

## Home Education Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes –January 12, 2010

The regular meeting of the Home Education Advisory Council commenced at 3:45 p.m. on January 12, 2010 in room 12 of the Department of Education. Chairman Abbey Lawrence presided.

**Members Present:** Dennis Wyman, Abbey Lawrence, Barrett Christina, Paul Ingbretson, George D’Orazio, Mike Compitello, Chris Hamilton, Mike Benik, Marc Boyd, Keith Pfeifer, Deb Wiswell (DOE representative, in Roberta’s stead)

**Visitors present:** Mary Faiella, Dan Faiella, Elizabeth Landry, Gordon Shaw, Deidra Winslette, Rachel Winslette, Margaret Landry, Kristina Bolstridge, Elizabeth Faiella, Clint Smith, Nicholas Landry, Rebecca Gifford.

**Minutes:** The December 8, 2009 minutes were accepted by general consent.

Chris handed out a sample policy from the school boards association. She discussed a truancy case in which the parents and student were called to court due to an incorrect policy recommended by the school board association. The recommended policy will be corrected and reissued in the spring. Keith offered to assist in cases such as this.

Chris made the following motion, George seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

*I move that the council affirm that it is the understanding of the council that, under current law,\* a parent commencing a home education program may withdraw the child from public school prior to selecting and submitting written notification to a participating agency within five business days:*

*I also move that the council affirm that it is the understanding of the council that, under current law, district policies requiring a child to attend school until acknowledgement of notification is sent exceed the authority of the law, and are not enforceable.*

*I also move that the council recommend that the Department of Education draft a Technical Advisory stating such, and that this Technical Advisory be sent to all superintendents and chairs of school boards.*

*I further move that the chair of the council, Abbey Lawrence, be directed to send a letter to Virginia Barry, commissioner of education, advising her of the council’s recommendation.*

Chris made the following motion, Paul seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

*I move that the council affirm that it is the understanding of the council that with the passage of HB406 in 2006, Ed315.04 is no longer consistent with RSA 193-A:5 Notification. In recognition of this, the Initial Proposal for Ed315 dated 10/14/09 amends*

*Ed315.04 to remove the requirement to provide a description of the list of subjects and curriculum at the time of notification.*

*I also move that the council recommend that the Department of Education draft a Technical Advisory stating such, and that this Technical Advisory be sent to all applicable parties.*

*I further move that the chair of the council, Abbey Lawrence, be directed to send a letter to Virginia Barry, commissioner of education, advising her of the council's recommendation.*

**Other Discussion:** A public hearing on the proposed rules changes will be held at the state board meeting tomorrow. Abbey will testify about our discussions with the Commissioner and changes agreed to.

HB368 is to be voted on tomorrow – first vote is on the ITL recommendation from committee. Paul said so far as he knew sponsor Judy Day is not planning to bring any amendment.

Chris discussed HB154 having to do with truancy and requirement for progressive intervention.

Paul is sponsoring a bill to restate the right of parents to direct the education of their children. Hearing on January 21, 2010.

**Public comment**

Mary Faiella expressed concern about the truancy case discussed earlier.

An audience member was concerned that a judge had stated in a parental dispute that Christians too narrowly educate their child.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Dennis Wyman

\*193-A:5 Notification and Other Procedural Requirements. – A parent may provide home education to a child or children at home, subject to the following requirements:

I. (a) Any parent commencing a home education program for a child, for a child who withdraws from a public school, or for a child who moves into a school district shall notify the commissioner of the department of education, resident district superintendent, or principal of a nonpublic school of such within 5 business days of commencing the program.