



# Bits and Bytes

ESU #3 Information Services and Technology Department

## CIO Note

I'm always shocked how fast December goes by. I realize Bits and Bytes is coming out a week early but nonetheless this month has flown by. Even though Bits and Bytes is coming out a little early we will have the help desk staffed next week. We will have people in on the 27th, 28th and 29th and then will also be back in the office on the 2nd. This is a good time to focus on projects around ESU and on the 28th we will be doing a phone conversion. Because of that phones at ESU #3 will probably be down for quite a bit of the day. If you need to reach us it may be best to send an email.

The month started out for me in Anaheim at the AESA national conference. This conference is focused on service agencies, which is what ESU #3 is, and how they can support districts. If last year was the year of cybersecurity, this year was the year of Artificial Intelligence. There were still several cybersecurity offerings but that took a backseat to AI. We will continue to explore AI but we are taking a different approach in the IST department. While other departments are focused on how to make this work for teachers and in a classroom, our focus will be on how we systematize it for use in our current offerings.

We also had our second IST Committee meeting of the year. We had the opportunity to see demos from Nile and also talked quite a bit about the Nebraska Cybersecurity Network. Andy Boell was in to discuss next steps and options for the second round of grants. This leads nicely into the survey that was sent out. Two years ago we identified several areas districts wanted to work on in terms of cyber security. We are asking each district to fill out a survey to let us know where they stand. We already have several in and last week Senator Sanders was in and I shared the preliminary results with her. If you have not filled it out yet, you can find it through the link at <https://s.esu3.org/2yrcyber>.

We also had our Pen Test completed this month. We have received the initial findings and hope to have everything back in the next few weeks. My plan will be to give the IST Committee a

synopsis at the February meeting. During January we will be working on our two big projects for the year. We had hoped to space them out but because of delivery delays everything seems to be arriving now. We have already begun working on our Network Access Control project and hope to start the move to our new Nimble SAN as soon as that is complete.

Thanks for a great fall and I'm excited to see what the winter and spring will bring. I hope everyone has a great holiday season

Bill Pulte

## ESU #3 Spotlight

### Nebraska Cybersecurity Network for Education

This group was created last year through a grant to address cybersecurity in education. We are currently working to hire an engineer and trainer to assist in statewide projects. Andy Boell (pictured below) is the Director of this group and presented at our IST Meeting in December.



## Links of Interest

Click on the icons below for more information



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Committee Page

## IST Committee Meeting Dates

- ~~September 26th 2023~~
- ~~December 5th 2023~~
- February 27th 2024
- April 23rd 2024