

HOME EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes - February 12, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 3:37.

Members Present: Abbey Lawrence, Barrett Christina, Roberta Tenney, Rep. Bob Willette, Amy Gall, Marc Boyd, and Rep. Barbara Shaw.

JANUARY MINUTES

The January minutes were approved by general consent with the correction of Roberta's name in the DOE report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Abbey will not be here on the second week of April. At the March meeting members will be asked to decide if they prefer to have someone else chair it, or reschedule the meeting.

Abbey reported that she has heard from Mary Mayo regarding the rules that were approved at the January meeting. They are on the agenda for the State Board of Education meeting Wednesday, February 20th. Abbey intends to attend the meeting to promote the rules as presented.

Abbey reported that the House Education Committee voted 10-9 along party lines to recommend OTP on HB 251, to make legislative appointees to HEAC voting members of the Council. Rep Willette stated that he spoke against it and voted against it in Committee.

Abbey reported on an issue in which a homeschooled student in Keene who takes classes at the middle school was told she would be denied admission to a school dance. Subsequently the superintendent apologized to the parents and gave permission for the student to attend the dance.

Council discussion concluded that equal access law requires that restrictions on homeschoolers be no greater than on other students within a district.

Abbey reported about a case in Raymond. A home educator was informed that an evaluation would have to be submitted in order for the student to attend public school classes. The Council discussed whether a district can require an evaluation of a homeschooled student as a condition of participating in curricular and co-curricular programs.

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION REPORT

Roberta reported that she is still receiving calls about students who superintendents say are dropping out of school under cover of homeschooling law. Barrett said he is hearing similar concerns. Marc said he will look into this problem from the principals' perspective.

The Council discussed GEDs, the importance of alternative education plans for those students at risk of dropping out, and the unintended consequence of the extension of the age of compulsory attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council briefly discussed the path that the proposed revisions to Ed. 315 will take after their acceptance as the Initial Proposal before the State Board of Education. Abbey gave a copy of the proposed rules to each of the new legislative members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35.