

## Home Education Advisory Council

### Minutes –December 8, 2009

The regular meeting of the Home Education Advisory Council commenced at 3:45 p.m. on March 10, 2009 in room 12 of the Department of Education. Chairman Abbey Lawrence presided.

**Members Present:** Dennis Wyman, Abbey Lawrence, Roberta Tenney, Barrett Christina, Paul Ingretson, George D’Orazio, Mike Compitello, Chris Hamilton, Mike Benik, Marc Boyd

**Visitors present:** Mary Faiella, Dan Faiella, Jason Bond, Gordon Shaw, Deidra Winslette, Rachel Winslette, Margaret Landry, Sue Bell, Sarah Bell, Angela Lawrence-Hurt, Kristina Bolstridge.

The storm cancellation procedure for HEAC was reviewed.

If the State Board meeting is cancelled due to weather it will be announced on the radio as well as on the DOE web site.

Minutes for the November 10, 2009 meeting were approved by general consent.

The November 16 meeting between Abbey, Mike Compitello, and the Commissioner was discussed. The commissioner agreed to changes in the rules; however, their status is unknown.

The hearing on the rules before the State Board was discussed. The rules HEAC unanimously approved were significantly modified by the DOE before being submitted to the State Board. Roberta will print copies of the original for the State Board. Board Chairman John Lyons has recommended that testimony be kept on point and non-repetitive.

There was much discussion about breakdown in communication between HEAC and the Commissioner.

**DOE Report:** Roberta reported that superintendents sometimes tell parents they should home school due to problems at school such as bullying – a process sometimes referred to as “push-out.” Discussed 193.3 manifest hardship and placement in another school. The “sunset” question and how it affects HEAC was discussed.

Chris provided a legislative report.

Sarah Browning joined the meeting to discuss the process of getting rules to the State Board for adoption.

- She is sorry for the confusion but our rules were modified to become the

department's rules prior to getting to the commissioner.

- We made it clear that our function is to advise the commissioner and are concerned that the department's rules had been represented to the commissioner who assumed they had been provided by HEAC.
- Our concern is not so much that the DOE has differing opinions but that the HEAC recommendation did not get to the commissioner.
- Sarah went on to discuss the rulemaking process including the public hearings, etc.
- It is agreed that HEAC provide "advisories" directly to the commissioner as is our charter and that Abbey periodically meet with her for a general review.

The meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Dennis and Chris