

From: [Foor, Ryan](#)
To: [Blomstedt, Matt](#)
Subject: Fwd: Fw: We have received your response for Health Education Standards Writing Application
Date: Thursday, September 26, 2019 11:15:58 PM
Attachments: [NDE Health Standards App LSchulze 2019 ext.pdf](#)

I want to discuss this with you further.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Neary, Deborah" <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>

Date: Sep 26, 2019 4:57 PM

Subject: Fw: We have received your response for Health Education Standards Writing Application

To: "Foor, Ryan" <Ryan.Foor@nebraska.gov>

Cc:

Hi Ryan,

See attached and below. I want to make sure that Lisa Shultze is selected to help write the NDE Health Standards. She is extremely qualified for this role-- and she can share many lessons learned from her experiences in helping to write the curriculum for the Omaha Public Schools. Please let me know what I need to do to make sure she is selected. Also-- she has submitted the names of 2 others. Can someone send those 2 other individuals (listed below) the form to complete to apply to participate?

Also-- I spoke with Dr. Grover today from Grand Island-- and she too has some people she wants to suggest for the committee. Do you have something I can forward to Dr. Grover so that she can get the information to the right people from her district on the team?

When is the deadline for names to be submitted? What is the process that is used for selection to help write the standards? How can I be sure that Lisa Shultze is selected?

THANKS!

Deborah Neary, State Board of Education, District 8
402-215-9139 cell
Deborah.Neary@nebraska.gov

From: Lisa Schulze <lschulze@omahawomensfund.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 4:48 PM

To: Neary, Deborah

Cc: Tiffany Joekel

Subject: FW: We have received your response for Health Education Standards Writing Application

Hello Deb,

This is to notify you that I have submitted the application to sit on the Health Education Standards Writing Team. I have attached the same application to this email for ease of reference.

I'm advocating for the inclusion of a select group of individuals that have educational expertise and a health background. I believe their contributions will be valuable. I will circle back with you if I have additional folks of great value to this process but this is an important start. I recognize that the Tuesday, October 1st deadline is rapidly approaching.

These are the professionals that I highly recommend for this writing team:

1. Dr. Matt Avey

Curriculum & Instruction- Lincoln Public Schools
Curriculum Specialist K-12 Health & Physical Education
mavey@lps.org

Matt is in charge of the health education curriculum at LPS and is a wonderful advocate for science-based health education. He should already be on the list as he was approached about this but it would be helpful to confirm. He is interested and wants to participate.

2. Liam Heerten-Rodriguez, MSW, CSE

Instructor
Grace Abbott School of Social Work | 206 CPACS
University of Nebraska at Omaha | unomaha.edu
402.554.2891
402.419.9777 (cell)
lheerten2@unomaha.edu

Liam is well versed in social work, sex education, educational pedagogy, organizational psychology and racial justice. He is a Ph.D. candidate who will graduate in December 2019.

I will be in touch if more qualified candidates surface. Thank you.

Best,
Lisa



Lisa Schulze, M.Ed.

AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator
Education and Training Manager
Pronouns: she / her / hers

1111 N. 13th Street, Suite #106
Omaha, NE 68102

Office: 402.827.9280
Cell: 402.770.0810



Join us on **October 24** for our *Lead the Change* annual celebration featuring Valerie Jarrett!

Don't delay--[get your now tickets online!](#)

From: JotForm <noreply@jotform.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 12:43 PM

To: Lisa Schulze <lschulze@omahawomensfund.org>

Subject: We have received your response for Health Education Standards Writing Application



Health Education Standards Writing Application

Full Name	Lisa Schulze, M.Ed., CSE
School	Women's Fund of Omaha
Home Address	Street Address: 420 N. 48th St. #4 City: Omaha State / Province: NE Postal / Zip Code: 68132 Country: United States
School Phone Number	(402) 8279280
Cell Phone Number	(402) 7700810
E-mail	<u>lschulze@omahawomensfund.org</u>
Please mark the education institution(s) you have taught in the past 3 years. Please include any part-time or adjunct employment.	4 year Institution (University/State College) Community College High School Middle School Elementary School District Level Employee Nebraska Corrections, system-impacted youth
Please provide a brief	I have taught the following topics in diverse settings to

summary of the subject matter/courses you have taught over the past 3 years.

youth and educators over the last 3 years:

- healthy adolescent development (ages and stages)
- trauma-informed health education
- creating safe, affirming learning environments
- healthy sexuality (what does it mean to be sexually healthy -- emotionally and physically)
- delaying sex/readiness for sex (abstinence)
- sexual violence prevention: healthy relationships/dating violence prevention, (includes consent education and sex trafficking awareness and prevention)
- prevention of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections
- sexual orientation
- gender identity and expression
- gender roles
- identity-based bullying (awareness and response)
- sexual violence prevention/healthy sexuality for persons with intellectual disabilities
- parent-child communication around sexuality

Describe your experience developing standards and curriculum in the subject matter you teach.

The Women's Fund of Omaha partnered with Omaha Public Schools to provide technical guidance, training and support for the successful advancement of new human growth and development standards that aligned with national standards (National Standards for Sex Education, 2012 and CDC's National Health Education Standards). I worked closely with district leadership to write the standards adding important information around identity, sexual violence prevention and healthy sexuality that aligns with research that supports a students' well-being. Our focus is on medically accurate, age-appropriate, inclusive health information. We also helped map the curriculum to align with the updated standards. As part of this partnership, I have trained the teachers and school nurses on the standards and the curriculum to aid in a successful implementation.

What talents and skills do you bring the standards and curriculum writing process?

My Master of Education increased my knowledge and skills around educational pedagogy, curriculum writing and creating trauma-informed learning environments. While my area of specialty is human sexuality, my academic background and classroom experience has honed my holistic approach to health education. Students are saturated with diverse messages and

information at a rapid rate; having a global view towards health literacy means we are also addressing media literacy, mental health, identity development and equity for all learners. This worldview is critical for the development of effective and meaningful health standards and is alignment with the CDC WSCC model (Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child).

A significant part of my career has been spent working with pregnant and parenting students in the areas of independent living skills, health education (including sex education) and career education. Understanding the social determinants of health and systemic barriers to success is critical for the development of a meaningful curriculum.

I'm also uniquely qualified in the area of sexual violence prevention education, with access to many other school districts nationally who are leaders in this area.

I would be comfortable being the lead teacher in my group for the writing process. (Lead teacher will collect information, proof final edits and be a contact after the writing process is complete)

Maybe

[Now create your own JotForm - It's free!](#)

Create a JotForm

2

From: [Foor, Ryan](#)
To: [Epler, Cory](#)
Subject: FW: We have received your response for Health Education Standards Writing Application
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019 12:24:00 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

FYEO



Ryan Foor, Ph.D.
*State Board Relations &
Rules and Regulations Officer
Commissioner's Office*
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln NE, 68508
P: (402) 471-5030
E: ryan.foor@nebraska.gov

From: Neary, Deborah <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 11:15 AM
To: Foor, Ryan <Ryan.Foor@nebraska.gov>
Subject: Re: We have received your response for Health Education Standards Writing Application

Thank Ryan.

I will not involve myself in the selection process as we discussed. I want the process to happen organically as it should. I will share this link with interested parties. Thanks for the discussion on Friday.

Deborah Neary, State Board of Education, District 8
402-215-9139 cell
Deborah.Neary@nebraska.gov

From: Foor, Ryan
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Neary, Deborah
Subject: RE: We have received your response for Health Education Standards Writing Application

Here is the information with the application that can be shared:

This is the link for the Health Education Standards Writing Application:
<https://form.jotform.com/90906268963166>

3

From: [Peters, Lacey](#)
To: [Epler, Cory](#)
Subject: RE: Nebraska Health Education Standards Writing Team
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 10:29:00 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

I am open all afternoon, you can call when you have the time.

I do have the application information, but we did not ask demographic background info specifically on the application. That research I did on my own when inviting people to apply. That way they did not feel they were chosen solely on their race, culture, sexuality, etc...

As for the race and culture; I specifically invited (called, emailed, and spoke in person) people of varying races and cultures to be on the writing team, but none applied. The one individual of diversity she is referencing had no health education experience, he is a social work professor (mental health ties I can see), but that role fits more into the role of the advisory council than the writing team.

Addressing the LGBTQIA, I spoke with Tiffany at the training and also to Zainab about how to respectfully identify those individuals so we could get that perspective on the writing team, and no one had an answer for the proper way to invite/recruit/identify those individuals so I was not able to provide that diversity (I did invite 2 that I personally know are, but they did not want to apply). However, Zainab and I are working on a way to have that representation during the review and editing process. She has it in her notes to speak with Tiffany as well on October 31st.

When writing the standards, we are utilizing the advisory council's input as well as evidence and research-based resources that provide the content specialization of the subtopics, however, we discussed that the writing team should have the comprehensive lens since we cannot invite a content expert for every topic to be a writer...then we would not have educators or people within the schools (who will utilize the standards) on the team (unless we had 50 people). The rubric was created specifically to prevent exactly what she wants in regards to experts. That is why I created the Advisory Council and also plan to utilize those individuals in the review and editing process.

We do have two individuals on the writing team who specialize in working with individuals with disabilities. They are Adapted Physical Education teachers active on IEP teams that also teach Health Education. We had some apply that were APE, but no health education experience.

On the form I submitted to Zainab about the equity lens states how most to all of her questions are addressed. They are a work in progress and having the equity training so close to the selection process, I wasn't able to accomplish all that I had hoped. I wish I was superwoman. However, they are all being addressed and worked towards so that the final draft is completely supportive of the equity of Nebraska.

I am very glad she is in support of sexual education and human sexuality!!

Lacey Peters



Lacey Batt-Peters*Physical Education and Health Education Specialist*

301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln NE, 68508
P: (402) 471-4352
E: lacey.peters@nebraska.gov



From: Epler, Cory <cory.epler@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 8:56 AM
To: Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>
Subject: FW: Nebraska Health Education Standards Writing Team

Hey, Lacey. We may need to chat about this this week.

Do you have a spreadsheet compiled with the information from all applicants? Do you have a sense of the demographic information of the participants of the writing team? Do we also know the expertise the writers bring (sexuality education, nutrition/wellness, etc.)?

I'm headed to the airport soon, but if you want to chat afternoon, I'll have some time.



Cory Epler, Ph.D.*Academic Officer**Office of Teaching, Learning, & Assessment*

301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln NE, 68509
P: (402) 471-3240
E: cory.epler@nebraska.gov



From: Foor, Ryan <Ryan.Foor@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 8:42 AM
To: Epler, Cory <cory.epler@nebraska.gov>
Subject: FW: Nebraska Health Education Standards Writing Team



Ryan Foor, Ph.D.*State Board Relations &
Rules and Regulations Officer
Commissioner's Office*

301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln NE, 68508
P: (402) 471-5030
E: ryan.foor@nebraska.gov

From: Deborah Neary <deborah@mentornebraska.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 8:16 AM

To: Foor, Ryan <Ryan.Foor@nebraska.gov>

Cc: Blomstedt, Matt <Matt.Blomstedt@nebraska.gov>; Deborah Neary <deborah@mentornebraska.org>

Subject: FW: Nebraska Health Education Standards Writing Team

Ryan,

Thank you for all of the emails yesterday. I will go through them and respond one at a time this week—starting with this one.

The rubric you sent to me is concerning if I understand it correctly. Because of all of our discussions at the board level about equity—I wondered if the rubric could have been updated to consider people with new and related subject proficiencies or to insure equitable representation at the very least.

I am curious how the NDE staff made sure to include people with a different sexual orientation or different races on the writing committee?

Also—the rubric does not take into account people that have master's and ph.d's in sexuality education—but yet are not medical professionals? The people I recommended have a very different type of expertise that does not appear to be on the committee from my quick searches of everyone. The rubric did not provide for their very important knowledge and experience. Also, is there anyone with a SPED background on the committee?

Many on the list seemed to have worked with NDE before in some capacity—which is probably good—or does it mean we use the same people repeatedly? There was a school nurse but the largest number of writers come from a P.E. background. I liked that the writing group has someone that is physically disabled. What appears to be missing, although I could be wrong, is people with advanced degrees and certified sexuality educators.

Furthermore, and most important to me, there appears to be no racial or sexual identity diversity. I really hope I am wrong—there was only one person I could not verify their race—and perhaps that would be the only person of color on the team. Everyone else was white.

Can you help me better understand how equity and diversity issues were weighed into these decisions? My district has lots of diversity, and I would hope that the writing committee would have several people of color, at least one African American and one Latinx person, and definitely someone that identifies as LGBTQIA.

Without this diversity of backgrounds, I believe there will be some missed opportunities—and it will be hard for me to defend anything this group does if there isn't diversity on the team that represents my district. And, unless there is a diversity of thought and races and experiences on the front lines of these discussions—then we are missing out on potential creativity and innovation that comes with diversity. I don't care if you use the people I recommended—but the diversity issues are crucial.

THANK YOU for helping me understand this process better. I know that you and Matt cannot micromanage every decision made at NDE—but I do hope you can make corrections when there are equity issues to consider. Again—I hope my information is not completely correct—and perhaps those equity issues have already been handled. I only did a quick search on everyone so I could be wrong on some of these items.

Ryan—can you please get back to me and let me know about the diversity make-up of the writing team? I specifically want to know if there is an African American, a person who is Latinx, and if there are people that identify as LGBTQIA. I would also love to know if anyone who specializes in sexuality education?

Thank you for your time.

Deborah

Deborah Neary

Executive Director

MENTOR Nebraska

402-715-4164 | deborah@mentornebraska.org

6173 Center Street | Omaha, NE 68106



[Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

Join the movement: [Mentor In Real Life!](#)

From: Foor, Ryan [<mailto:Ryan.Foor@nebraska.gov>]

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 4:16 PM

To: Deborah Neary <deborah@mentornebraska.org>; Blomstedt, Matt <Matt.Blomstedt@nebraska.gov>

Cc: Neary, Deborah <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>

Subject: RE: Nebraska Health Education Standards Writing Team

Hi Deborah, here is some additional information to respond to your questions. Please note the attached documents are not for distribution and we appreciate you keeping them only for your reference.

Attached you will find:

- **Advisory Group:** This group was utilized this summer to begin gathering feedback and information related to health education.
- **Writing Team:** Those interested in serving as a member of the writing team completed an application. Applications were then reviewed (rubric attached) by a review panel. We had close to 40 applications.

Individuals not selected will have multiple opportunities to provide feedback/input. We are creating a Health Education Standards Development webpage (not currently completed). There we will post updated, drafts, and presentations. Additionally, we anticipate us using a survey to collect feedback similar to other content area standards. We also maintain an active email address specifically for standards input (nde.standardsinput@nebraska.gov).

As we discussed on the phone, feel welcome to have your contacts provide you with input and feedback throughout the process and share that with us for consideration.

Best,

Ryan



Ryan Foor, Ph.D.
*State Board Relations &
Rules and Regulations Officer*
Commissioner's Office
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln NE, 68508
P: (402) 471-5030
E: ryan.foor@nebraska.gov

From: Deborah Neary <deborah@mentornebraska.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2019 10:40 AM
To: Foor, Ryan <Ryan.Foor@nebraska.gov>; Blomstedt, Matt <Matt.Blomstedt@nebraska.gov>
Cc: Deborah Neary <deborah@mentornebraska.org>
Subject: Nebraska Health Education Standards Writing Team

Matt & Ryan,

I am very disappointed that none of the folks that I recommend to participate in the Nebraska Health Education Standards Writing Team were selected. I was told to trust the process, that did not work. Lesson learned.

I would be grateful for information regarding the selection process and the selection criteria please. How soon may I have this information?

I now do not have anyone on the writing team that can keep me informed, and this is very important to me about the matters that are important to me—and important to the people that live in my district. I had a very valuable person on the SS Writing Team that worked with me for the past year (Barry Thomas)—and that helped me considerably so I didn't have to bring long conversations to the board meetings.

I now need to know everyone that was selected for the team that lives in my district please. How soon may I have this information?

I also want to know how I can make sure that Dr. Heerten-Rodriguez, Lisa Schulze, and others that I recommended can be included in the process somehow. May they still be a part of the discussions even if they are not voting members? Their tremendous expertise, and previous experience writing these curriculum for local districts would be truly valuable. Please let me know what the next steps are to include them now.

Many thanks.

Deborah

Deborah Neary
Executive Director
MENTOR Nebraska
402-715-4164 | deborah@mentornebraska.org
6173 Center Street | Omaha, NE 68106



[Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

Join the movement: [Mentor In Real Life!](#)

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

4

From: Peters, Lacey
To: Rida, Zainab
Subject: RE: Health Standards
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 3:01:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Yes! Please do!

Lacey Peters



Lacey Batt-Peters

Physical Education and Health Education Specialist

301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln NE, 68508
P: (402) 471-4352
E: lacey.peters@nebraska.gov



From: Rida, Zainab <zainab.rida@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 2:31 PM
To: Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>
Subject: RE: Health Standards

~~No~~ sure about her educational background. She is the executive director of OutNebraska. She would be happy to serve in your committee. Let me know if you want me to introduce you to her. Thanks

Best Regards,



Zainab Rida, Ph.D.

Equity Officer

Commissioner's Office

301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68508
P: (402) 471-4620
E: zainab.rida@nebraska.gov

From: Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 9:22 AM

To: Rida, Zainab <zainab.rida@nebraska.gov>

Subject: RE: Health Standards

Hi Zainab!

Awesome! I would love to hear more. Is she knowledgeable about Health and/or health education as well? Which is not pertinent, but would be a plus. Where is she located?

Lacey Peters



Lacey Batt-Peters

Physical Education and Health Education Specialist

301 Centennial Mall South

Lincoln NE, 68508

P: (402) 471-4352

E: lacey.peters@nebraska.gov



From: Rida, Zainab <zainab.rida@nebraska.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 9:21 AM

To: Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>

Subject: Health Standards

Hi Lacey,

I have a great person for you might add to the health standards review team. Abbi Swatsworth is from LGBTQ+ community. She is a wonderful person to work with and eager to help on this type of projects. Please let me know if you want me to connect you with her. Thanks

Best Regards,



Zainab Rida, Ph.D.

Equity Officer

Commissioner's Office

301 Centennial Mall South

Lincoln, NE 68508

P: (402) 471-4620

E: zainab.rida@nebraska.gov

From: Rida, Zainab
To: Peters, Lacey
Subject: RE: Equity resources
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 11:12:33 AM
Attachments: image001.png

WOW!! These are great resources. Thanks for sharing. Hope the health standards progress is going well. I look forward to visiting with you at 11:30. Thanks

Best Regards,



Zainab Rida, Ph.D.
Equity Officer & Administrator
Office of Coordinated Student Support Services
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68508
P: (402) 471-4620
E: zainab.rida@nebraska.gov

From: Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 7:39 AM
To: Rida, Zainab <zainab.rida@nebraska.gov>
Subject: Equity resources

Hi Zainab,

I thought I would share these resources with you. The Health and PE DOE call, it was presented on. They posed it as SEL as well, but equity is the main focus.

<https://www.cbhpe.org/edi-social-justice>

Lacey Peters



Lacey Batt-Peters
Physical Education and Health Education Specialist
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln NE, 68508
P: (402) 471-4352
E: lacey.peters@nebraska.gov



From: [Lisa Schulze](#)
To: [Junker, Chris](#); [Peters, Lacey](#)
Subject: Re: NDE Health Standards - January meet
Date: Friday, December 18, 2020 4:56:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Thanks for this. Have a good holiday!

Lisa Schulze, M.Ed., CSE
 She/her
 Education and Training Manager
 Women's Fund of Omaha
 Cell:402.770.0810
www.omahawomensfund.org
www.getcheckedomaha.com

From: Junker, Chris <chris.junker@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 1:56:53 PM
To: Lisa Schulze <lschulze@omahawomensfund.org>; Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>
Subject: RE: NDE Health Standards - January meet

Yes, we'll be sure that you remain involved with the next steps with Health Ed Standards moving forward. I'm sure that Lacey will hit the ground running when she gets back from maternity leave and will provide us all answers regarding when the draft will be made available for viewing and when the public input will take place. I'm sorry I don't have any more information than that for you.

Chris



Chris Junker
HIV/Sexual Health Education Specialist
Office of Coordinated Student Support Services
 5807 Osborne Drive West
 Hastings, NE 68901
 P: (402) 463-5611 C: (402) 705-1766
 E: chris.junker@nebraska.gov

From: Lisa Schulze <lschulze@omahawomensfund.org>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 10:44 AM
To: Junker, Chris <chris.junker@nebraska.gov>; Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>
Subject: RE: NDE Health Standards - January meet

Thanks for this.

Can you let us know when we will be able to see the draft for public input? And will there be a hearing in February or is it online public input? We are not aware of the logistics of the process and need to plan accordingly for supportive moves.

We have Sept 2021 as the anticipated vote per earlier conversations.

Thank you Chris for your help.



Lisa Schulze, M.Ed.

*AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator
Education and Training Manager
She / Her / Hers*

1111 N. 13th Street, Suite #106
Omaha, NE 68102

Office: 402.827.9280
Cell: 402.770.0810

Identifying critical issues. Funding innovative solutions. Influencing dynamic change.

Learn more at OmahaWomensFund.org

From: Junker, Chris <chris.junker@nebraska.gov>

Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 10:34 AM

To: Lisa Schulze <lschulze@omahawomensfund.org>; Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>

Subject: RE: NDE Health Standards - January meet

Lisa,

These are dates that I have regarding the timeline for the Health Ed Standards. If there are specific dates identified, I wasn't able to find any. I know that it's best to keep these pretty general to allow for some setbacks or if things happen to move along a little fast than anticipated.

Spring 2021 - Public Input

Spring 2021 - Editing Team Meetings and Review

Summer 2021 - Bias Review

Fall 2021 - Anticipated State Board Approval

Happy Holidays!

Chris

Chris Junker

*HIV/Sexual Health Education Specialist
Office of Coordinated Student Support Services
5807 Osborne Drive West
Hastings, NE 68901
P: (402) 463-5611 C: (402) 705-1766*



E: chris.junker@nebraska.gov

From: Lisa Schulze <lschulze@omahawomensfund.org>

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:28 PM

To: Junker, Chris <chris.junker@nebraska.gov>; Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>

Subject: RE: NDE Health Standards - January meet

Chris,

Thanks again for thinking about potential meeting times. We want to be thoughtful about how best we can support this important work.

Tiffany and I realized we are not familiar with this upcoming process and timeline. As we work on our advocacy plan, can you help us understand what to expect ahead of a January meeting with the three of us? Namely, when will the revised draft be released for public comment? What does public comment look like – is it online submission or a public hearing? Thanks in advance for helping with the learning curve.

Anything that can help us be able to help you as we update the standards would be helpful! We also look forward to finding a time to chat in January.

Hope you have some rest, relaxation and fun ahead of you during winter break.

~lisa



Lisa Schulze, M.Ed.

AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator

Education and Training Manager

She / Her / Hers

1111 N. 13th Street, Suite #106

Omaha, NE 68102

Office: 402.827.9280

Cell: 402.770.0810

Identifying critical issues. Funding innovative solutions. Influencing dynamic change.

Learn more at OmahaWomensFund.org

From: Junker, Chris <chris.junker@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:28 AM
To: Lisa Schulze <lschulze@omahawomensfund.org>; Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>
Subject: RE: NDE Health Standards - January meet

Lisa,
I'll be in touch with Lacey to pick some dates and times when we can connect with Tiffany after Lacey returns.
Thank you so much for your support with the Health Education Standards.

Chris



Chris Junker
HIV/Sexual Health Education Specialist
Office of Coordinated Student Support Services
5807 Osborne Drive West
Hastings, NE 68901
P: (402) 463-5611 C: (402) 705-1766
E: chris.junker@nebraska.gov

From: Lisa Schulze <lschulze@omahawomensfund.org>
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Junker, Chris <chris.junker@nebraska.gov>; Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>
Subject: NDE Health Standards - January meet

Chris,
I know Lacey is out during this time so I'm sending to your attention. Tiffany, our Policy Director, and would like to meet with you and Lacey in mid-January to discuss the process and logical next steps for the February public comment on the health standards.

Session is starting so Tiffany's schedule may be a little wild but if you can send at least three dates and times mid-January for us to connect, that would be wonderful.

Thank you! Looking forward to hearing from you.

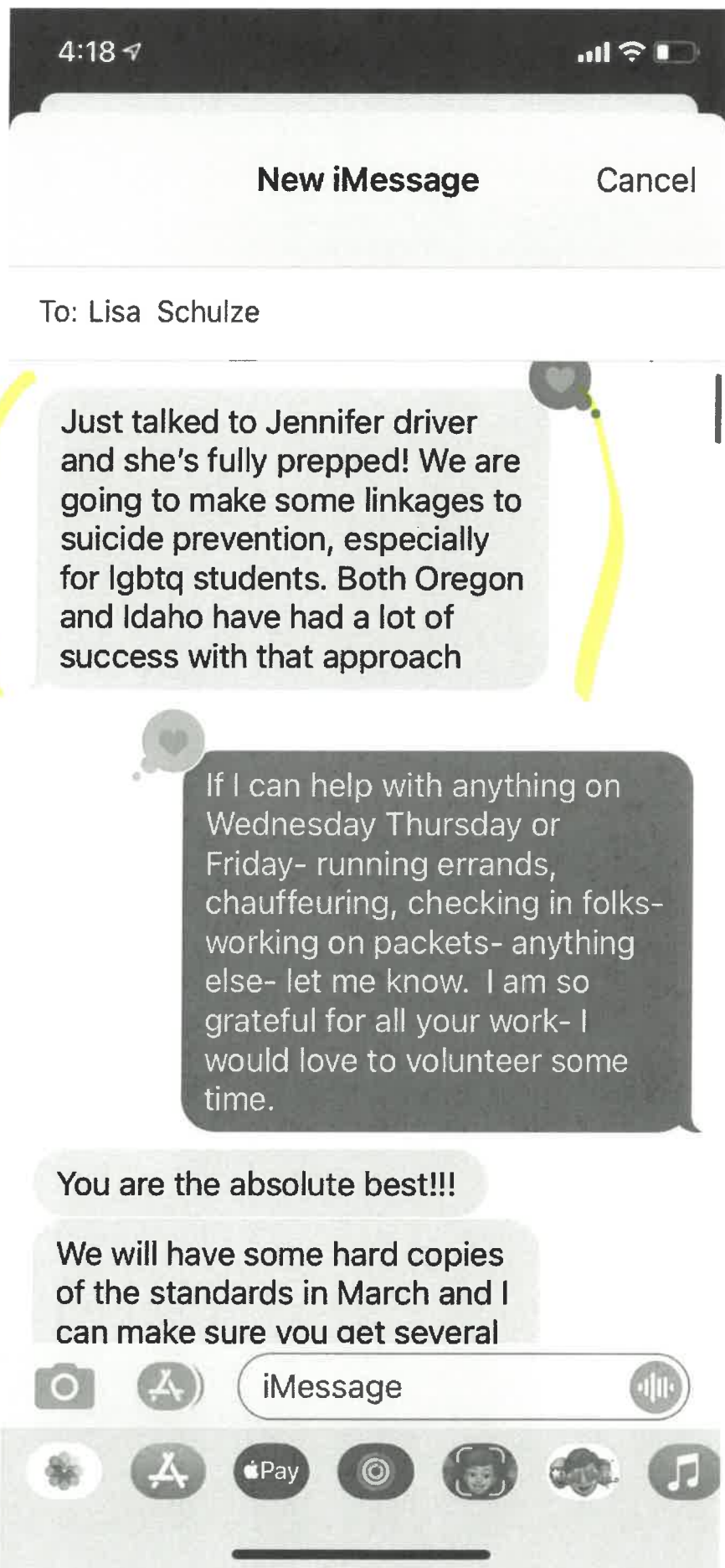


Lisa Schulze, M.Ed.
AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator
Education and Training Manager
She / Her / Hers
1111 N. 13th Street, Suite #106
Omaha, NE 68102
Office: 402.827.9280

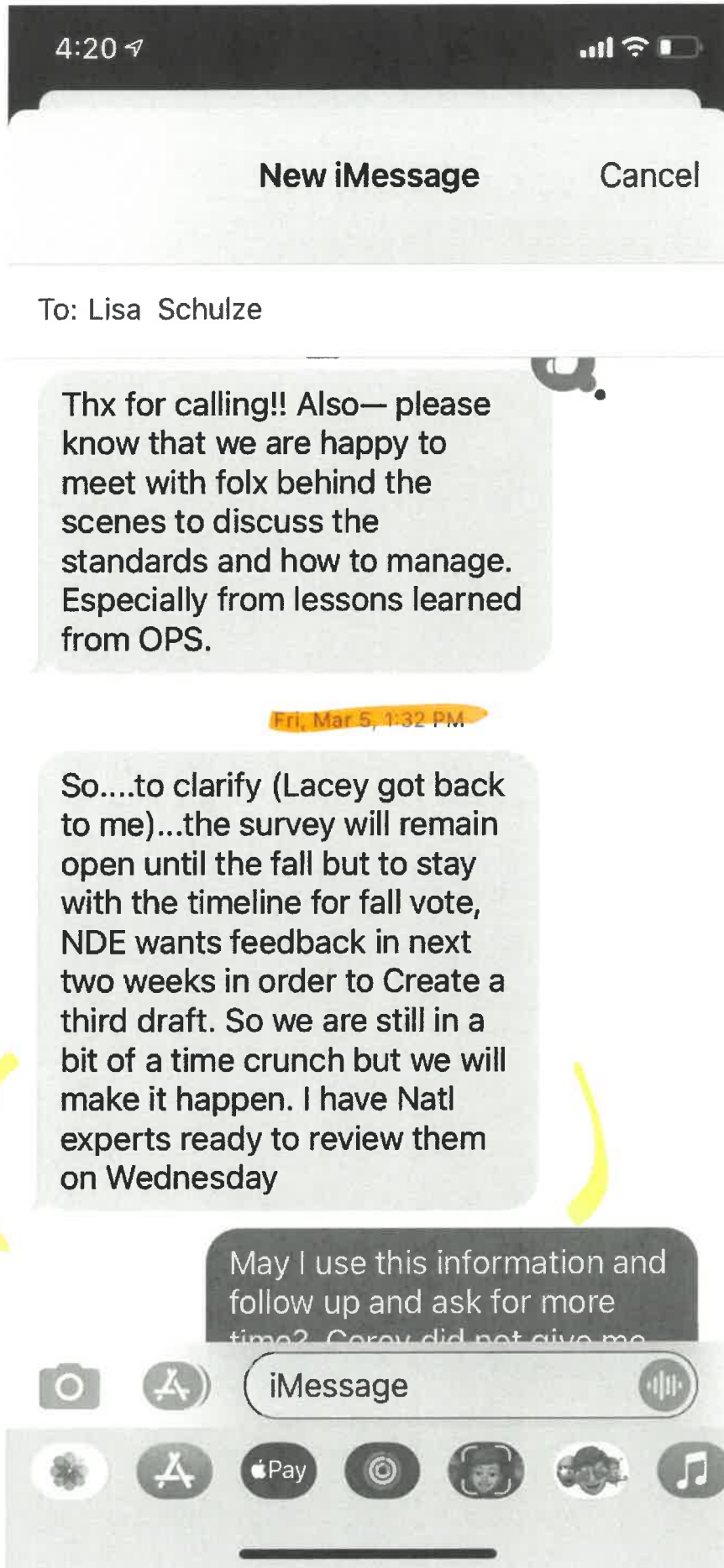
| Cell: 402.770.0810

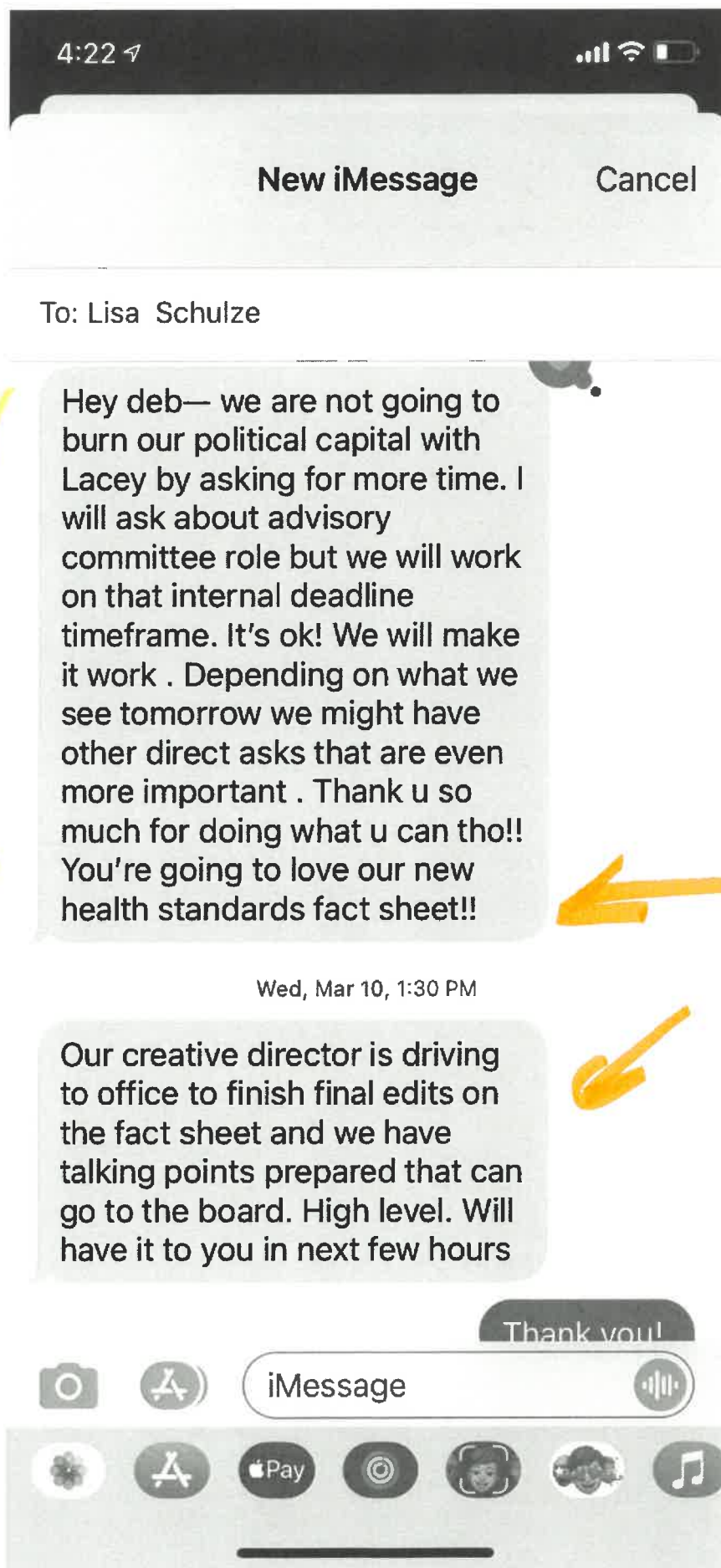
Identifying critical issues. Funding innovative solutions. Influencing dynamic change.

Learn more at OmahaWomensFund.org



8





From: Foor, Ryan
To: Foor, Ryan
Cc: Blomstedt, Matt
Bcc: Cory Epler (cory.epler@nebraska.gov); Deborah Neary; Fricke, Lisa; Gubbels, Patti; Koch Johns, Patsy; Lisa Fricke; Morrison, Jacquelyn; Neary, Deborah; Nickels, Maureen; Patricia Timm; Patsy Koch Johns (pk.cozadlincolnthatre@gmail.com); Robin Stevens; Stevens, Robin; Timm, Patricia
Subject: FW: NDE Health Standards Talking Points
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 4:55:00 PM
Attachments: Effective Health Education Fact Sheet (006).pdf
 Health Standards Talking Points for NDE Board 031021 Ext.pdf
 image005.png
 image006.png
 image007.png
 image002.png
 image008.png

Board members, see the attached resources shared from Lisa Schulze with the Women's Fund of Omaha. Lisa serves on the advisory committee for the health education standards. Note that these views are not necessarily those of the Nebraska Department of Education. I am sharing them with you for your information as you may start to see them circulate; and, the information may be useful to you.



Ryan M. Foor, Ph.D., R.P.
State Board Relations, Rules, and Regulations Officer
 Commissioner's Office
 P.O. Box 94987
 Lincoln NE, 68509-4987
 P: (402) 471-5030
 E: ryan.foor@nebraska.gov

From: Epler, Cory <cory.epler@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 4:42 PM
To: Lisa Schulze <lschulze@omahawomensfund.org>
Cc: Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>; Bieber, Katie <katie.bieber@nebraska.gov>; Foor, Ryan <Ryan.Foor@nebraska.gov>
Subject: FW: NDE Health Standards Talking Points

Hi, Lisa.

First, thank you so much for your participation in this process. Lacey has spoken so highly of you, your support, and the expertise you have provided. These resources are greatly appreciated. I am passing them along to Katie Bieber, NDE's Administrator for Public Information & Communications, and Dr. Ryan Foor, NDE's State Board Relations, Rules, and Regulations Officer. I am confident these resources will be very helpful in this stage of work.

Again, thanks for being part of this work!

Cory Epler, Ph.D.
Academic Officer



Office of Teaching, Learning, & Assessment

301 Centennial Mall South

Lincoln NE, 68509

P: (402) 405-1973 NEW

E: cory.epler@nebraska.gov



From: Lisa Schulze <lschulze@omahawomensfund.org>

Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 4:34 PM

To: Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>; Epler, Cory <cory.epler@nebraska.gov>

Subject: NDE Health Standards Talking Points

Lacey and Corey,

We are pleased to see the release of the health standards today and look forward to reviewing them thoroughly. It has been a pleasure to serve on the advisory committee and provide feedback on the initial version. A cursory review of this second version demonstrates the inclusion of important concepts that will support a students' well-being.

Our team is prepared to support standards that are science-based, trauma-informed and inclusive. Given today's article in the [Omaha World Herald](#), it would be helpful for both NDE staff and the Board of Ed to be prepared with talking points and rationale. We hope to honor the NDE's diligent work and these standards should be worthy of proud support given the team of educators, medical professionals and public health experts that had input.

Attached are suggested talking points that will be distributed to our key partners and an Effective Health standards fact sheet with key Nebraska YRBS data. We hope these resources prove to be helpful in this effort.

Thank you and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

~lisa



Lisa Schulze, M.Ed.

AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator

Education and Training Manager

She / Her / Hers

1111 N. 13th Street, Suite #106

Omaha, NE 68102

Office: 402.827.9280

Cell: 402.770.0810

Identifying critical issues. Funding innovative solutions. Influencing dynamic change.

Learn more at OmahaWomensFund.org

11

From: Coffey, Jessie
To: Peters, Lacey
Subject: RE: Nebraska Department of Education's proposed health education standards
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 10:56:03 AM

No worries- it's good to see what you are going through. ~~It sucks there are so many CRAZY people!!~~

-----Original Message-----

From: Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 10:55 AM
To: Coffey, Jessie <jessie.coffey@nebraska.gov>
Subject: RE: Nebraska Department of Education's proposed health education standards

She emailed me too. I am assuming she got your information off the coordinated school health site. I am sorry you are getting them too.

Lacey Peters

Lacey Batt-Peters
Physical Education and Health Education Specialist

500 S. 84th St., 2nd Floor
Lincoln NE 68510-2611
P: (531) 207-4175 * NEW *
E: lacey.peters@nebraska.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Coffey, Jessie <jessie.coffey@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 10:54 AM
To: Peters, Lacey <lacey.peters@nebraska.gov>
Subject: FW: Nebraska Department of Education's proposed health education standards

Lacey,

I feel your pain a tiny bit. Not sure how she got my email, but I am sure your email is full of this- ugg. What a load of crap- the crazy thing is that folks feel like this is political??? It's literally science and anatomy that she has a problem with!!!

I am sending you a self-care package in the mail, you need it!! Thanks for ALL you do to support the health of kiddos in NE!

Jessie

-----Original Message-----

From: Deb Hall <debhall61@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 10:16 AM
To: Coffey, Jessie <jessie.coffey@nebraska.gov>
Subject: Nebraska Department of Education's proposed health education standards

The proposed health education standards are NOT something that the schools should be doing. As a grandmother to 8 children in NE, I feel the schools should be dedicating their time and my tax dollars to teaching children school related subjects. You do not need to go into politics OR sex education. My Kindergartner does not need to know the names of the opposite sex genitals!! But if he does, his parents can teach him.

If you are concerned about improper touch... the swim suit rule is all they need. By introducing sex at such a young age and carrying it through EVERY grade, you are putting it uppermost in their minds when Reading, English, Math, etc is what you SHOULD be putting in their minds.

Please do not implement this dangerous curriculum into Nebraska schools.

Thank you.

Deb Hall

A very concern Nebraska Grandma

4:22



New iMessage

Cancel

To: Lisa Schulze

you!!

Corey sent a very nice msg of support and gratitude and included the Comms person and Ryan. I'm so glad u all have it!!! Moving it up sounds good. Let me talk to Tiffany.

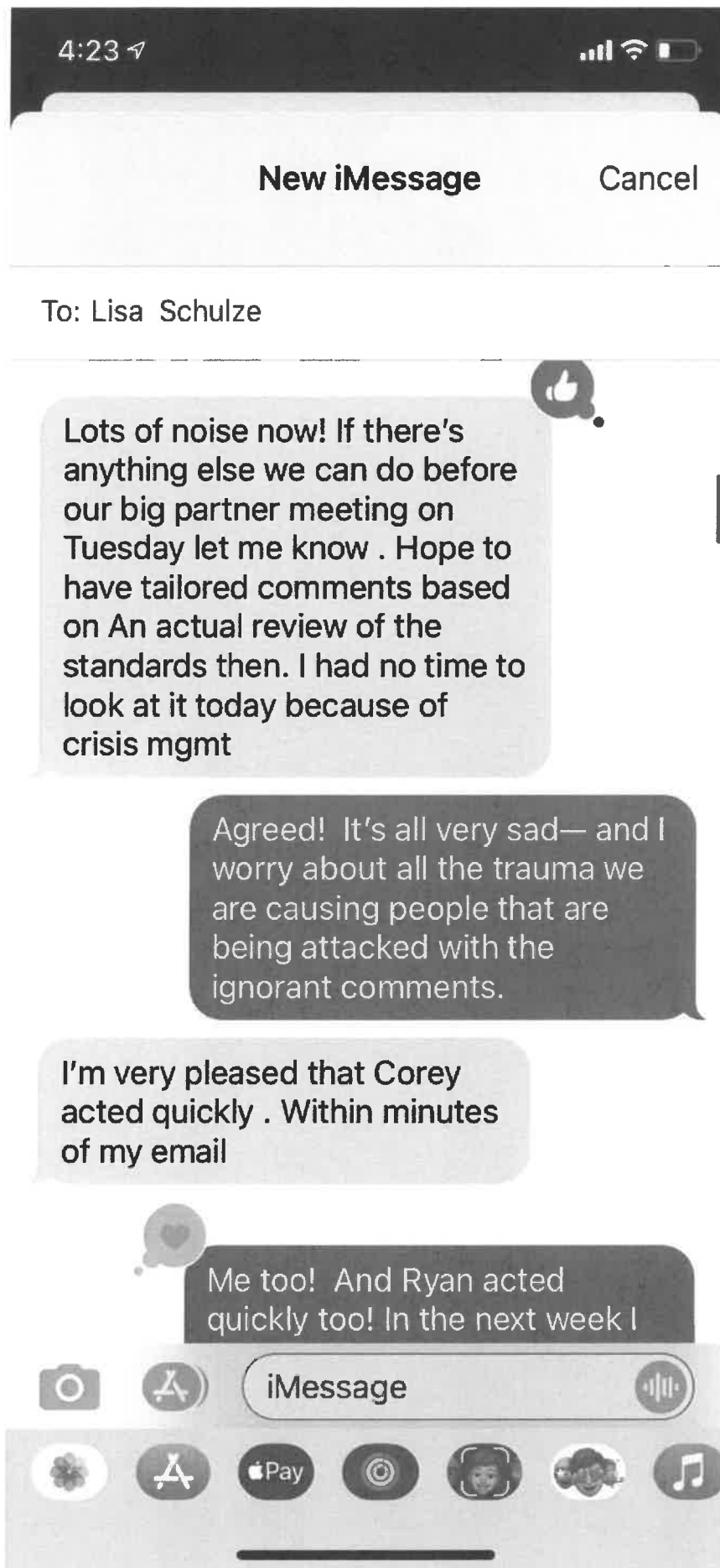
I also chatted with dr Jay Irwin on Ralston school board today (he's ready to mobilize and u will hear from him). Given the tragedy in Ralston a few years ago we were thinking about someone who can also speak to SEL and trauma and is entrenched with education World. What about Linda Richards, former board member who can speak freely? You are connected? Thoughts?

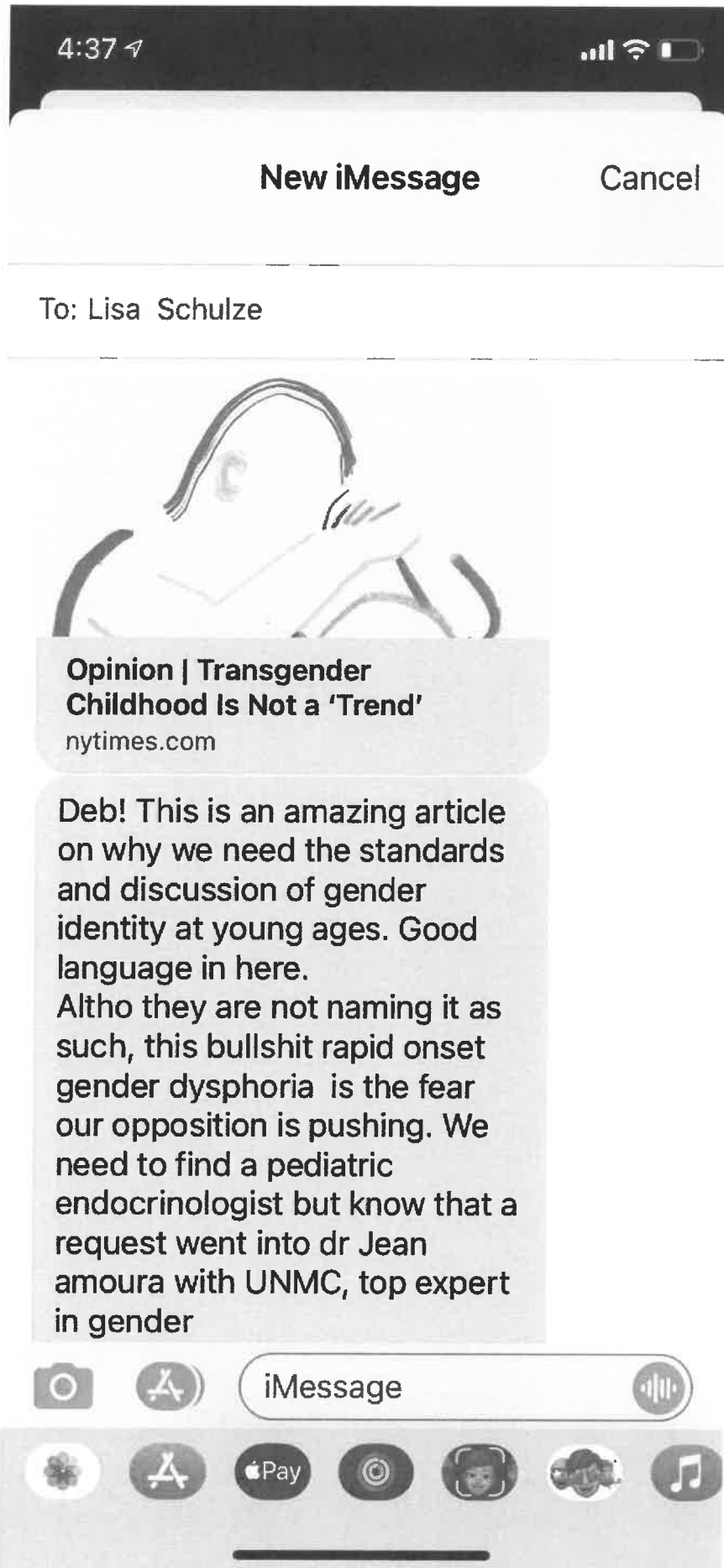
We really scrambled today to pull it together so thank you!



iMessage







4:38 ↗



New iMessage

Cancel

To: Lisa Schulze

I will read it. I wanted the board to have clarification about fender dysphasia and about what is in the DSM 5 since that kept coming up from the public comments.

Agreed, so smart. We are working on that and trying to get dr amoura to do a ten minute special presentation. Do u know how many are allowed? Abbi from OutNebraska already submitted

Last time was just two. Would they ever do four?

I will make that suggestion for 3-4 presentations since I keep nagging Maureen and Ryan for more training for the board.

It's fine if they do two pro, two



iMessage



4:38 ↗



New iMessage

Cancel

To: Lisa Schulze

It's fine if they do two pro, two con. The two minutes for folks is just so hard . We prepped for three but now we will prep all for 2

They are considering having the meetings in Kearney on the next 2 months. Did they mention that to you?

Ooh no! Maybe Ryan did to Tiffany? For May? Or after may?

We can rally good support in Kearney and Hastings too.

Any zoom testimony or is that off table?

We have four youth for may already. They would not be able to travel to Kearney. I sure hope they give advance notice for



iMessage



4:38



New iMessage

Cancel

To: Lisa Schulze

already. They would not be able to travel to Kearney. I sure hope they give advance notice for that and maybe for June mtg

I'll ask Jackie how she felt about Kearney. I assumed it would be hard for her with kids. We approved a policy for zoom testimony but I was told that NDE has not worked out the logistics yet to make that work. They said we don't have the right technology to do it correctly?



Got it. Just let me know! Tiffany also speaks to Ryan fairly regularly now I think

Fri, Apr 16, 5:07 PM

Making sure u saw the Hastings op Ed. Have a good wkend!



iMessage



Shavlik, Marcia

From: Deborah Neary <debnearymail@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Lisa Schulze
Subject: updated

THANK YOU. Love your comments. I need to practice saying them over and over now. Patsy and Maureen want me to delete: nd-- I have already had conversations with my peers on the state board-- and not all of us agree on every point.

And instead say: It is our job as State Board Members to listen and learn right now.

My brain does not work like it used to-- so I really hope I can get all of this organized in my brain before 2 pm. I have a Rotary meeting at noon and I need to go be a greeter for 30 minutes-- but then will be practicing. What do you think about having the interview in front of a school? Ralston or Westside maybe?

THANKYOU!!!

I am grateful for the expert guidance by medical professionals, teachers, school psychologists and public health professionals that were involved in the writing of these standards. I hope to learn more about the research and rationale behind the standards and how they are connected to age-appropriate education that supports students' well-being. The proposed Nebraska standards are based on national standards put forth by the CDC and other reputable organizations.

I appreciate everyone's feedback and I want to hear from my constituents about the specific matters they want to discuss. However-- as a state board member, or as any elected official-- I believe it is our job to learn from the experts and the science before we begin to politicize the topics.

Last year in Nebraska the number of children that committed suicide doubled in our state!! The largest contributor to youth suicide is bullying, much of that can be contributed to either actual or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation. We need to have productive conversations about science and facts and hear from our young people as well. These standards honor the complex diversity of the identities and experiences of students and families across the state. Health education needs to serve all students.

Please remember that school based health education is only a supplement to what is provided at home. Parents are the primary health educators of their children; whether they are talking or not. This is meant to supplement. A parent has the important role of discussing their values, their wishes and dreams for young people. A school's job is to provide a factual foundation to help safeguard their future.

I truly hope people will study the standards, give us the feedback at the link provided, and then ask questions when in doubt. I respect all of our parents concerns and I look forward to partnering to be sure our students can make informed decisions about their health, their relationships and their future.

16

From: Lisa Schulze
To: Epler, Cory
Subject: RE: Wow! KETV piece
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:22:22 AM
Attachments: image003.png
image005.png
image006.png
image007.png

No doubt, the last few days have been interesting. We are certainly seeing some inflammatory headlines. We have a plan for the next six months and will be ready for the April 2 meeting. We meet with key partners today.

Thanks Cory!



Lisa Schulze, M.Ed.
AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator
Education and Training Manager
She / Her / Hers

1111 N. 13th Street, Suite #106
Omaha, NE 68102

Office: 402.827.9280
Cell: 402.770.0810

Identifying critical issues. Funding innovative solutions. Influencing dynamic change.

Learn more at OmahaWomensFund.org

From: Epler, Cory <cory.epler@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:52 AM
To: Lisa Schulze <lschulze@omahawomensfund.org>
Subject: RE: Wow! KETV piece

Hi, Lisa. I appreciate this note. The last several work days have been interesting, to say the least. We keep trying to counter "click bait" headlines, and it's been a tough one to keep ahead of. Lacey was on 10/11 news last night. I am anxious for the next State Board meeting. Based on the number of emails we've received, I suspect it will be a big crowd. Hopefully, we'll get to hear both sides.

Thanks again for your support!

Cory Epler, Ph.D.
Academic Officer
Office of Teaching, Learning, & Assessment
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln NE, 68509



P: (402) 405 -1973 NEW
E: cory.epler@nebraska.gov



From: Lisa Schulze <lschulze@omahawomensfund.org>

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 8:27 PM

To: Epler, Cory <cory.epler@nebraska.gov>

Subject: Wow! KETV piece

Dr. Epler,

Just a note to say I loved this piece and your awesome soundbites! The point on serving marginalized students and elevating their voice was so impactful. Really appreciate what you did there and reflective of what NDE is striving to do to support students with the health standards. Just wow!

<https://www.ketv.com/article/mental-health-gender-identity-among-topics-included-in-state-health-education-standards-draft/35802711>



Lisa Schulze, M.Ed.

AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator

Education and Training Manager

She / Her / Hers

1111 N. 13th Street, Suite #106

Omaha, NE 68102

Office: 402.827.9280

Cell: 402.770.0810

Identifying critical issues. Funding innovative solutions. Influencing dynamic change.

Learn more at OmahaWomensFund.org

17

From: Neary, Deborah
To: Sara Kangas
Subject: Re: Health Education Standards survey
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 9:46:15 AM

Thanks Sara for following up. Sorry I didn't get the survey sent last night. Hopefully you received it with my automatic reply. If not-- let me know. It was a pleasure to speak with you too. I appreciate the phone call.
Deborah

Deborah Neary, State Board of Education, District 8
402-215-9139 cell
Deborah.Neary@nebraska.gov

From: Sara Kangas <sarabkangas@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 7:46 AM
To: Neary, Deborah <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>
Subject: Health Education Standards survey

Hi Deborah, It was wonderful to talk with you on the phone yesterday and I am so glad we got to have a conversation about the proposed health standards. I wanted to follow up and ask you to please email me the survey you mentioned. I would like to fill it out. Thanks again for taking the time to talk with me.

Blessings, Sara Kangas
sarabkangas@yahoo.com
402-639-3490

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

11f

Shavlik, Marcia

From: Deborah Neary <debnearymail@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 5:32 PM
To: cory.epler@nebraska.gov; Foor, Ryan; Nickels, Maureen; Patsy koch johns
Cc: Neary, Deborah; Deborah Neary
Subject: Health Ed standards-- info session

Hi Cory & Ryan--

First-- thanks Cory for the work you and Lacy have done to bring forward our new Health Ed standards. I am proud to be associated with the work you are doing.

Second-- also big kudos to you, Cory, on the interview you did on KETV 7 when the first draft was released. While I may have missed some interviews-- I have watched or read much of the media associated with the release of those standards-- and from what I have observed your talking points were the best. I would love it if we could make sure that all of our board members heard your television interview. Your talking points were very helpful to me-- and I would think my fellow board members would want to hear the same discussion in case they might want use similar language. I ultimately hope that me and my peers on the state board will be able to speak eloquently about--and with a healthy understanding of-- any of the topics that have become politicized.

I am available any of these times to connect with the writing committee. You may place me in either session.

Tuesday, March 23rd from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 24th from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Lastly-- as I think back about the nondiscrimination position statement that we passed last year-- I recall that it definitely took some work to bring along and educate a couple of our fellow board members. There were 2 board members in particular that really didn't understand some of the wording that we wanted to add to the statement, however, I believe we made progress because we were able to bring outside speakers in and educate board members in a small group, and in a safe space that allowed them to ask questions. They eventually came to understand why we needed our language to be more inclusive and they respected the need to insure that we addressed the needs of ALL students in our position statement. As I think back to those committee discussions-- you may recall we brought in volunteers from GLSEN Omaha and from the Omaha Women's Fund. I am quite confident that if we had not done that work-- we would never have created such an inclusive position statement. Therefore-- I wonder if we can set up committee meeting discussions that provide similar opportunities for board education. Not just the education that will be provided by the writing committee-- but by external

consultants that work on some of these specialized topics everyday. I do not think it is enough to just have public testimony-- because that is not a safe space for board members to ask questions and process information.

I know there are many great people to select from that could be speakers. A couple of ideas come to mind:

1. Dr. Deb Tomek, member of the writing committee and well-known Omaha MD
2. Someone from CASEL or someone locally that is skilled in teaching SEL in the classroom-- or someone that could speak to some of the equity topics relating to the teaching of SEL.
3. Lisa Schultze, a certified sexuality educator, certified through AASECT (American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors & Therapists), and staff member of Women's Fund of Omaha
4. Someone who is a parent of a transgender student-- I have a friend that is a parent of a transgender youth and I know she would be happy to join a committee discussion. I am also sure Abby Swatsworth or others could recommend a parent too.

Additionally-- I know the Teaching and Learning committee is the committee overseeing these discussions. Ryan--is it possible that the strategic planning committee could also have a committee meeting discussion on any of these topics?

THANKS everyone.

Deborah

PS. I am copying Patsy and Maureen so they can be involved in the conversation too.

From: Neary, Deborah
To: Nickels, Maureen
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 4:38:40 PM
Attachments: sample talking points.docx

Thank you for your time today. There is far more info here than what is needed. You can pick and choose anything that you think is neutral enough. I know you cant use it all--and no worries if you cant use any of it. I just appreciate your time.

Deborah Neary, State Board of Education, District 8
402-215-9139 cell
Deborah.Neary@nebraska.gov

NE Health Education Standards Development (March 30, 2021)

Some important things to know about these standards:

- These proposed standards were written to be age-appropriate, medically-accurate, and science-based.
- The writing and editing team consisted of educators, administrators, medical doctors, school psychologists, health professionals, researchers, nurses and parents.
- This draft is based on the national CDC guidelines.
- **The final draft of these standards will not become a requirement for any school district. These standards are intended only to help school districts understand the health education best practices so local districts can make informed decisions.**
- Many students are already learning about health education from online sites-- including TikTok. But those sources can be harmful to the growth of young mind.

The goal of this process is to create a framework for health education in our state to give our students the skills and knowledge to maintain and promote lifelong health. We support the development of comprehensive health education programs designed to:

- Motivate students to maintain and improve their health;
- Advocate for self and others;
- Prevent disease;
- Form healthy relationships; and,
- Avoid or reduce health-related risk behaviors.

The Department is engaging in a thoughtful and deliberate process to ensure that all voices and perspectives are heard.

The Department of Education has engaged education experts (teachers, administrators, ESU staff, postsecondary representatives) as well as doctors, nurses, psychologists, public health professionals, and other relevant health experts to create an initial draft of health education standards.

The initial draft has been informed by reviews of research and evidence-based best practices in a variety of health-related content areas, as well as an examination of other states' health education standards.

This process is just beginning – there will be ample opportunity for all voices to be heard.

Our role, as state board members, is to listen to the expertise and feedback of stakeholders and discern the best path forward that supports the health of all of our students.

State Standards/Local Control: We want these health education standards to provide a strong framework for schools across our state to support their students in leading safe and healthy

lives. However, the implementation of the health education standards will not be mandatory and decisions will be made by local districts, providing yet another opportunity for community voices to be heard.

Response to “Health education is the role of parents and families.” Parents are the primary educators of their children. It is absolutely the role of parents to have these important conversations with their children about their health and healthy relationships, as well as to infuse those conversations with more than just facts, but also their values and wishes and dreams for their children’s healthy development. The role of health education in the schools is to provide the facts; it is the role of families to surround those facts with values.

Response to “These standards were created by activists.” This initial draft was created by educators, doctors, nurses, psychologists, public health professionals, and others with specific expertise related to the content strands within health education. We are now at the part of the process that will allow any and all stakeholders to provide substantive input and relevant expertise to inform the process. Everyone has an opportunity to weigh in.

Response to “These health standards are providing controversial/ideological instruction.” Providing science-based, medically accurate, age-appropriate information to our students is not controversial. It is our goal, as the board, to support the creation of a framework for health education that is based in research and expertise as to what our students need to develop the skills and knowledge to maintain and promote lifelong health.

Other notes:

This board made an important commitment to Nondiscrimination and Equitable Educational Opportunities in Schools. We committed to ensuring “all Nebraskans, across all backgrounds and circumstances, have equitable access and opportunities for success.” Our expressed “goal of equity efforts is that all students are known, heard, and supported while having access to the opportunities and resources needed to be ready for success in their post-secondary learning experiences, careers, and civic lives.” It will be our goal to ensure that educational equity is represented in this health education framework and any educational frameworks moving forward.

Our students bring complex realities to school every day. They come from diverse family structures. According to the Academy of Pediatrics, they have a stable sense of their gender identity by age four – and for some of our students, that identity may not align with their sex assigned at birth. Many of our students fit into categories that are historically marginalized and leaving these diverse identities and realities out of critical conversations about their health, development, and healthy relationships leaves them without the benefits and safety that health education can provide.

All students deserve to see themselves represented in their health education. There is nothing political or controversial about providing age-appropriate health education that recognizes young people’s complex realities. What is controversial is withholding complete, honest information that young people need in order to plan their futures.

[w.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/about/why_schools.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/about/why_schools.htm)

From: [Nickels, Maureen](#)
Cc: [Foor, Ryan](#); [Blomstedt, Matt](#)
Bcc: [Koch Johns, Patsy](#); [Timm, Patricia](#); [Gubbels, Patti](#); [Neary, Deborah](#); [Stevens, Robin](#); [Fricke, Lisa](#); [Morrison, Jacquelyn](#); [Nickels, Maureen](#)
Subject: NEWSLETTER: 03.31.2021
Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 10:57:29 PM
Attachments: [3.31.2021.pdf](#)
[Health Education Standards Key Features March 2021.pdf](#)
[Effective Health Education Fact Sheet \(006\).pdf](#)
[Why Implement Health Standards.docx](#)

See attached along with additional information to follow up with.

Kindly,
Maureen



Notes from Maureen

3.31.2021

State Board of Education

"The air is like a butterfly
With frail blue wings.
The happy earth looks at the sky
And sings."

~ Joyce Kilmer (Spring)

Email and Phone Responses, Talking Points:

I have had requests to provide a document of talking points for the many messages that each of us are receiving to ensure we are all on the same page with our messages/responses to constituents. Instead of reinventing the wheel I am attaching the document of talking points given to the Teaching and Learning Committee at the March Committee meeting. The four Board members not in the T/L committee received them that same afternoon along with a copy of the standards. I will attach other documents the NDE has provided earlier this month that you can refer to and refresh your memory. The message responses that have been shared by Board colleagues with me are all well done and what I consider 'spot on'.

Friday Board Meeting:

It is well understood that there will be many constituents in attendance for Public Comment on the agenda. Lora will be at the door to have everyone who wishes to speak sign in. Next to her will be the LPD Officer. The Capitol Security Guard will be in the room. Speakers will be called to the podium in the order they sign in. Public Comment speakers will be brought into the room in groups of 10. When one group of 10 is done, they will be escorted out while the next 10 are brought in. The Commissioner will give general comments to each group when they enter and are seated. He will explain the process of the Standards and what will be next. He will address some of the misinformation that is being distributed. Vice President Koch Johns will be the timekeeper. She will hold up the one-minute sign and speak when time is up. We have set aside 2 hours for Public Comment. It may be necessary that we follow our policy of abbreviating the time for each speaker. If so, that will be an action item just prior to Public Comment.

Following the Teaching and Learning Committee report by Lisa, I will be opening it up for discussion by Board members regarding the Health Standards. I anticipate there will be a good discussion among the Board.

NDE staff, as always, are ensuring the safety of the Board. Ryan has worked overtime to ensure everything goes smoothly.

The Health Standards with constituent emails, letters, phone calls, interviews, newspaper articles have taken over our lives the last few weeks. Don't forget we have a full agenda for our Business meeting Friday.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES-MEETINGS:

National Arts Summit: April 5-7, virtual, <https://artsu.americansforthearts.org/ACPACD> (check with Patsy for more information)

Education Commission of the States: July 7-9, Washington DC (for further information go to www.ecs.org)

NASBE Annual Conference: October 6-9, Phoenix (for further information go to www.nasbe.org)

NASB Annual State-Wide Conference: November 17-19, CHI Center, Omaha

Thoughts from Vice President Koch Johns:

"Deliberate with caution, but act with decisiveness and yield with graciousness, or oppose with firmness."

~ Charles Caleb Colton, English Cleric and Writer

The NDE has a process it follows when working on Nebraska Standards. As Board members, we know we each play a role in that process. We respect the process as it unfolds. It should be our hope this will be the same process our constituents will follow and respect.

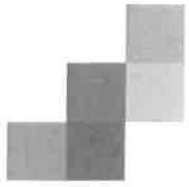
Key Features of the Nebraska Health Education Standards – Draft #1

The **structure** of the Health Education Standards:

- Provides a framework for students to develop skills and knowledge for health literacy.
- Organized into eight (8) content strands for skill development in grades K - 12.
- Include grade-level standards for grades K-8.
- High school standards are course-based and designed to help prepare students for independent living and health literacy.

The **content** of the Health Education Standards:

- Promotes the development of health knowledge, health-related skills, and positive attitudes toward health and wellbeing.
- Motivates students to maintain and improve their health; advocate for self and others; prevent disease; form healthy relationships and avoid or reduce health-related risk behaviors.
- Aligns to and supports the National Health Education Standards, the Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool's Healthy Behavior Outcomes, the National Sex Education Standards, and the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) Social Emotional Learning Core Competencies.
- Reviewed to ensure the content is medically and scientifically accurate and age appropriate.
- Acknowledges abstinence as the most effective form of disease and pregnancy prevention and acknowledges additional disease and pregnancy prevention strategies.
- Includes inclusive language in relation to sex, gender identity, sexuality, and varying family structures.
- Increases expectations across all grade levels for students to develop knowledge and skills that create positive social, emotional, and mental health.
- Promotes the examination of prejudice, discrimination, stereotypes, and stigmas (e.g., biases) and includes strategies to promote dignity and respect for all people.
- Recognizes the influence technology, including social media, has on one's mental health and wellness.



Effective Health Education: Supporting Students' Well-Being

March 2021

Decades of rigorous research is conclusive—complete, honest, inclusive health education supports students' well-being.¹ Young people need access to medically-accurate, science-based health information to protect their health and plan for their futures.²

Effective, science-based health education improves health outcomes of young people by:

- Delaying the age of first sexual intercourse;
- Reducing unprotected sex and increasing use of condoms and contraception;
- Reducing unintended pregnancy; and
- Reducing rates of HIV and other STDs/STIs.

NEBRASKA ADOLESCENT SEXUAL HEALTH LANDSCAPE⁴

EFFECTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION IS:



Age-
Appropriate



Medically
Accurate



Science
Based



Trauma-
Informed



LGBTQ-
Inclusive



Suicide
Prevention³



Dating Violence
Prevention



Bullying
Prevention



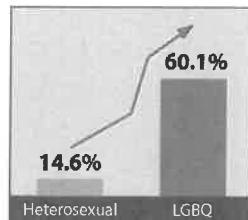
57%

of Nebraska high school students **HAVE SEX BY THE TIME THEY GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL**



1 in 3

Nationally, one in three high school students in the United States **EXPERIENCE DATING VIOLENCE** by the time they are 18.⁵



17.7%

of all Nebraska high school students seriously **CONSIDERED ATTEMPTING SUICIDE**.

- **60.1% of students identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning** seriously considered attempting suicide, compared to **14.6% of students identifying as heterosexual**.



11.6%

of high school students in Nebraska **EXPERIENCED SEXUAL VIOLENCE*** with a stark difference for LGBQ students.

- **38.2% of LGBQ students** experienced sexual violence, compared to **9.7% of heterosexual students**.

* Being forced by anyone to do sexual things [counting such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse] that they did not want to, one or more times during the 12 months before the survey.

Effective health education promotes **social and emotional learning (SEL)** that contributes to academic achievement, fewer truancies⁶, reduced risk-taking and healthy relationships.⁷ A 2020 analysis of three decades of research⁸ demonstrated increased student efficacy in:

- Empathy
- Respect for others and increased bystander interventions
- Communication
- Positive self-image (including body image)
- Increased recognition of gender equity
- Increased sense of self-control and safety

The Nebraska State Board of Education's Non-Discrimination and Equitable Educational Opportunities Policy supports the need for inclusive, equitable health education. This approach allows for trained teachers that create a network of caring adults and a protective school environment for all students.

- LGBTQ youth who report having at least one accepting adult were **40% less likely to report a suicide attempt**.⁹
- Having six LGBTQ supportive teachers or staff in a school can turn the environment from **toxic to protective**.¹⁰
- Social determinants of health must be addressed in the curriculum with a **focus on how race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression** are related to inequitable health outcomes because of systemic injustices.¹¹

PARENTS/CAREGIVERS MATTER

Effective school-based health education provides resources and support to enhance parent-child communication.

- In a representative sample of 1,500 parents from the Omaha Public School district, 93.1% supported the teaching of abstinence and prevention along with over 70% of parents supporting instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity.¹²
- Parents and likely voters, regardless of political affiliation, religion and/or regional demographic, overwhelmingly support instruction on abstinence, birth control, STIs, healthy relationships, sexual orientation and puberty.¹³

Highlights from 2018-2019 Nebraska School Health Profiles:

- The good news: 65.6% encourage staff to attend professional development on safe and supportive school environments for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Only 14.5% of Nebraska schools implement HIV, STD and pregnancy prevention strategies that meet the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth.
- Young people are disproportionately impacted by STDs and information about condoms is a key protective factor.¹⁴ Only 8% of high school students have been tested for STDs and only 23% of Nebraska schools instruct on how to consistently and correctly use a condom.

"If people do not have the information needed to make choices, they will fill in the gaps. Providing fact-based, youth-oriented content prepares young people to be safe and responsible sexually healthy individuals."

- Cleo Zagurski (she/her), 18 years old
Senior at Burke High School

¹ Chin et al. (2012). The Effectiveness of Group-Based Comprehensive Risk-Reduction and Abstinence Education Interventions to Prevent or Reduce the Risk of Adolescent Pregnancy, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, and Sexually Transmitted Infections: Two Systematic Reviews for the Guide to Community Preventive Services. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, Volume 42, Issue 3, pgs. 272-294.

² Santelli et al. (2017). Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage: An Updated Review of U.S. Policies and Programs and Their Impact. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, Volume 61, Issue 3, pgs 273-280.

³ Associations of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning-Inclusive Sex Education With Mental Health Outcomes and School-Based Victimization in U.S. High School Students. Volume 64(5). May 2019. *Journal of Adolescent Health*

⁴ Nebraska Department of Education (2018-2019). Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

⁵ Davis, Antoinette, MPH. 2008. Interpersonal and Physical Dating Violence among Teens. The National Council on Crime and Delinquency Focus. Available here.

⁶ Advocates for Youth. Science and Success. 3rd ed. Programs that Work to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, HIV and STIs in the US. Washington, DC: Advocates for Youth; 2012

⁷ Durlak, et al., "The Impact of Enhancing Students' Social and Emotional Learning: A Meta-Analysis of School-Based Universal Interventions." *Child Development* 82.1 (January/February 2011): 405-432; Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning. "Social and Emotional Learning Core Competencies."

⁸ Eva S. Goldfarb, Lisa D. Lieberman. (2020). Three Decades of Research: The Case for Comprehensive Sex Education. *Journal of Adolescent Health*.

⁹ The Trevor Project. (2019). National Survey on LGBTQ Mental Health. New York, New York: The Trevor Project.

¹⁰ Kosciw, J. G., Greytak, E. A., Zongrone, A. D., Clark, C. M., & Truong, N. L. (2018). The 2017 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth in our nation's schools. New York: GLSEN.

¹¹ Future of Sex Education Initiative. (2020). National Sex Education Standards: Core Content and Skills, K-12 (Second Edition)

¹² OPS Research Division (2014-2015). Human Growth and Development Review: Results of a Phone Survey Regarding Parents' Perception of the Human Growth & Development Curriculum at Omaha Public Schools.

¹³ Kantor, Leslie, and Nicole Levitz. "Parents' Views on Sex Education in Schools: How Much Do Democrats and Republicans Agree?" *Plos One* 12, no. 7 (July 03, 2017).

¹⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually transmitted disease surveillance 2015 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Atlanta (2016) Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats>.

Why Implement Health Standards

According to the Centers for Disease Control, effective health education provides materials that are free of cultural bias but includes information, activities and examples that are inclusive of diverse cultures and identities (such as gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, physical/mental ability, appearance, and sexual orientation).

The Health Education standards released by the Nebraska Department of Education were created and reviewed by teachers, medical professionals, school psychologists, sexual health professionals, community health educators, researchers and parents/caregivers. They were written to be in alignment with the Nebraska Board of Education's Non-Discrimination and Equitable Educational Opportunities Position Statement.

Effective health education helps young people navigate sexual development and become healthy adults. It builds on a foundation of knowledge and skills relating to human development, decision making, abstinence, contraception, and disease prevention.

Need for Effective Health Education: Most school districts in Nebraska do not have sexual orientation and gender identity written into their standards as key scientific concepts. Standards and curricula that reflect all students' identities creates affirming and protective school environments that are linked to emotional wellbeing and academic success.

Health education that is age appropriate and medically accurate should be the standard for all students in Nebraska. Early, age-appropriate conversations on gender identity and expression protects students' well-being and their ability to make informed decisions about relationships in their lives.

According to the Academy of Pediatrics, children have a stable understanding of their gender identity by age four, including the gender-role stereotypes that can be harmful. Basic health education includes these developmentally appropriate conversations in order to protect their futures.

Decades of rigorous research is conclusive—comprehensive health education supports students' well-being while abstinence-only education is not only ineffective, but scientifically and ethically problematic. Comprehensive sex education that is age-appropriate and medically accurate is a key component to effective health education.

Nationally, parents and caregivers overwhelming support instruction on abstinence, birth control, STIs, healthy relationships, sexual orientation, and puberty in both middle and high school. Effective health education is age-appropriate, trauma-informed, medically-accurate and science based.

How Health Education Impacts Students: In Nebraska, 57% of students have sex by the time they graduate high school and yet only 8% of students have ever been tested for an STD. We need to provide students with shame-free information so they can care for their health and well-being.

Delaying sex (abstinence) is an important part of any comprehensive health curricula. However, information about birth control and navigating healthy relationships before students need it (not after!) helps them plan for their future and make informed decisions.

Comprehensive sex education helps young people by delaying the age of first sexual intercourse, reducing unprotected sex and reducing unintended pregnancy. It also improves mental health outcomes and reduces dating violence.

Most LGBTQ students in Nebraska experience victimization at school. Most, 60%, never report the incident to school staff. LGBTQ+ inclusive sex education that centers transgender and nonbinary identities benefits all young people.

From: Neary, Deborah
To: Dulce Sherman; Kimara Snipe; coletteyellowrobe@gmail.com; fpearson@unomaha.edu
Cc: debnearymail@gmail.com
Subject: Looking for facilitator
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 3:05:27 PM

Greetings friends,

I am looking for someone that can help the Nebraska State Board of Education members come up with a "values" statement. We have many policies and statements-- but we have never had the conversation around our values. And-- since the board makeup changed by over 50% in the last 3 years-- I thought this was an important step for our group to take. As the chair of the Strategic Planning committee-- I am taking on this project and in my committee meeting on May 6th I want my committee members to recommend steps for working on our values statement. And-- I hope to have a values statement pretty far along-- prior to September 7th when our board will approve a draft of the proposed Health Standards.

When I say values statement-- I mean something like our nondiscrimination position statement. This statement is something that I led the work on 2 years ago to make it more inclusive than the original draft that was brought forward.

A values statement I believe should be different than the nondiscrimination statement-- I am not certain if I am correct but a values statement says to me more about how we will make our decisions and base our decisions. For example-- I am working back in the foster care sector these days and in this work we base our decisions on a triangle of 3 equal parts-- decisions are based on 1/3 evidenced-based facts; 1/3 clinical experience (experience of educational professionals in our sector) and 1/3 on the values of the family/cultural community.

I am hoping that each of you may either be interested in leading this work, or might know of someone that would be good to lead/facilitate these discussions for us. We might look at some co-facilitation.

I anticipate the facilitator would lead 3 discussions-- both over zoom:

1. One hour-long meeting with the Strategic Planning committee to prepare for the board retreat.
2. A 3-hour board retreat over Zoom that would help us work in a few small breakout groups and then come together as a big group.

If you are interested in providing this service-- I would need a reply by May 1st with these details:

Name:

Qualifications:

Professional experience related to this project:

Total cost estimate for the 2 discussions (4 hours) and your preparation time:

This is not yet a formal RFP process- I am not certain I will need to go through that process. I just want to bring some information to my committee members for them to consider and think about the process. It is very important to me that we have one or two leaders/facilitators and that they are BIPOC-- because I believe a BIPOC will help us get to the real questions we need to be asking ourselves. We as a board talk all of the time about equity-- so I want to make sure that our values represent the actual work that we say we are focusing on.

Feel free to reach out and ask me questions-- this is an informal process. And-- if you know someone that you recommend-- please send their name and contact information to me.

THANKS everyone. Hope you are all doing well!

Deborah

Deborah Neary, State Board of Education, District 8
402-215-9139 cell
Deborah.Neary@nebraska.gov

From: Ferial Pearson
To: Neary, Deborah
Subject: Re: Looking for facilitator
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 6:55:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Deb,

I would be happy to help with this! Here is the information you asked for:

Name: Dr. Ferial Pearson

Qualifications: Doctorate in Educational Leadership, national and local awards for work in education and in the community with an emphasis on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility. In addition, here is my bio, in case that's helpful:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AbHpsWZZAKs4S3Bzk4_BwZpf2ZT5AK-/view?usp=sharing

Professional experience related to this project: Strategic Planning with the National Education Association for their Midwest Teacher Project, Strategic Planning with GLSEN National and StoryCorps, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Strategic Planning around Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility with The Rose Theater in Omaha, NE.

Total cost estimate for the 2 discussions (4 hours) and your preparation time: Generally \$500 per session (which includes prep time) for a total of \$1000.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Ferial.

Dr. Ferial Pearson

She/Her/Hers

**Faculty Fellow - Inclusive Community Leadership at
Rural Futures Institute at University of Nebraska**

Faculty Co-Chair, Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Gender Equity

Assistant Professor, Teacher Education

College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences | Roskens Hall 212J

University of Nebraska at Omaha |

402.290.9409

Recent publications:

Pearson, F. (2021) "Please Crack The Foundation," SEITAR USA (Society for Intercultural Education, Training, and Research.

Available at: <https://www.sietarusa.org/blog/9859510>

Pearson, F. & Fuglei, M (2020) "Dismantling Trunks of Invisible Privileges in Higher Education," *Rejoinder, Institute for Research on Women, Rutgers University*: Iss. 5, Article 13.
Available at: <https://irw.rutgers.edu/rejoinder-webjournal/issue-5-storytelling-for-social-change/482-dismantling-trunks-of-invisible-privileges-in-higher-education>

Rodriguez-Arroyo, S., & **Pearson, F.** (2020). "Learning from the history of language oppression: Educators as agents of language justice." *Journal of Curriculum, Teaching, Learning and Leadership in Education*, 5(1), 28-37.

Pearson, F., & Rodriguez-Arroyo, S. (2020). "Even if our voices shake: Refusing to teach inside the lines." In R. Endo (Ed). *Experiences of racialization in predominantly white institutions: Critical reflections on inclusion in the academy* (pp. 56-74). New York: Routledge.

Latest Book, Published December 15, 2020
The Secret Kindness Agents: An Educator's Guide
Publisher: WriteLife Inc.

More creative publications on social justice: <https://medium.com/@FerialP>

Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.



signature_1181440125



From: Neary, Deborah <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 3:05 PM

To: Dulce Sherman <dulce_sherman@yahoo.com>, Kimara Snipe <Kimara.Snipe@ops.org>, coletteyellowrobe@gmail.com <coletteyellowrobe@gmail.com>, Ferial Pearson <fpearson@unomaha.edu>

Cc: debnearymail@gmail.com <debnearymail@gmail.com>

Subject: Looking for facilitator

Non-NU Email

From: Neary, Deborah
To: Elizabeth O'Connor
Subject: Re: Phone call?
Date: Friday, April 23, 2021 12:32:34 PM

thank you.

Deborah Neary, State Board of Education, District 8
 402-215-9139 cell
Deborah.Neary@nebraska.gov

From: Elizabeth O'Connor <eoconnor@nebraska.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Neary, Deborah <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>
Subject: RE: Phone call?

That works great for me. Just use my cell phone number: 402-290-8233. Talk to you soon!

From: Neary, Deborah <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Elizabeth O'Connor <eoconnor@nebraska.edu>
Subject: Re: Phone call?

Non-NU Email

Thank you Elizabeth. I would be grateful if we could chat today at 2 pm. THANK YOU.
 Would you want me to call you at 2 pm?

Deborah Neary, State Board of Education, District 8
 402-215-9139 cell
Deborah.Neary@nebraska.gov

From: Elizabeth O'Connor <eoconnor@nebraska.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 11:26 AM
To: Neary, Deborah <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>
Subject: RE: Phone call?

Deborah,

Of course! I would be more than happy to chat with you. I can't tell you how important it is for the

Board of Regents to hear information laid out in front of them before they make a decision. I think that's one of the things that helps our Board work so well together. I'm happy to chat with you about this whenever works best for you. I can talk:

- today at 2 pm;
- anytime Saturday afternoon;
- Sunday from 11 am – 1 p; or
- Monday 8:30 am – 9 am or 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm.

I am delighted you reached out and look forward to connecting. Depending on how our conversation goes, it may be helpful to connect you with our Corporate Secretary (she is also currently Interim Corporate Counsel and let me tell you, she's dynamite) as she helps sort through topics and schedule speakers for the Regents or Heath Mello, as he does a lot to help determine how to present information during politicized topics.

Liz
(402) 290 – 8233

From: Neary, Deborah <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Elizabeth O'Connor <eoconnor@nebraska.edu>
Subject: Phone call?

Non-NU Email

Elizabeth,

I would be grateful for a 5-10 minute phone call with you. I am trying to learn more about the board of regents processes for bringing in speakers and learning content on matters related to your board decisions. I am hoping that the Nebraska State Board of Education can borrow some of the Regents processes-- as we navigate the next 6 months of reviewing health education standards.

We as a board have never requested presentations for science/research-based discussions. Unfortunately, the board has primarily listened to public testimony exclusively. I do not believe that these steps are going to help us come to the best results in our work to develop health standards-- so I am working with NDE staff to come up with ideas that have been successful in other policy-making arenas.

All I need is a few minutes of your time to understand your processes at the university. My cell is 402-215-9139 if you have a free minute to chat.

Hope you are enjoying your work as a Regent member. I truly love my work on the State Board of Education, and I am grateful to be on the board especially now as we make one of the most important decisions that will impact the youth of Nebraska.

Warm regards, Deborah

Deborah Neary, State Board of Education, District 8
402-215-9139 cell
Deborah.Neary@nebraska.gov

From: Neary, Deborah
To: bweitz@nebraska.edu
Subject: Phone call?
Date: Friday, April 23, 2021 11:15:32 AM

Barb--

I would be grateful for a 5-10 minute phone call with you. I am trying to learn more about the board of regents processes for bringing in speakers and learning content on matters related to your board decisions. I am hoping that the Nebraska State Board of Education can borrow some of the Regents processes-- as we navigate the next 6 months of reviewing health education standards.

We as a board have never requested presentations for science/research-based discussions. Unfortunately, the board has primarily listened to public testimony exclusively. I do not believe that these steps are going to help us come to the best results in our work to develop health standards-- so I am working with NDE staff to come up with ideas that have been successful in other policy-making arenas.

All I need is a few minutes of your time to understand your processes at the university. My cell is 402-215-9139 if you have a free minute to chat.

Hope you are enjoying your work as a Regent member. I truly love my work on the State Board of Education, and I am grateful to be on the board especially now as we make one of the most important decisions that will impact the youth of Nebraska.

Warm regards, Deborah

Deborah Neary, State Board of Education, District 8
402-215-9139 cell
Deborah.Neary@nebraska.gov

From: Neary, Deborah
To: Barbara Weitz
Subject: Re: Phone call?
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 3:05:18 PM

Thank you for your kind response Barb.

I was able to get my question answered by Elizabeth-- so I have received the information I needed.

Hope you are doing well.

And thank you for helping my friend, Patrick Leahy. You are always so kind and generous.

Warmest regards,

Deborah

Deborah Neary, State Board of Education, District 8
402-215-9139 cell
Deborah.Neary@nebraska.gov

From: Barbara Weitz <bweitz@nebraska.edu>
Sent: Sunday, May 2, 2021 9:04 PM
To: Neary, Deborah <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>
Subject: Re: Phone call?

Hi Deb:

Thanks for the email. I totally agree that you could benefit from the resources at the University of Nebraska. If you could email some questions to me I will get back to you faster. It is a crazy few weeks of my life with recitals of grandchildren, consults, meetings, zooms. Etc. I am sure you are dealing with the same. I am so excited about the new Chancellor for UNO. I will be sure you are invited to any receptions etc.

Meanwhile my cell number is 402-350-1219, It is frustrating because I have it off much of the time but leave a message with a couple of times you could take a call.

It is definitely past time to catch up.

Best,b

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Neary, Deborah <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 11:15:31 AM
To: Barbara Weitz <bweitz@nebraska.edu>
Subject: Phone call?

Non-NU Email

Barb--

I would be grateful for a 5-10 minute phone call with you. I am trying to learn more about the board of regents processes for bringing in speakers and learning content on matters related to your board decisions. I am hoping that the Nebraska State Board of Education can borrow some of the Regents processes-- as we navigate the next 6 months of reviewing health education standards.

We as a board have never requested presentations for science/research-based discussions. Unfortunately, the board has primarily listened to public testimony exclusively. I do not believe that these steps are going to help us come to the best results in our work to develop health standards-- so I am working with NDE staff to come up with ideas that have been successful in other policy-making arenas.

All I need is a few minutes of your time to understand your processes at the university. My cell is 402-215-9139 if you have a free minute to chat.

Hope you are enjoying your work as a Regent member. I truly love my work on the State Board of Education, and I am grateful to be on the board especially now as we make one of the most important decisions that will impact the youth of Nebraska.

Warm regards, Deborah

Deborah Neary, State Board of Education, District 8
402-215-9139 cell
Deborah.Neary@nebraska.gov

From: Deborah Neary
To: Blomstedt, Matt; Foor, Ryan; Nickels, Maureen; Maureen Nickels; Koch Johns, Patsy; Neary, Deborah
Subject: Education presentations
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 2:13:35 PM

Sorry if you are receiving this more than once-- I am having trouble with my NDE email account. It does not appear to be sending emails.

Maureen, Patsy, Ryan & Matt,

As you know, I have been a little relentless about the need to provide our board members with educational presentations around the topics that are controversial in nature in our proposed health standards. And, now that the emails and phone calls I am receiving are veering away from actually being interested parents-- but instead I am hearing from political bullies with an agenda --and they are using false videos and talking points to make their cases-- I want to raise this conversation again.

It is definitely the precedent in Nebraska that a government-run, educational organization like ours, that deals in scholarly topics, should be hearing from experts. And-- furthermore-- based on what I am learning it appears that perhaps we should not be placing equal weight on public comment. Using public comment to play a large role in our decision-making is not the best practice for similar organizations like the university. While public comment is important-- it should not be our only tool.

I have now spoken with two members of the Nebraska Board of Regents to learn how they handle complex scholarly topics when they need experts to weigh-in. They do not leave it up to the board members to do their own research-- they understand that many board members will not even know what topics to research when there are complex topics being considered. I also learned-- that the Board of Regents only allows 30 minutes of public comment per board meeting-- regardless of the topic and regardless how many people show up. They are much more prone to spend time listening to scholarly experts rather than the public since they are an educational institution.

The Board of Regents has dealt with many similar controversial educational topics-- including stem cell research and topics related to climate change. In every case, they have had experts from within the university, and experts from other states, come in and give related educational presentations-- both in small committee groups and to the full board. The committee groups can be called a task force- in their interpretation it does not need to be a formal standing committee.

I also learned that it is very common for the president of the University to call the Board of

Regents together into a zoom call, and then break them down into 2 groups using the breakout room technology. This allows the board members to speak to each other about the controversial topics so they are not having public discussions. Then-- they will be mixed up again in another small group on the same zoom call so they can discuss further with other board members. These special meetings do not align with any specific committee-- they are just called by the president of the university.

If we can all agree that it is urgent to have educational speakers brought in-- then the logistics of "how" this is accomplished would be up to the NDE staff-- I am merely trying to demonstrate that what I am requesting is very common practice in Nebraska with the university. And the university is the closest type of institution that we would compare ourselves too.

I believe that it is not enough to just listen to public comment. And-- I tend to think it is irresponsible if that is all that is allowed. And-- I am not only concerned about our board having the information they need (including myself) - but I also want to set the example for the local school boards. It is a horrifying thought that the local boards would merely leave the decisions about these standards to only the public comment portion. Those local board meetings could become a hornets nest of hate instead of informed discussions.

Also--let's be very clear. Scientific, evidenced-based information is not a "both sides" matter. We as the people with the responsibility to hold up the educational standards for the state-- must be primarily interested in knowing the research, facts, and evidence. I value listening to the public-- I believe that is important. But educational standards are not supposed to be based only on the public input-- and right now that is the only presentations we are allowing.

I want us to hear from doctors, health educators, therapists, early childhood experts and psychologists. There has been too much information thrown at us and represented to be "facts" when they are not facts. However, we expect board members to know the difference.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. And thank you Ryan for helping me figure out how to better articulate and demonstrate what I was trying to propose.

I am happy to answer questions.
Deborah



P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln NE, 68509-4987
P: (402) 471-5030
E: ryan.foor@nebraska.gov

From: Neary, Deborah <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 11:45 AM

To: Foor, Ryan <Ryan.Foor@nebraska.gov>

Subject: Re: SPPI ESSA Activity

I am confused about this email. This is not what we discussed for the agenda of the Strategic Planning meeting. Don't I have a say in the agenda before it is sent?

I have made plans to discuss the values statement that I wanted to discuss at the strategic planning meeting. And I want to discuss the process we will use. That is my biggest priority. Can we move Lane's info to another meeting? Is there a deadline for his work? Maybe you can call me and explain. Or am I confused about this? I don't know what SPPI stands for-- is it Strategic planning?

Deborah Neary, State Board of Education, District 8

402-215-9139 cell

Deborah.Neary@nebraska.gov

From: Foor, Ryan <Ryan.Foor@nebraska.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:53 AM

To: Neary, Deborah <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>; Morrison, Jacquelyn <jacquelyn.r.morrison@nebraska.gov>; Patricia Timm <patriciatimm04@gmail.com>; Timm, Patricia <Patricia.Timm@nebraska.gov>; Koch Johns, Patsy <Patsy.KochJohns@nebraska.gov>; Patsy Koch Johns (<pk.cozadlincolnthatre@gmail.com>) <pk.cozadlincolnthatre@gmail.com>

Cc: Carr, Lane <lane.carr@nebraska.gov>

Subject: FW: SPPI ESSA Activity

SPPI committee members, see the message below from Lane in preparation for Thursday's committee meeting.

Ryan M. Foor, Ph.D., R.P.
State Board Relations, Rules, and Regulations Officer
Commissioner's Office
P.O. Box 94987



Lincoln NE, 68509-4987
P: (402) 471-5030
E: ryan.foor@nebraska.gov

From: Carr, Lane <lane.carr@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 10:10 AM
To: Foor, Ryan <Ryan.Foor@nebraska.gov>
Subject: SPPI ESSA Activity

...

SPPI Committee,

During your Thursday committee meeting, we will be engaging in an activity to review third-party analyses of our [ESSA Plan](#). As Lane shared in March, NDE is building out a process for revision, and we seek some feedback on key policy decisions. During this activity, we'll be answering the questions:

- What stood out in the review? What was the most prominent finding in the analyses?
- What do we need to make sure to address in our revision?
- What themes cut across the reviews?

To help orient you to ESSA, if you have time before Thursday, please find this [50-state comparison of ESSA plans](#) from Education Commission of the States. During our meeting on Thursday, each of you will be given time to review the below "assigned" analysis. Feel free to review all of the analyses if you are so inclined!

Patsy – [Alliance for Excellent Education](#)

Jacquelyn – [Bellwether Education Partners](#)

Deb – [Urban League](#)

Pat – [Check State Plans](#)

Please reach out with any questions. We look forward to your feedback and findings from the activity.

Lane Carr
Director of Accountability
500 S. 84th St., 2nd Floor
Lincoln NE, 68510-2611
P: (402) 419-3012
E: lane.carr@nebraska.gov



From: [Neary, Deborah](#)
To: [Foor, Ryan](#)
Subject: Re: SPPI ESSA Activity
Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 11:59:32 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Dont you remember on our phone call that we discussed my desire to begin to work on the values statement and to begin discussing the process? You did not tell me I needed to also follow up in writing-- I thought we had that plan confirmed. I think the values statement is important as we make our health standards decision. I want to begin to discuss our values-- and I was planning on leading that discussion. It wont take long-- but how long is allocated for our meeting? We can begin some Essa discussion-- how long do we have for the meeting?

I would like to approve the agenda before it goes to anyone in the future. This committee doesn't feel like it is being led by the board as I thought was the intent of committees?

Deborah Neary, State Board of Education, District 8
402-215-9139 cell
Deborah.Neary@nebraska.gov

From: Foor, Ryan <Ryan.Foor@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 11:55 AM
To: Neary, Deborah <deborah.neary@nebraska.gov>
Subject: RE: SPPI ESSA Activity

I must have missed your agenda items...we can certainly postpone this agenda item. The thought was getting the committee's input on the ESSA plan revision going forward. Let me know what you would like to appear on the committee agenda instead.

We can talk more about agenda development going forward...

Ryan

Ryan M. Foor, Ph.D., R.P.
State Board Relations, Rules, and Regulations Officer
Commissioner's Office

