

Home Education Advisory Council

Minutes – October 13, 2009

Chairman Abbey Lawrence called the regular meeting of the Home Education Advisory Council to order at 3:35 P.M. on October 13, 2009 in Room 12 of the Department of Education. A member of the audience made an audio recording of the meeting.

Members Present: Mike Benik, Marc Boyd, Barrett Christina, Michael Compitello, Chris Hamilton, Abbey Lawrence, Emma Rous, Roberta Tenney, and Dennis Wyman.

Visitors present: Keith Pfeifer, George D'Orazio, Kristine Bolstridge, Greg Bolstridge, Daniel Faiella, Mary Faiella, Michael Faiella, Jane Grady, Angela Lawrence-Hurt, Gordon Shaw, Dan Faiella, Rachel Winslette, Margaret Landry, Deirdra Winslette, Nicholas Landry, Nikki Powers, Caroline Landry, Elizabeth Landry

Organization of the Council: George and Keith participated in Council discussions although their membership status was pending. Keith's nomination is on the agenda for the October meeting of the Board of Education.

Minutes: The June and September minutes were accepted by general consent.

Legislative Report: Chris Hamilton briefly discussed a bill sponsored by Representative Bates and another sponsored by Representative Ingbretson. She also mentioned a legislative services request relative to removing a child from home on the grounds of abuse and neglect.

HB368: The notification subcommittee, chaired by Representative Yeaton, met at 1:00 today in Room 207. Representative Emma Rous reported that there was consensus among notification subcommittee members to clarify that the annual notification must be in writing. Representative Rous reported that there was some discussion about truancy concerns when there is failure to notify.

The superintendent survey subcommittee will meet at 10:00 A.M. on October 20 in Room 207. Representative Rous reported that she is in favor of conducting a survey of superintendents.

The House Education Committee will meet for a vote on HB 368 prior to the December 3 deadline for reporting on retained bills.

The role of the Council was discussed at some length.

DOE Report: Roberta reported that only one homeschooling program is reporting to the Department. She reported that she receives approximately two calls each day pertaining to homeschooling.

Abbey asked why grade level expectation and NECAP testing information is posted on the Department home education website page. Roberta replied that she believes this information provides guidance to homeschoolers.

Rules: The State Board of Education will discuss the initial proposal for changes to Ed315 at the October 14 meeting. Roberta stated that the only significant change made to the rules recommended by the Council is the Department's removal of the requirement that the parent's signature be on the evaluation.

Commissioner Virginia Barry joined the Council and discussed homeschooling and education with the Council members and guests.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.