

**Home Education Advisory Council  
Minutes—February 15, 2011**

Chairman Abbey Lawrence called the regular meeting of the Home Education Advisory Council to order at 3:40 p.m. in Room 12 of Londergan Hall in Concord, New Hampshire.

**Members Present:** Mike Benik, Representative Ralph Boehm, Marc Boyd, Senator James Forsythe, Chris Hamilton, Abbey Lawrence, Representative Joseph Pitre, Roberta Tenney, Dennis Wyman.

**Visitors present:** Jane Grady.

**Minutes:** The Council approved January 11, 2011 meeting minutes by general consent after Chris Hamilton made the following addition to the Legislative Report:

The Department of Education has \$0 budgeted for home education.

**Chairman's Report:**

*Council Membership:* Heather Wheeler is the HEAC representative for the Nonpublic School Advisory Council. Abbey reported that the Board of Education is not required to approve Council nominations.

*Senate Education and Finance Committee Presentation:* Senator Stiles sent a letter thanking Council members for the informative presentation of January 13.

*State Board of Education:* Abbey will make the annual Council report to the State Board of Education at their regularly scheduled April 13 meeting.

**DOE Report:** Roberta reported that there had been no activity.

**Legislative Report:** *HB301, HB545, HB595:* There were public hearings on February 8. All three bills were referred to a House Education subcommittee. The subcommittee met on February 8 and February 15. Future subcommittee meeting dates are: February 17, 22, and 24. The House Education Committee will meet in executive session on February 24 to review the subcommittee report. Representative Boehm believes it is likely that the three bills will be combined in a House Education subcommittee.

Council members discussed the following items:

Several Council members noted that each of these three bills abolishes the Council. Senator Forsythe commented that it is his opinion these bills simplify the process to the extent that the Council is unnecessary.

Each bill lacks a limitation of liability for elected school boards, public school districts, and public school district employees. (*see: RSA 193-A:9*)

Several Council members discussed references to "educational neglect" in HB301 and HB595. When asked how many DCYF cases involved homeschooling families, Roberta Tenney replied that during her service at the DOE, there had been one case, about four or five years ago.

**Unfinished Business:**

*ED 315:* The Ed 315 revision subcommittee had not met since the January Council meeting. There was nothing further to report.

**New Business:** There was no new business before the Council.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m. Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Grady

Correction: At the March 8 Council meeting, the minutes were accepted with note that the February meeting was held in Room 15.