of the meeting.

7. **Public Comment.** Chair Kolowski invited public comment. Former State Senator Pam Redfield provided a presentation about Educational Opportunity in Nebraska regarding the economic impact of high school dropouts. Senator Redfield provided the Council members with two handouts.

8. **Diversity Plan Update.** Mr. Werkheiser provided an update on the Joint School Fair. Mr. Werkheiser encouraged Council members to provide input to him on the Joint School Fair. Mr. Werkheiser indicated that the Diversity Task Force will meet on Friday, February 5, 2010, to evaluate the first Joint School Fair. Mr. Werkheiser indicated that raw data needs to be collected from individual schools by February 15, 2010.

9. **Elementary Learning Centers Discussion:** Ms. Chang updated the Council of the progress of the Elementary Learning Centers Task Force

- a) Subcouncil #2 ELC Plan – Mr. Wayne deferred to the Achievement Subcouncil report to provide his update at that time.
- b) Subcouncil #5 ELC Plan – Mr. Synowiecki indicated they have met with the City of Omaha to discuss locations. They have received the first copy of the lease for review. Meetings are being held with Omaha Public School District and Bellevue School District regarding physical venue and the programming aspects.

It is noted for record that Mr. Thompson left the meeting at 7:13 p.m. and returned at 7:14 p.m.

10. **Subcommittee Reports.** Ms. Gray advised the Council that the Administration & Personnel Subcommittee met on January 22, 2010 on the Turning Point Campus. Ms. Gail Ross, Community Relations Director, gave a presentation on the Turning Point campus. Ms. Gray indicated that Subcommittee members made the decision to have the COO evaluation have a 10 day deadline. Ms. Gray indicated that the Accountant/Analyst position has been posted on careerlink.com. Ms. Gray provided an administrative update. Ms. Bradley, chair of the Budget, Finance and Audit Subcommittee, provided an administrative office location review. Ms. Sara Woods, Associate Dean at UNO College of Public Affairs and Community Service, provided an updated on UNO's proposed Community Engagement Center. Ms. Bradley indicated that the Council will vote on office space recommendations at the February 18 Council meeting. Mr. Synowiecki of the Legislative and Policy Subcommittee distributed a legislative update and discussed a prior action item of the Council. Ms. Bradley made the motion, seconded by Mr. Pedersen, that the Coordinating Council authorize the drafting and introduction of legislation in the Nebraska Legislature to permit a student who has been enrolled in his or her original resident school district for the immediately preceding two years but has relocated to a different school district to continue to attend his or her original resident school district and instruct legislative counsel to act in furtherance thereof. Yeas: Jacobson, Werkheiser, Avery, Long, Thompson, Gray, Wayne, Hansen, Hartnett, Synowiecki, Bradley, Chang, Takechi, Burwell, Pedersen, Kolowski. Nays: None. **Motion carried**

It is noted for record that Mr. Pedersen left the meeting at 7:25 p.m. and returned at 7:27 p.m.

11. **Achievement Subcouncil Reports.** The Subcouncils reported on their activities since the prior meeting of the Council. Achievement Subcouncil #2 provided an update on its ELC planning efforts. The Subcouncil is scheduling a series of meetings in February and March to address implementation issues associated with their plan.

12. **New Business.** The Building Bright Futures Parent Involvement Conference (PIC) will be held on March 27, 2010.

13. **Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting.** Chair Kolowski noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 18, 2010 at the Thompson Center at UNO, 6705 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68128.

It is noted for record that Mr. Synowiecki left the meeting at 7:51 p.m. and returned at 7:54 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Long, to go into closed session to discuss with legal counsel litigation involving the Learning Community. Chair Kolowski reviewed the statutory requirements for the Council, as a public body, to go into closed session. Yeas: Gray, Wayne, Avery, Long, Thompson, Bradley, Chang, Takechi, Hansen, Hartnett, Jacobson, Werkheiser, Burwell, Pedersen, Kolowski. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Chair Kolowski restated for the record that the Council was going into closed session at 7:52 p.m. to discuss with legal counsel litigation involving the Learning Community.

At 8:05 p.m., Chair Kolowski stated for the record that the Council had gone into closed session at 7:52 p.m. to discuss with legal counsel litigation involving the Learning Community and that no action had been taken by the Council during same.

Motion made by Mr. Burwell, seconded by Ms. Jacobson, to return to open session at 8:05 p.m. Yeas: Synowiecki, Hartnett, Hansen, Werkheiser, Jacobson, Pedersen, Burwell, Takechi, Wayne, Gray, Thompson, Long, Avery, Chang, Bradley, Kolowski. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

14. **Adjournment.** Chair Kolowski declared the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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Lorraine Chang, Secretary