

# Home Education Advisory Council

April 14, 2016

## Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Home Education Advisory Council was called to order at 3:40pm in Room 15 of Londergan Hall.

**Members present:** Marc Boyd, Christine Mukai, Amy Gall, Mike Compitello, George D'Orazio, Jen Pereira, Glenn Cordelli     **Guest:** Cara Barlow

**Minutes:** The March minutes were accepted by general consent.

**Chairman's Report:** Amy reported that a parent contacted her seeking clarification because an HSLDA paralegal he had spoken to previously was vague about NH requirements and made homeschooling in NH sound more intimidating than in TX or VA where the family had lived previously; they also told him that an annual portfolio review by the participating agency was required. He also asked if the state of NH would disallow the curriculum that the children were using. Amy discussed rights and responsibilities under the law so that he would better understand what is expected in NH. Mike noted that he would speak to his contact at HSLDA to clear up any confusion they might have about NH home education law.

Amy reported that she also heard from a social services agency on behalf of a homeschooling parent who had contacted them for help with an equal access situation. The elementary-age child is being home educated this year, and had been also enrolled in some public school classes which didn't work out because of the child's hyperactivity. The school is in charge of dispersing scholarships for the local Rotary Club for students to attend the Sargent Camp. The parent had contacted Rotary for a scholarship, because they raise the funds, but Rotary referred them to the scholarship program through the school; the school told the parent that only enrolled students are eligible for scholarship funds. Marc suggested that the equal access issue be addressed at the upcoming annual NH School Administrators' Association workshop. Amy will look into this.

Amy reported about the satisfactory resolution of an equal access issue between a home educator and a public school district.

She also reported about contacts she had with public online charter school students seeking social support through homeschool groups.

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPORT:** There was no report as Heather was unable to attend the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was discussion about how to reach out to NH homeschool groups with wide or diverse memberships in order to involve a greater spectrum of homeschoolers on the Council. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Following up on a discussion from the March meeting, Marc made a motion (seconded by George) to schedule a meeting room each month from September through June, but to schedule meetings in advance only in Sept., Nov., Jan., Mar., and May. The chair may call meetings in the other months as required by issues at hand. This will be done on a trial basis next year. The motion passed unanimously

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was discussion concerning the quorum necessary to conduct business. This will be taken up again at the next meeting. At present, the law and rules do not specify a quorum.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.