

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

LEARNING COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL

March 4, 2010

A meeting of the Coordinating Council of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties was held on March 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 February 25, 2010, in the Bellevue Leader, Douglas County Post-Gazette, Gretna Guide, Omaha Star, Papillion Times, Ralston Recorder and El Perico between February 24, 2010 and March 3, 2010. 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 March 1, 2010.

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was convened and called to order by Chair Kolowski at 6:20 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, Chang, Takechi, Jacobson, Sophir, Werkheiser, Pedersen, Chambers, Gray, Wayne, Hartnett, Synowiecki, Kolowski

Voting Members Excused: Bradley, Burwell

Voting Members Absent: Hansen

Nonvoting Members Present: Grimm

Nonvoting Members Excused: Meradith

Nonvoting Members Absent: Krzycki

Staff Present: Brewer, Benzel

4. **Approval of Minutes.** Chair Kolowski presented the minutes for the February 18, 2010 meeting of the Council. Motion made by Mr. Pedersen, seconded by Mr. Takechi, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on February 18, 2010 with one word amendment by Ms. Chang. Yeas: Avery, Long, Thompson, Chang, Takechi, Jacobson, Sophir, Werkheiser, Pedersen, Chambers, Gray, Wayne, Hartnett, Synowiecki, Kolowski. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

5. **Reports.** Chair Kolowski reported on his activities since the prior meeting of the Council. Chair Kolowski indicated that three interviews have taken place for the Accountant/Analyst position. Chair Kolowski has attended several speaking engagements. Chair Kolowski indicated a staff benefit package will be presented tonight. Chair Kolowski read at Ashland Park Robbins School for National Reading Week. Chair Kolowski indicated we will learn more about the legislature session at this meeting. Budget, Audit and Finance Subcommittee Treasurer's report and Quarterly Budget to Actual report tabled until March 18, 2010 meeting. Ms. Brewer, COO, reported on her activities since the prior meeting of the Council. Ms. Brewer has been working on audit preparation and the date of the 2009 audit. Ms. Brewer continues to work with UNO, UNL and others regarding research and evaluation needs. At the Advisory Committee meeting, Ms. Brewer invited the Learning Community superintendents to appoint a representative to participate in this process. Ms. Brewer has been talking with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and other stake holders on "out of school time

programming” and the April 1st State aid certification process. Ms. Brewer indicated they received a list of State first round approval for the Race to the Top grant application and feedback regarding Nebraska’s Race to the Top grant application.

Mr. Kurth Brashear of Brashear LLP reported a brief has been filed on behalf of the Learning Community to dismiss the Sarpy County litigation. A copy of this brief has been provided to the Council members via email.

7. **Public Comment.** None

8. **Diversity Plan Task Force Implementation Update.** Mr. Werkheiser provided an update on the Diversity Plan Task Force implementation plan. The Diversity Task Force plans to focus on the following three areas: research unmet needs and high demand programs within the Learning Community, establish a process to work with member school districts interested in opening Learning Community approved focus and magnet schools, as well as pathways, and compile school building information and data for parents’ use in making informed decisions about open enrollment. The March 1<sup>st</sup> building capacity worksheet deadline was met with 100% compliance from the 11 school districts. Ms. Long indicated the Learning Community would not release the data capacity worksheets for publication, and it is the school districts’ decision on whether to share this information. Ms. Long has invited all the school districts to the next Diversity Task Force meeting to discuss focus schools and gather information to identify Learning Community Focus schools. Ms. Long also discussed the funding process of the focus schools. Ms. Brewer discussed the Statute 79-1007.05 on State aid for Learning Community focus schools. Mr. Werkheiser reviewed the deadlines for open enrollment and reported on preliminary open enrollment application numbers.

It is noted for the record that Mr. Wayne left the meeting at 6:36 p.m. and returned at 6:42 p.m.

9. **Elementary Learning Centers Discussion.** Ms. Chang updated the Council regarding the progress of the Elementary Learning Centers Task Force. Ms. Chang indicated a letter has gone out to architects regarding scope of work and to identify facility needs with regard to existing building options. Ms. Chang indicated the consultant job description has been approved. Ms. Chang indicated a letter to service providers is being drafted.

Subcouncil #2 ELC Plan – Mr. Wayne indicated they are working on budget development.

Subcouncil #5 ELC Plan – Mr. Synowiecki indicated they are ready to begin lease negotiations with the City.

10. **Subcommittee Reports.** Ms. Gray of the Administrative and Personnel Subcommittee provided an administrative update on insurance, COO evaluation timeline, and the Accountant/Analyst position. Mr. Werkheiser provided a Budget, Finance and Audit Subcommittee update. Mr. Werkheiser indicated they met on March 2 and primarily discussed benefits at this meeting. Ms. Gray provided an insurance overview on rationale and details of the recommended insurance providers and plans. Mr. Werkheiser made the motion, seconded by Mr. Pedersen, to contract with Educators Health Alliance (EHA) to provide health and dental coverage for the Learning Community staff. Furthermore, to contract with Principal Financial Group to provide Group Life and Disability insurance benefits for the Learning Community staff. Yeas: Werkheiser, Sophir, Jacobson, Pedersen, Takechi, Thompson, Long, Avery, Chang, Synowiecki, Hartnett, Wayne, Gray, Chambers, Kolowski. Nays: None.  
**Motion carried.**

Mr. Synowiecki of the Legislative and Policy Subcommittee deferred to Mr. Kermit Brashear. Mr. Brashear discussed legislative bills and proposed amendments. Mr. Brasher provided three handouts regarding 2010 legislative bills.

11. **Achievement Subcouncil Reports.** The Subcouncils reported on their activities since the prior meeting of the Council. Achievement Subcouncil #1 provided a detailed report on their meeting held at Ponca Elementary. Subcouncil #2 provided a report on their meeting held at Conestoga Elementary. Subcouncil #3 reported on their public forum meeting on open enrollment.

12. **New Business.** Mr. Synowiecki indicated he is serving, in the interest of the Learning Community, on the Metropolitan Community College Advisory Committee on the Facilities Master Plan Update and the Douglas County Re-entry Task Force.
13. **Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting.** Chair Kolowski noted that the next meeting of the Coordinating Council would be held at 6:00 p.m. on March 18, 2010 at the Thompson Center at UNO, 6705 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68128.
14. **Adjournment.** Chair Kolowski declared the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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**Lorraine Chang**, Secretary