

HOME EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes--January 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 pm.

Members Present: Mike Compitello, Abbey Lawrence, Mike Benik, Dennis Wyman, Amy Gall, Barrett Christina, Marc Boyd, and Roberta Tenney

Guests: Jane Grady and Heidi Benik

Minutes

Jane Grady checked the visitor record upstairs for the last name of a guest at December's meeting. Amy made a suggestion to change the document to reflect "Minutes" instead of "Agenda". The corrected minutes were accepted by general consent.

Chairman's Report

Abbey recently emailed Sarah Fox regarding her attendance at a HEAC meeting in the future. A meeting with her may be helpful to our group because of her experience working with truancy in the court system.

Abbey asked Roberta to schedule the Council's annual report to the State Board of Education in June. Some corrections are needed to update the Council membership on the DOE website; Abbey will email the changes to Roberta.

Public Input

Abbey asked Jane Grady to speak regarding a homeschooling family that was contacted by DCYF with alleged complaints about educational neglect, general neglect, and hygiene. Jane sent the family the contact information for Lorraine Bartlett, the DCYF representative who visited a HEAC meeting last year to explain DCYF procedures, and Mike Compitello sent advice

about the parents' rights. The family spoke with an attorney from Home School Legal Defense Association. Mike Compitello stated that HSLDA provides representation only for homeschooling issues, but will give advice on other issues.

Department of Education Report

Roberta relayed a superintendent's concern over parents using homeschooling law to get around compulsory attendance for students under 18. There ensued a lengthy discussion about homeschooling law in this and other states; about whether the former requirement of 193-A to submit a curriculum would prevent people from using the law who do not intend to homeschool; and about Childfind and alternative education programs. Several members were interested in hearing about home education legislative solutions in other states.

Legislative Report

Amy contacted Rep. Mary Gile, the sponsor of an LSR released in December. Rep. Gile stated that her intention is to reinstate the voting rights of legislative members on HEAC in order to encourage them to attend HEAC meetings and to make them feel like valued members of the Council. She originally had another purpose related to encouraging superintendents to enact homeschool policies, but she has scrapped that part of the bill.

New Rules

Mike Compitello distributed copies of the proposed revisions to Ed. 315 with changes suggested at the December meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed rules. The motion passed unanimously. Mike Compitello then sent the new rules to Mary Mayo.

New Business

There was a discussion about the School Boards Association model policies. Barrett will bring proposed revisions in those policies to the March Council meeting for comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 pm.

