CEO Report to Board
October 2024

Oct 2, 2024 Committees

Oct 8, 2024 Board

New Business			
☑	Legal		We shared with you our thoughts on IDEA funding, the Universal Service Fund, cybersecurity, mental health, and the definition of LEA. For quick reference, I have included a brief summary of each: • Full funding for IDEA is 40%. We understand while achieving this level of funding would be ideal, it is not fiscally possible. We ask that the current rate of just under 13% not be reduced any further. • The Universal Service Fund has been challenged by the 5th Circuit Court as an unconstitutional measure of funding. While the appeal is in process, we ask to keep an eye on this critical source of funding for our schools connectivity, safety, and student health. Should this fund get eliminated, Congress will need to find another way to fund this nearly $9 billion resource. • Cybersecurity has become a priority for our ESUs and schools across Nebraska. Any support to continue federal programs for infrastructure to harden our cybersecurity posture would be valuable. • In Nebraska, each ESU now provides some level of school mental health support to school districts. Continued federal programming or grants to support this critical work with students and teachers would assist us in our work. • Finally, when federal grants are released to school districts across the country the eligibility criteria include "Local Education Agencies." In Nebraska ESUs are not defined as an LEA so are ineligible for any of these federal funds. Please consider adding "Educational Service Agencies" or ESA to these critical funding opportunities so our Nebraska ESUs can be a part of the competitive grant process.

☑	Legal	Policy Updates	“Red-Line” updates in policies. First reading of Article 1 in October. Second reading and adoption in November. *Is this how you want me to continue doing the updates?
☑	Legal	Notices for the CC Board Meetings	My Question: We publish our CC meeting notices in Springview Herald, Valentine Midland News, Rock County Leader, Ainsworth News. Do you know of any reason why we use those? In addition to those, we publish on the NE Public Meeting Site. I am looking at ways to become more efficient. Justin’s answer: Under the Open Meetings Act, you are only required to publish advance notice of board meetings "in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website." 84-1411(1)(b)(i). Of course, the ESUCC is subject to the Open Meetings Act. 79-1246. So you are only required to publish notice in a newspaper of circulation within Nebraska. You could publish notice in a Sarpy County newspaper if you wish, or you could publish notice in the city in which the ESUCC Board plans to meet. It is really up to you since you have broad discretion under the Open Meetings Act. But in the end, you are not required to publish in all four (or any of the four) newspapers the ESUCC has been using. To publish in OWH Public Notices section, $20.80/mo per month. To publish in all 4 listed above, $32.19/mo
☑	Legal	Non-Exempt related to salary threshold	Question posed to Justin: If a non-exempt employee is over the salary threshold are they still entitled to overtime wages? Short Answer: YES Summary of details: There are 3 tests for exempt status: 1. $58,656 salary threshold (this must be for work done. Justin believe in lieu is not included in this amount) 2. Paid on a fixed salary, **and** 3. Do executive (managing, supervising 2+, hire/fire), administrative (non-manual work, exercise discretion and independent judgment-Justin feels this is most likely for large district BMs), or professional (requires

			advanced knowledge in science or learning) work. Most ESU secretaries, business managers would not fall under exempt status.
☑	Educational Resources	Coaching/ Athletic Development Certificate	Included in Polk Update From Katherine Wesley, UNL katherine.wesley@unl.edu ☐ Requests a meeting to discuss UNL's work in developing a graduate level certificate around coaching and athlete development, 100% online. ☐ Would like to discuss how this programming might work across the state. ☐ Hope to have a certificate ready for offering beginning the fall 2025 semester, although a 3-credit course is offered this fall semester, and a second 3-credit course will be offered in the spring 2025 semester.
☑	Educational Resources	Literacy Update	• Continued conversations. Meetings beginning to get scheduled. • Polk is a cochair of one of the tenets…the Regional Coach tenet
☑	Educational Resources	Textbook Loan Update	• Andrew Easton coordinating the work • Statewide training with Catholic Conference was done 10/8/24 • Procedure
☑	Educational Resources	Accreditation work	Where are we going from here? Need to take a look again at this process.
☑	Executive	Sparq	Included in Polk Update Please, everyone put your staff information in the Negotiated agreement section as well as the Administrator section. How is it being used? What is the vision for the future? How can I help? Should there be a timeline? Who to put in there? Agree on which types of positions need to be in the Administrator section.
☑	Executive	ESUCC visits	Included in Polk Update Appointment Calendar to sign me up for a visit • Supt meeting • Staff Meeting • Board Meeting

			• Time with the Admin
☑	Executive	Grant Writing with Kellogg & Sovereign Consulting	• ESUs have asked about grant writer • This company will research and write • ESUCC and/or ESUs • Fee Options • Pursue?
☑	Executive	Leave Days	Required to report quarterly. July 15-Sept.30 • Sick 1 day • Vacation .75 day
☑	Executive	Leave Days	Required to report quarterly. July 15-Sept.30 (attached report)
☑	Executive	Reports from finance	Do you want the check register and the monthly budget report? More? All? •
☑	Executive	Executive Secretary/ Assistant Update and Timeline	Offer has been made and accepted. Full Board agenda for approval Oct. 8. Will begin work Nov. 1 if approved.
New Since Committee Meetings			
☑	FULL BOARD	Virtual School Nurse Program	Children's Nebraska zoom 10/7/24. Interested in talking about developing a virtual school nurse program. Want ESUCC and ESUs involved. Any immediate thoughts?
☑	FULL BOARD	Central Region Symposium	Who is doing which slides? Who wants to talk? What needs to be done?
☑	FULL BOARD	Mapping Grant	The application due date is extended to January 31, 2025. There is only $525,000 for this grant and no cap on the amount a school can apply for – FYI…there will likely be a committee at NDE that will be developed once applications are submitted and a process will have to be developed on who gets funds – as there was no guidance in legislative language. **Question 1:** This mapping is for nonpublic schools, correct? Who is their 'governing authority' and do they need the policy as well? Answer: Mapping is for **any** school public or private that wants (may) apply. Yes, a school policy is a part of the requirements

			within the application. **Question 2:** Is there a list of vendors meeting the standards out there already? Answer: There is no list of vendors – some ESU's and school have already been contacting some vendors. **Question 3:** I have had an ESU reach out that a nonpublic school needed to have the signature of the ESU admin and the ESU Board Pres. signature and email. Is the Board Pres info necessary? Some do not have a school email and will not be comfortable sharing their personal information. Answer: There is a spot for the ESU admin to sign saying they are agreeing to be the fiscal agent (similar to the infrastructure grant). The non-publics wanting to be a part of this should reach out to you (ESUs) with their necessary information – it is not up to the ESU's to reach out to the non-publics.
Old Business			
☑	Legal	**Calendar Reminders** Legislative Day New Senator Meet and Greet	 February 25, 2025, 6:30-2:00, Broom's Office • Topics around legislative issues: Mental Health, Cybersecurity, Funding, Distance Learning • Tech Table: something the Senators and/or staff can physically manipulate, hold, see, etc. January 16, 2025, 11am-2pm, Bromm's Office ☐ Any ESU Admin welcome ☐ Focusing on those with new Senators in their ESU