

**Learning Community Coordinating Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 17, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**1612 North 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68110**

**Learning Community Vision:** *That all children within the Learning Community achieve academic success without regard to social or economic circumstance.*

The subjects to be discussed or considered, or upon which any formal action may be taken, are as follows: \*\*

I. **Opening the Meeting:**

- a. **Call to order:** The regular September meeting of the Learning Community Coordinating Council is called to order on October 17, 2024, at 6 p.m.
- b. **Council Mission Statement:** Together with school districts and community organizations as partners, we demonstrate, share, and implement more effective practices to measurably improve educational outcomes for children and families in poverty.
- c. **Public Notice and Compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Law:** Public Notice was published in The Daily Record on October 11, 2024, and on the Learning Community Website.
- d. **Council Roll Call:** Present: Johnson, Shelton, Whitted, Hoeger, Rodriguez, Ward, Brady, Hall  
Excused: Brock, Hahn Quorum: Yes
- e. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Please stand and face the flag for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Public Comment:** Are there any public comments? There were no comments

III. **Reports:**

- a. **Chair Report:** Very pleased with the progress of this institution. South Center with OneWorld is holding fundraising. Lots of exciting things happen. We have super partners. We only have one meeting left in the year. We will have a special meeting on January 9 to swear in new council members and to vote for our leadership.
- b. **CEO Report:** We have done a very good job with the North Center and the accomplishments they have grown from 55 families to over 300 families. We do have a problem in hiring staff as we have a statute that limits us to 10% for salaries. We are working on getting this changed. He will be talking with senators to encourage them to attend. We have attended the CORE conference where co-chair Shelton led a breakout session. He is taking Spanish lessons. Last week we hosted a symposium on busing. The Omaha community never had an opportunity to speak on the busing issue for the community. NASB hosted a membership meeting that several attended and found a lot of opportunities for Council members to

attend and great prizes. We will have training for Council members starting in January.

Caden with the NASB spoke about the annual meeting in the CHI Health Center. He invited people to attend. He spoke to the Strategic Plan. Interviews' have occurred and surveys have gone out and received responses. He is looking forward to training the Council in January. The Strategic Plan is broken down into eight sections. They will have an interim plan. Hope is to have the full plan in January and will work with the Council for at least three months.

When Gerald first came in he discovered that an Employee Handbook needed work. LaToya spoke to the old handbook had more words than needed. It felt like a legal bible. We rewrote the handbook and added a policy on driving our vehicles. It is now readable and helps the staff to read and understand what we require.

As CEO he attended a very important round table with others to discuss the tax levy authority. He believes that 2025 will be trying times and we have a target on our back. He plans on working with our council members to meet with him and senators.

Lastly, he would like to recognize several council members for the time they have served on the Council and their terms are expiring.

- c. Treasurer Report: BF&A has two items on the consent agenda explaining the motions on the consent agenda. One is about a policy for contracts and billing us properly. We also will be doing audits of vendor invoices for contracting services. Our Finance Director picked up on the fact that we have not done this in the past. The second item on the consent agenda is that our bank accounts are to be divided from one account into three separate sweep accounts. This would be the General Fund, ELC, and Capital Projects. Currently, he is pulling balances manually, and with the new sweep accounts he can see the balances live. We also do not have a current investment policy that he is working on.
- d. Legal Counsel: John Dunn filled in for Margaret. Nothing to report.
- e. Foundation: We are working on recharging the Foundation. In the past, we have had a general miscommunication between the Foundation and the Council. The Foundation was formed as a support organization that comingled with the Council.

Whereas, a number of members of the Foundation Board have recently resigned leaving only one standing board member, Bryan Wilson and

Whereas, the Foundation By-laws call for a minimum of 5 board members, and

Whereas the Foundation By-laws call for the Chair of the Council or designate to serve as an Ex-Officio voting member, Mark Hoeger will serve, and the CEO will be an Ex-Officio non-voting member, Gerald Kuhn will serve.

Therefore, a motion to accept the resignations of Lorraine Chang and Carole Hahn from the

Foundation Board and to approve the appointment of Ken Bird and Tim Clark as Foundation Board members.

First: Hoeger Second: Shelton

Discussion: This is to stabilize the Foundation and to get things organized. Whitted mentioned that he had not heard of this before this meeting. This has not been discussed in any committee. **Whitted moves to amend the motion to table this at a future meeting.** Hoeger said he is submitting this motion to be compliant. Shelton asked for the criteria for finding board members on the Foundation. At this point, we are unsure but the current people suggested to be on the board will help the Foundation to enlarge.

Moved to vote: on the motion to amend the motion to table this at a future meeting. Yes: Johnson, Shelton, Whitted, Ward, Brady, Hall No: Hoeger, Rodriguez. Motion passed.

#### IV. **Consent Agenda:**

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on in the same motion.

- a. **Minutes of the September 19, 2024, meeting of the Council.**
- b. **BF&A Committee Recommends a Motion:** To approve the new Billing and Audit Procedure and that the wording be added to any new contracts.
- c. **BF&A Committee Recommends a Motion:** To allow the Finance Director to divide the current bank accounts from comingled funds into 3 separate insured Cash Sweeps (ICS) accounts.
- d. **Legislative Committee Recommends a Motion:** To approve the CEO to go into contract negotiations with Jensen Rogert for continuing services.
- e. **Legislative Committee Recommends a Motion:** To revise Section 2.2 of the Learning Community of Douglas & Sarpy Counties Policy & Procedures Manual: Section 2.2.1 language to say: The Coordinating Council shall have **five (5)** standing subcommittees: Budget, Finance & Audit (BF&A); Elementary Learning and Diversity (ELD); Legislation & Policy (LP); **Administration and Personnel**; and Executive Committee. Section 2.2.4a to read “The BF&A, ELD, LP, **Administration and Personnel** committees shall each be composed of not more than six (6) council members, one from each subcouncil district.” To revise section 2.3.4.a, to separate the duties of the Administration and Personnel subcommittee from the Executive Committee. (see redlined document).
- f. **Subcouncil 3 Recommends a Motion:** Authorizing the CEO to enter ELC programming agreements with Ralston Public Schools District Initiatives 2.0 for \$221,146.27 – Extended Learning.

#### V. **Motion: To approve the consent agenda as presented.**

First: Whitted, Jr Second: Rodriguez

Discussion: No discussion

Moved to vote: Yes: Johnson, Shelton, Whitted, Hoeger, Rodriguez, Ward, Brady, Hall No: N/A

Motion passed

#### VI. Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Elementary, Learning, and Diversity (ELD) subcommittee: Had a data walk and they presented great information and the posters are fantastic.
- b. Budget, Finance, and Audit subcommittee: No report
- c. Legislative subcommittee: No report
- d. Administration and Personnel subcommittee:

**Motion:** To approve the new Learning Community Handbook as presented.

First: Shelton Second: \_Rodriguez

Discussion: \_Has this been approved through legal? No, but we put it in plain English. Ward asked that we don't use so much ink on colored pages.

Moved to vote: Yes: Johnson, Shelton, Whitted, Hoeger, Rodriguez, Ward, Brady, Hall No: N/A. Motion passed\_

#### VII. Programming Update:

- a. Centers Updates – Lopez gave updates on both centers. South Center took 7 busloads to the Kiewit Luminarium and Kiewit gave over 100 free memberships. Also, had the first Spanish cohort of the Rooted in Relationships. They celebrated their first graduation on Sept 28. This cohort started in 2021. North Center has been hiring and we received a grant to purchase new furniture for the classrooms and outdoor space. Kids love everything. Twice a month have a family activity.

Ward asked this council to expand the South Center to serve those who speak something besides Spanish. Feels that One World bypasses her district's concerns. In recruiting efforts for the South Center do we reach out to those that speak other languages? In the latest survey, 94% spoke Spanish. ESL is one of the largest programs where we only teach in English. There are efforts for growth. We are working on aligning with the refugee community. Rodriguez when she spoke with families that ½ of the schools recommended them and ½ were recommendations from current families. We need to find out how to reach out to other languages.

- b. District Initiatives – Only two districts have not completed the DI 2.0 programs. Springfield Platteview needs Social Workers.

#### VIII. New Business:

- a. Strategic Planning Process/NASB – Discussion – Gave earlier in the meeting.
- b. Avenue Scholars has worked on the branding and will give a report in January. The partnership has rolled out on social media.
- c. Millard Public Schools was rolling out their plan at the school board meeting and the news heard about the excitement and they have asked Nayeli to give an interview.
- d. One World has offered to give flu shots to the staff. Thursday from 2-4 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at: 7:32 p.m.

**Next Meeting** – November 21, 2024, at 6 p.m. – Learning Community Center of North Omaha, 1612 North 24th Street, Omaha, NE 68110

**\*Executive/Closed Session:** If, during the meeting, a discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the council will conduct a closed meeting per the Nebraska Open Meetings Law.

**\*\*Sequence of Agenda:** The sequence of agenda topics is subject to change at the discretion of the Council. Please arrive at the beginning of the meeting.

**UPCOMING LEARNING COMMUNITY EVENTS:**

LC Coordinating Council	November 21, 2024, 6:00 p.m. Learning Community Center of North Omaha, 1612 N. 24th Street, Omaha, NE 68110
Subcouncil #1	TBA
Subcouncil #2	TBA
Subcouncil #3	TBA
Subcouncil #4	TBA
Subcouncil #5	TBA
Subcouncil #6	TBA

**HANDOUTS TO ACCOMPANY THIS AGENDA ARE AS FOLLOWS**

- Minutes from September 19, 2024, Coordinating Council Meeting
- CEO Report
- Financial Report
- LCCNO & LCCSO Center Reports
- LCDS Policy & Procedures Manual -red line version
- Mission/Vision Review