

Home Education Advisory Council

Minutes--April 16, 2013

Abbey Lawrence called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

Members Present: Barrett Christina, George D’Orazio, Dennis Wyman, Abbey Lawrence, Roberta Tenney, Marc Boyd, Amy Gall, and Representative Robert Willette.

Minutes

There was no meeting in March. Minutes of the February 12, 2013 meeting were accepted by general consent.

Chairman’s Report:

Abbey reported that she is scheduled to give her annual report to the State Board of Education in June and asked for input. She will report on allegations of “push-out,” as well as the concern of some superintendents that some parents are using the homeschool law to allow their children to drop out of school. There was discussion about both issues.

Abbey asked whether local school districts receive federal funds for homeschooled students. Roberta didn’t believe that districts get any adequacy funds from the state for homeschooled students taking classes; Barrett stated that federal special education money goes not to the school district but to the state.

Department Report:

Last year Roberta posted a technical advisory about the change in the law to one-time only notification, but she expressed concern that the law does not state it as clearly as that.

Abbey stated that programs no longer expire on August 1. “Any parent commencing a home education program for a child” is the only language left, so it is assumed that a program, once commenced, remains in place unless it is terminated.

New Business:

Barrett asked about homeschooled students who want to take a class or participate in extracurricular activities being required to provide an immunization record. It was generally agreed that such students must abide by the requirement that they submit a record of immunizations or have a waiver as defined by law.

Barrett reviewed the NHSBA Sample Policy regarding superintendent review of the annual homeschool evaluation. If parents elect to have the school district conduct the annual evaluation, the superintendent will review the results to be sure the evaluation is complete.

Abbey stated that the policy needs to make clear that the evaluation cannot be used to terminate a homeschool program. Barrett welcomes suggestions; he will revise the policy before distributing it to school districts electronically.

Rep. Willette stated that he has heard that some homeschoolers want a diploma and have trouble enrolling in a post-secondary school. He wondered if there could be a state homeschool diploma that states the student has met the homeschool requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20.