

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

LEARNING COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL

**January 7, 2010**

A meeting of the Coordinating Council of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties was held on January 7, 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 December 31, 2009, in the Bellevue Leader, Douglas County Post-Gazette, Gretna Guide, Omaha Star, Papillion Times, and Ralston Recorder between December 30, 2009 and January 6, 2010 and in the January 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 January 4, 2010.

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was convened and called to order by Chair Kolowski at 6:00 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: Jacobson, Sophir, Werkheiser, Gray, Wayne, Bradley, Chang, Takechi, Burwell, Pedersen, Hansen, Synowiecki, Avery, Thompson, Kolowski

Voting Members Excused: Chambers, Hartnett, Long

Voting Members Absent:

Nonvoting Members Present

Nonvoting Members Excused: Krzycki, Grimm, Meradith

Nonvoting Members Absent:

Staff Present: Brewer, Benzel

4. **Approval of Minutes.** Chair Kolowski presented the Minutes for the December 17, 2009 meeting of the Council. Motion made by Mr. Pedersen, seconded by Ms. Sophir, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on December 17, 2009 as presented. Yeas: Jacobson, Sophir, Werkheiser, Gray, Bradley, Chang, Takechi, Burwell, Pedersen, Synowiecki, Avery, Thompson, Kolowski. Nays: None. Abstain: Wayne, Hansen. **Motion carried.**

It is noted for the record that Mr. Synowiecki left at 6:11 p.m. and returned at 6:13 p.m.

5. **Reports.** Chair Kolowski reported on his activities since the prior meeting of the Council. Chair Kolowski reported that he and Dr. Riley met with the Race to the Top committee on December 29, 2009. Chair Kolowski attended both Executive Committee and Legislative and Policy Subcommittee meetings. Chair Kolowski and others also had a meeting on January 6, 2010 with the UNO College of Education regarding evaluation research. Chair Kolowski presented the Race to the Top Federal Grant Update letter of support for Nebraska's Race to the Top Grant Application. Discussion was held. Ms. Chang also noted that we do qualify as a local education agency.

Motion made by Mr. Pedersen, seconded by Mr. Thompson, to approve submitting letter of support for Nebraska's Race to the Top Grant Application as presented. Yeas: Thompson, Avery, Synowiecki, Hansen, Pedersen, Burwell, Takechi, Chang, Bradley, Wayne, Gray, Werkheiser, Sophir, Jacobson, Kolowski. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

The Officer election is scheduled for January 21, 2010. Mr. Thompson thought there might be an interest in doing 2-year terms to coincide directly with the election. This will be a future action item.

Mr. Burwell presented Treasurer's report for December expenditures to the Council.

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

Ms. Brewer, COO, indicated the Budget, Audit and Finance Subcommittee has been reviewing office space options. Web Content training has been scheduled for our office staff. The Learning Community web site will be live on January 15, 2010. Ms. Brewer has also been working on getting business cards and letterhead to print. Ms. Brewer indicated we have a collaboration of individuals interested in working with us in evaluation of the Learning Community effort. We've been invited by the Nebraska Children's and Families Foundation to be a member of their group to attend the National Networks Statewide conference. Ms. Brewer will attend this conference with costs covered by the Nebraska Children's and Families Foundation. Ms. Benzel has been exploring membership to the National School Board Association in order that we may attend their conference in April. Ms. Brewer indicated the Secretary of State's office has received our certification for the upcoming election in Subcouncil 1, 3 and 5. Ms. Brewer has been working with ELCs on their facility needs with area architects and the City of Omaha on the leasing of property. Ms. Brewer indicated the Nebraska Department of Education has provided certification regarding the percentage of Free and Reduced lunch for 2009/2010 school year. The current average for Free and Reduced Lunch in our Learning Community is at 40%.

Mr. Brashear of Brashear LLP had no report

6. **Public Comment.** Chair Kolowski invited public comment. There was no public comment.

7. **Diversity Plan Update.** Mr. Werkheiser provided an update on the Diversity Plan. Superintendents received both a hard and soft copy of the Diversity Plan on December 30, 2009. The open enrollment form has been distributed to the schools. DLR will conduct a workshop on the Capacity Data worksheets on January 14-15 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Joint School Fair committee has been meeting to plan the January 31<sup>st</sup> event and members met with UNO and toured their facility. Marketing efforts for the Joint School Fair are ongoing with publication in the Neighborhood News, Omaha Star and El Perico. Ms. Brewer has also scheduled interviews with the Omaha World-Herald, the 4 local television stations and radio station KCRO. All eleven schools districts will be represented at the January 31, 2010 Joint School Fair. Open enrollment applications will be available at the Joint School Fair. The Council is encouraged to assist at our booth. A snow date has not been scheduled at this time. Ms. Gray requested having both a soft and hard copy of a flyer available for Council members to distribute to retail locations, etc.

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

a) Subcouncil #2 ELC Plan – Discussion was held on the plan.

Mr. Hansen attended the Society of Americas/Council of Americas meeting. Their goal is to make Latinos aware of the services available. Several large corporations were present.

b) Subcouncil #5 ELC Plan – Discussion was held on the plan. Mr. Kolowski indicated they were going to have a meeting with the City of Omaha to discuss opportunities for a lease agreement.

It is noted for the record that Mr. Pederson left at 6:55 p.m. and returned at 6:58 p.m.

9. **Subcommittee Reports.** Ms. Gray advised the Council that the Administration & Personnel Subcommittee has not met. Ms. Gray reported on the activities that Ms. Benzel has been coordinating. Ms. Bradley advised that the Budget, Audit and Finance Subcommittee had no report. Mr. Synowiecki reviewed the Legislative and Policy Subcommittee's positions approved by the Council during the last legislative session and the positions the subcommittee is recommending for approval going into this legislative session.

Motion made by Ms. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Burwell to extend 2 year rules to include both option and open enrollment students. After discussion Ms. Bradley withdrew her motion, and Mr. Burwell withdrew his second.

Legislative and Policy Subcommittee presented 2010 Legislative Positions

Motion made by Mr. Pederson, seconded by Mr. Takechi, to approve Proposed Legislative Positions as presented. Yeas: Jacobson, Sophir, Werkheiser, Gray, Wayne, Bradley, Chang, Takechi, Burwell, Pedersen, Hansen, Synowiecki, Avery, Thompson, Kolowski. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Juvenile Justice Bill - Senator Ashford is introducing a revision of the Juvenile Justice Statutes in the next session of legislature. Senator Ashford is seeking authority to use portions of the Capital Projects \$0.05 levy on programs and services that might interrelate with Juvenile Justice, in particular, status offenders.

10. **Achievement Subcouncil Reports.** The Subcouncils reported on their activities since the prior meeting of the Council.

Mr. Thompson left the meeting at 7:28 p.m. and returned at 7:29 p.m.

11. **New Business.** No new business.

12. **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 January 21, 2010 at the Thompson Center at UNO, 6705 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68128.

13. **Adjournment.** Chair Kolowski declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Lorraine Chang, Secretary