

Nonpublic School Advisory Council (NPSAC) Meeting
NH Department of Education, Concord, NH
March 28, 2012

Present: Claire Doody, Linda Johnson, Deborah Krajcik, Lyn Kutzelman, Gregg Magoon, Eileen Mullen, David Parker, Claire Pstragowski, Tricia Tilley, Ed Murdough, Leslie Higgins, Marie Morgan

Guests: Nancy Childress for Deb Connell, Gina Rotondi with the Rath, Young, and Pignatelli Law Firm, NHSP Trooper Cathy McHugh, NHSP Lt. William Haynes

This meeting was held at the Walker Building located at 21 South Fruit St. in Concord.

Ed Murdough opened the meeting at 10:15 am. Attendees introduced themselves. The newest member on the Council, Gregg Magoon from *The Contoocook School* was welcomed.

The two guests from NH State Police Troop G (603.223.877) spoke about state and federal school bus requirements. In the past private schools were not checked; however, this has changed. A new law requires a Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) for 16 (driver + 15) passenger vans. The NH Division of Motor Vehicles Licensing Bureau CDL online manual has a flow chart with driver requirements. Training on these requirements is offered on the first Tuesday of each month at the DMV auditorium at 23 Hazen Drive at 6:30pm. See *Attachment 1 for more information*.

Tricia Tilley spoke about the NH Early Childhood Advisory Council or SPARK NH. The Council was required by federal law in 2007. In January 2010 Gov. Lynch appointed members to a Steering Committee to create the Council. In September 2011 Spark NH was enacted by Executive Order. The Council's 20 members hope to strengthen the coordination and collaboration among a wide array of early childhood services and programs across the State. The Council presently has more than 100 participants on its seven committees: Communications, Evaluation, Data, Needs Assessment, Policy, Quality, and Workforce/Professional Development. The Committee Chairs meet every other month on the 4th Friday. The last meeting was held on March 23, 2012 from 1:00 – 3:00pm at 2 Delta Drive in Concord. For more information visit: <http://www.earlylearningnh.org/who/news.php> (now) and www.sparknh.org later when the site is developed.

Ed Murdough asked if the new Council would be a good forum to address the lack of guidelines for private prekindergarten programs. Trish strongly agreed it was. She did note that although the Council has participants from public child care programs, the private sector where the majority of NH children attend are not represented.

Trish noted that she is co-ordinating with Patti Ewen, the NH Department of Education's Early Childhood Consultant. DHHS has provided Patti with funds to develop and distribute parenting kits.

The NPSAC Meeting Minutes for February 2012 were approved after a motion by Linda Johnson and a second by Lyn Kutzleman.

Ed Murdough noted that House Bill 1607 and Senate Bill 372 have both crossed over for review by the other legislative body. These 2 bills address the private school scholarships funded by business tax credits. There are concerns on how and when this program would be established if it is voted into law.

House Bill 1167 would remove any reference to the number of days or hours a NH school must be in session. A school's calendar would be determined by its school board.

House Bill 1360 began with wording to abolish the Department of Education. It has been amended to have the role of the State Board of Education replaced by the Legislature.

Linda Johnson noted that House Bill 1201 which would have taxed Pinkerton Academy was voted Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL).

House Bill 1308 would expand the "Right to Know" law to nonprofit organizations. It was approved overwhelmingly. There is concern this could have a ripple effect impacting public and private schools, hospitals, and other organizations receiving any public funds.

Ed noted that Administrative Rule Ed 400, Approval of Nonpublic Schools, expires Jan. 1, 2013 which means any changes must be submitted before late summer. It will be too late to delay a Council review until September. He suggested the NPSAC meet one more time just to review Ed 400. Attendees agreed to schedule a meeting on Wed. May 9, 2012.

Ed 400 is at Attachment 2. A list of sections which merit more attention is at Attachment 3.

Attendees discussed:

- Ed 404.01, High school diplomas for "public" students attending a private SPED approved school;
- Ed 407.01, Maintaining student records after a student leaves; and
- Ed 406.02(a), The NPSAC position reserved for a Department of Safety (DOS) employee being filled by a public principal or superintendent.

Attendees agreed with changing the DOS position to one filled by a public school administrator.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.

Submitted by Marie Morgan

Attachment 1- School Bus info

Attachment 2 - Ed 400, Approval of Nonpublic Schools

Attachment 3- Ed 400 Revision Considerations