

Home Education Advisory Council
September 10, 2015
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by chair, Amy Gall, at 3:43pm in Room 101A at 101 Pleasant Street, Concord.

Members present: Mike Compitello, George D’Orazio, Jen Pereira, Amy Gall, Heather Gage, Marc Boyd.

Guests: Ellie Riel

Minutes: The minutes of the June 11, 2015 meeting were accepted by general consent.

Election of officers: Amy was nominated as chair by George, seconded by Mike; Mike was nominated as vice-chair by Heather, seconded by George; George was nominated as secretary by Heather, seconded by Marc.

The vote to elect was unanimous.

Chairman’s report:

- Amy presented the HEAC Annual Report to the State Board on August 5th. It was a compilation of the meeting minutes re-organized into broad themes. It was well received by the Board. Board members asked clarifying questions and stated a willingness to work with the Council to develop non-legislative solutions to issues we face.
- Vacant Council Seats: Amy reported about her conversation with Carl Ladd of the NH School Administrators Association. Heather will also speak with people she knows. The DOE Director of Higher Education will again reach outside the department to fill the second DOE seat; this seat has been filled for several years by a professor from NHTI.
- Form A12E has been revised as previously distributed to Council members.
- NHPR: Amy discussed her interview with Rick Ganley, and the invitation to interview on The Exchange.
- Amy reported that a NHHC Rep wanted to know what happens to the termination letters sent to the Commissioner. Ellie reported that a letter of acknowledgement from the Commissioner is sent, and the letters are kept in a confidential file.

Department of Education report:

- Heather reported that she and Amy will go over the Graduation Statement on the website after the meeting today.
- She also reported being contacted by a parent who wanted to have a student take classes at the local public school only on Mondays and Thursdays. The high school balked because the student will not be there for the full class and will miss out on important instruction. The Council was unanimous that this request is outside the scope of the law, it is not dual enrollment, and it would require the district to have different rules for this student than for their own resident pupils.
- Heather asked when the rules must be revised. The rules were last revised effective March 27, 2014. Rules usually expire after 10 years, unless a change in the RSA makes the rule inaccurate.
- Heather asked about the interaction between the homeschool Council seats and the homeschooling community. We discussed the roles of the different homeschool organizations in the state and the dissemination of information from HEAC to keep NH homeschoolers informed.
- Heather reported that a family contacted the Department looking to sign up with a “homeschool co-op” and weren’t interested in doing any of the education themselves. On August 5th the co-op director was at the DOE seeking nonpublic school status w/Dr. Fillion and signed a document stating that he is not a homeschool co-op.
- Heather reported that Dr. Judith Fillion is retiring in November.

Old Business:

- Form A12E has been completed.
- The Graduation Statement on the DOE website will be ready before the next Council meeting.
- Heather reported follow up of a previously discussed issue: Children were attending public school with signs of abuse and neglect. DCYF was contacted, investigated, set parameters to make the environment safe for the children, and the case was closed. When the problems started again a couple months later DCYF was contacted again, and the parents removed the children from public school by filing a homeschool NOI. To Heather’s knowledge, the children are now re-enrolled in public school.

New Business: VLACS: Amy spoke with Scott Prescott from VLACS regarding the confusion between VLACS and homeschooling .She is waiting to hear back from him about possibly attending a Council meeting.

Adjournment: 4:56 pm