

# Minutes - February 11, 2009

New Hampshire State Board of Education  
State Department of Education  
101 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03301

C. Cocheco Arts and Technology Academy Charter School - Roberta Tenney introduced Jeanne Simons and Tom Julius of the Review Team and Rachel Williams, Chairman of the Cocheco Board and Christy Holmes, Executive Director of the Charter School. The Department of Education requests that the Board authorize the renewal of the charter for Cocheco Arts and Technology Academy Charter School. The renewal term is for seven years. Jeanne Simons from the Review Team presented the results of the review to the Board. This charter school was originally chartered in 2004. The school currently serves students in grades 9 through 12. The school has maintained its focus on arts education throughout its charter. Enrollment and funding are a problem for this school as it is with other charter schools. The inspection visit to the school was conducted on December 4, 2008. Inspectors collected data through parent, student, and teacher interviews, classroom observations and the review of school documents. Inspectors also interviewed the outgoing and incoming directors of the school, board members, and guidance staff. The inspection team observed 12 classes during the visit and used a common observation tool to gather evidence from the lessons. Rachel Williams, Chair of the Board for that school, and Christina Holmes, Director of the School, spoke to the Board.

Fred Bramante returned at 12:05 p.m. After a lengthy discussion where members discussed their concerns regarding this charter school, Board members took the following vote.

Motion: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by Fredrick Bramante, that the State Board of Education accept the reauthorization of the charter for the Cocheco Arts and Technology Academy Charter School with a proviso that there are issues to be examined and reported back to the State Board of Education in February 2011 regarding the Governing Board, Sustainability and Student Achievement.

Vote: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.