

**Nonpublic School Advisory Council (NSAC) Meeting
NH Department of Education
December 4, 2015
Minutes**

Nonpublic School Advisory Council (NSAC) members present were Bill Bennett, Lisa Braiterman, Kent Bicknell, Judith Fillion, Fr. John Fortin, Laurie Hurd, Rick Johnson, Lyn Kutzelman, Gregg Magoon, David Parker, and Patricia Tilley. Janelle Cotnoir, Claire Doody, Linda Johnson, and Karen Simmons were unable to attend. Sarah Fox was present to represent Eileen Mullen. Mary Kuechenmeister from Story Preservation was a guest presenter. Gina Powers from Rath, Young & Pignatelli was available to comment on the abuse reporting law, RSA169-C: 3, XXVII-a change which became effective in 2014.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Braiterman at 10:10 a.m. The chairperson requested a motion be made to approve the meeting agenda. Bill Bennett moved to approve the agenda, and Judy Fillion seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Lisa requested a motion to approve the September 25 minutes. Sarah Fox asked that Eileen Mullen's name be added to the list of attendees. The correction was made. Judy Fillion made the motion to approve the minutes, and Rick Johnson seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Mary Kuechenmeister gave a brief presentation on 'Story Preservation', an oral history educational resource based in Andover, New Hampshire. It is a project based multi-disciplinary program for teaching reading and writing language skills. The Story Preservation initiative Learning Lab is available to anyone, anywhere after January 2016, for \$600/yr. The stories get students' attention, and keep them involved. It is geared toward middle and high school students.

Mary described several projects, including one about the Holocaust. Another multi-disciplinary project offered at Franklin High School introduced poetry writer Wes McNair which led to a creative writing activity.

Handouts were available and more information is available at the web site: www.StoryPreservation.org.

Gina Powers initiated a conversation on modifications to the New Hampshire reporting statute RSA 169-C: 3, XXVII-a. A significant change in law regarding reporting of sexual relations between students under age 16 was discussed at length. "Romeo & Juliet" status or student consensual sex is now clearly a reporting responsibility of knowledgeable adults.

The use of the morning after pill, if issued by school the nurse, would have to be reported as it indicates sexual activity. Use of Internet or electronic devices for communication regarding sexual content among 13-18 year old students is also reportable. It was suggested to Mirandize students so they could still seek medical care without full disclosure. Schools may want to review the checklist with their councils. Lisa Braiterman mentioned the Brewster Academy Boarding School's meeting with legislature, which helped clarify the issues. Several council members expressed concern that the law would discourage student reporting because of mandatory parental notification. The Council was also alerted to pending legislation regarding "healthy relationships".

As a follow up to a previous discussions on the lack of clarity regarding Administrative Rule ED 405.01 (Identification of recognized agencies for Program Approval, Rick Johnson provided a handout on proposed changes to the rule. Rick stated that the revision should be more explicit around the visitation requirement to each school seeking accreditation (405.01(C) (01) (f)).

ED 405.01 d is explicit, stating that the NSAC makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education. It was suggested that the word "report" replace "recommendation", so the State Board makes recommendation based on the report of the Council. Online schools as well as definitions of school were mentioned and discussion ensued. It was decided that the revisions would be given to the department lawyer for input and edits. Rick and his committee members were thanked for their work on this proposal. Kent Bicknell made a motion to send revisions to Department Of Education council for review. Lyn Kutzelman seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Bill Bennett mentioned the upcoming New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, December 9-11, 2015. It was suggested that attendees report back on the conference topics.

A reminder for nonprofit schools to file with Secretary of State by December 30, 2015 deadline was shared by Linda Johnson.

Kent Bicknell mentioned a great educational blog: Peter Neilson blog weekly. He will send members a link to the blog. He described it as full of character, technical data, education updates.

Dave Wolowitz and Linda Johnson presented at a local conference on the changes in the New Hampshire abuse reporting statute.

The next two meeting dates are March 4, 2016 and May 6, 2016.

Agenda items for next meeting:

Update to Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to provide services to nonpublic schools. Further clarification will be provided by Department staff.

NEASC conference report

On-line learning/cybersecurity

Virtual Learning Academy Charter Schools (VLACS) – Lisa Braiterman will invite a guest from VLACS

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.