

Home Education Advisory Council
June 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes
DRAFT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Amy Gall, at 3:43pm in Room 12 of 101 Pleasant Street, Concord.

Members Present: Barrett Christina, Mike Compitello, George D'Orazio, Jen Pereira, Amy Gall, and Heather Gage.

Minutes: The minutes of the May meeting were accepted by general consent.

Chairman's Report:

Amy reported that she received a phone call from a parent she had spoken with about initiating a home education program back in October. The parent was seeking information on conducting her annual evaluation. The student had taken all of her courses through VLACS. Amy advised the parent that according to RSA 193-A, a majority of the home education must be provided by the parent. Since the entire program was provided by VLACS it was not homeschooling. The parent was advised to terminate the home education program, to note in the termination letter that the child received all of their education through VLACS, and to contact VLACS to determine if they require any further assessment or evaluation.

Department of Education Report:

Heather Gage, appointed to replace Roberta Tenney who has retired, introduced herself and was given some background about purpose of HEAC and the homeschooling organizations represented on it.

Old Business

Graduation statement: After hearing about HEAC's concerns with the graduation statement posted on the DOE website, Heather asked Amy for a copy of the statement requested by HEAC along with the one that was posted. She will attempt to resolve this issue.

Form A12E: A revised version of the form will be ready in September.

HEAC nominations: Heather Gage is the new Department of Education HEAC representative. The seats representing the School Administrators and the Non Public School Advisory Council are still vacant.

Possible change in meeting day: Amy will send out a Doodle poll to the HEAC members to see what day works best for the majority.

New Business

Barrett reported that he gets an increasing number of phone calls from school districts wondering where the line is between homeschooling and public schooling when students are taking high school courses or career and tech ed. The issue is that the tuition bill for homeschoolers using career and tech centers goes back to the local school district. Because there is an apparent lack of clarity pertaining to homeschool students and state funding in this area, district budgets can be adversely affected. Heather wondered if the law is clear enough for the DOE to create a technical advisory; a policy statement could keep this issue from needing a legislative remedy.

A number of questions were raised in regard to the relationship of VLACS to the homeschooling community. It was decided that a representative of VLACS should be invited to a Council meeting in the autumn.

Heather reported that she had received a call from a school district which had referred a family to DCYF due to a student coming to school with multiple instances of bruising and not being fed at home. The parents became upset and started homeschooling to avoid further scrutiny. The school district contacted Heather to find out if there was anything more than can be done to follow up on the child, and thought perhaps there need to be rules to prohibit the initiation of a home education program during the course of ongoing abuse/neglect investigations.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.