

Home Education Advisory Council

Minutes—June 8, 2010

Chairman Abbey Lawrence called the regular meeting of the Home Education Advisory Council to order at 3:45 p.m. in Room 12 of Londergan Hall in Concord, New Hampshire.

Members Present: Mike Benik, Marc Boyd, George D’Orazio, Chris Hamilton, Abbey Lawrence, and Roberta Tenney.

Visitors present: Mary Faiella, and Jane Grady.

Minutes: The Council approved the minutes of the April 13, 2010 regular HEAC meeting by general consent.

Announcements:

- The Council meeting calendar for September 2010 through June 2011 is available at http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/school_improve/home_ed/2010-2011/index.htm. Room 12 of Londergan Hall is reserved for the September Council meeting. All other 2010-2011 Council meetings are scheduled for room 15 of Londergan Hall.

Chairman’s Report:

- Abbey discussed the following items from her April 14 annual report to the State Board of Education:
 - Daphne Kenyon suggested providing a link to HEAC minutes for State Board of Education members.
 - Abbey discussed inviting John Lyons to a meeting.
- HSLDA sent an announcement to its members classifying New Hampshire as a “high regulation” state for homeschoolers.

Ed 315 Discussion:

- JLCAR approved the final proposal of the rules with minor changes.
- Chris Hamilton and Abbey met with Paul Leather on June 4 to discuss future revisions to the rules. The due process section (Ed 315.17) needs to be revised. Chris will contact Mary Mayo to confirm that the due process section of the October 14, 2009 initial proposal will be the starting point for rules revisions discussions.

DOE Report:

- Roberta reported that distributing information to school districts throughout the state about revisions approved by the State Board of Education at its meeting tomorrow would take time.

- The Department is pursuing various grants. Roberta discussed the impact of current state budget difficulties. Federal moneys tied to specific federal initiatives fund at least 75% of New Hampshire Department of Education salaries.
- Roberta discussed a homeschooling issue that arose in April or May. The paternal grandmother of children who are homeschooled by their mother objected to the homeschooling program and filed charges of educational neglect with DCYF. The parents are divorced. Roberta explained to the grandparent that the program complied with state law and there was no evidence to support a charge of educational neglect.
- The Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) graduated nine students this spring.

Legislative Report: Chris Hamilton submitted a written legislative report.

Unfinished Business: Mary Faiella gave an update on House Address 1 and House Address 2 and the status of the *Kurowski v. Kurowski* appeal accepted by the New Hampshire Supreme Court (Case #0751).

- New Hampshire Supreme Court Index of Accepted Cases for November 2009:
http://www.courts.state.nh.us/supreme/accepted/2009/20091101_20091130_caseindexaccepted.pdf
- New Hampshire Supreme Court Report on Status of Cases
<http://www.courts.state.nh.us/supreme/sccaselist.pdf>

New Business: Chris will provide a list of topics for discussion at future Council meetings.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Grady
(substituting for Dennis Wyman)