

Nonpublic School Advisory Council (NPSAC) Meeting

NH Department of Education, Concord, NH

February 11, 2011

Present: Doug Cummings, Bill Bennett, Brian Bell, Steve Poirot, David Parker, Mary Moran, Patricia Tilley, Judith Fillion, Ed Murdough (arrived 10:50), Leslie Higgins, Marie Morgan

Guests: Tracy LaChance with Rath, Young, Pignatelli Law Firm; Linda Johnson with McLane Law Firm; LuAnn Speikers with NHDHHS; Marjorie Yin with NHDES; Tom Tracy, Navigating the Real World, Inc. (NtRW), President

The meeting began at 10:15. LuAnn Speikers with the NH Department of Health & Human Services' Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (HHLPPP) was the first speaker. Ms. Speikers explained the EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule which went into effect April 2010. The RRP Rule requires contractors performing renovation, repair and painting projects that **disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978** be lead-safe certified by EPA approved training providers and follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. This Rule also applies to private school housing for families with children under the age of 6. Companies approved as Lead-Safe Certified are listed on the EPA website. For more information Ms. Speikers can be reached at lspeikers@dhhs.state.nh.us or 1.800.897.5323. The EPA can be contacted at 800.424.5323. Related EPA websites are: www.epa.gov/getleadsafe and www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm.

Marjorie Yin spoke next about the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). Ms. Yin is a NH AHERA Inspector with the NH Department of Environmental Services. The following information is from the EPA website: http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/asbestos_in_schools.html.

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), a provision of the Toxic Substances Control Act, became law in 1986. *AHERA requires local education agencies to inspect their schools for asbestos-containing building material and prepare management plans to prevent or reduce asbestos hazards. **Public school districts and non-profit private schools are subject to AHERA's requirements. This includes charter schools and schools affiliated with religious institutions.***

The AHERA rules require local education agencies to take actions to:

- *Perform an original inspection and re-inspection every three years of asbestos-containing material;*
- *Develop, maintain, and update an asbestos management plan and keep a copy at the school;*
- *Provide yearly notification to parent, teacher, and employee organizations regarding the availability of the school's asbestos management plan and any asbestos abatement actions taken or planned in the school;*

- *Designate a contact person to ensure the responsibilities of the local education agency are properly implemented;*
- *Perform periodic surveillance of known or suspected asbestos-containing building material;*
- *Ensure that properly-accredited professionals perform inspections and response actions and prepare management plans; and*
- *Provide custodial staff with asbestos-awareness training.*

Recently a private school in Keene, NH was fined by the EPA due to deficiencies in the school's asbestos management program and recordkeeping. Ms Yin can be reached at 271-4555 or marjorie.yin@des.nh.gov. She hopes to visit all NH schools.

Tom Tracy next spoke about a Maine program, Navigating the Real World, Inc. (NtRW), This is a nonprofit organization begun in 2008. Its focus is to help young adults deal with important life decisions and challenging circumstances. NtRW provides information to teenagers, guidance counselors, and others to prepare students for life after high school. The organization has established a NH Advisory Committee and has plans to expand into the other New England states. More information is available at www.navigatingtherealworld.org or ttracy@navigatingtherealworld.org.

The December 2010 NPSAC Meeting Minutes were approved.

There was a review of some bills introduced in the NH legislature including two which impact school year calendars.

There was a discussion on the "blizzard bag" program. A few private schools are asking for approval of their online/home study programs to make up days lost due to inclement weather, etc.

Attendees discussed the possibility of another conference. There was a consensus that any conference be held before May.

Leslie Higgins and Ed Murdough noted that some new and more established schools are closing early due to budget issues. In some cases they are not giving us much notice. Should we require some type of bonding? Although it is a situation of "Buyer Beware", is there anything else the Department should be doing to help parents? Should the Council be involved in the approval of new schools?

Mary Moran noted that agents are aggressively pushing schools to accept foreign students. Several attendees shared their experience with foreign students at their schools. It was suggested that a workshop be scheduled to help schools understand the pros and cons of accepting foreign students.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.

Submitted by Marie Morgan.