

Non Public School Advisory Council (NPSAC) Meeting
NH Department of Education
Londergan Hall – Room 15
March 4, 2016
10:00 a.m.
Minutes

Nonpublic School Advisory Council (NSAC) members present were Bill Bennett, Lisa Braiterman, Kent Bicknell, Janelle Cotnoir, Claire Doody, Judith Fillion, Fr. John Fortin , Linda Johnson, Rick Johnson, Gregg Magoon, Eileen Mullen, and David Parker. Laurie Hurd, Lyn Kutzelman and Patricia Tilley were unable to attend. Department of Education staff present included Heather Gage, Diana Fenton, Ron Leclerc Jane Levesque, and Erin McIntyre. Guests from Virtual Learning Academy Charter Schools (VLACS) were Steve Kossakoski, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer and Gary Tirone, first principal of VLACS. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Braiterman at 10:08 a.m. The chairperson requested a motion be made to approve the meeting agenda. Eileen Mullen moved to approve the agenda, the motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

A motion to approve meeting minutes of December 4, 2015 was requested. Karen Simmons made a motion to correct the attendance to reflect that she was not in attendance at the December 4, 2015. With that change made, Kent Bicknell motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Judith Fillion, motion carried with two abstaining votes.

Steve Kossakoski gave a presentation on Virtual Learning Academy Charter Schools (VLACS). He spoke about the history, pathways, student enrollments , and the focus on helping students achieve at their own pace. They opened in Spring 2008 and serve middle and high school students. New Hampshire students have no tuition cost. Started with 2 enrolled students and have 24,000 students enrolled today, half being New Hampshire residents. Adult education courses

Gary Tirone talked about enrollment, courses, competencies, flexibility to sign up for certain competencies, traditional graduation ceremony, parent inclusion and the 1:1 work environment with each student. Their website is www.VLACS.org .

Many questions were asked concerning credits being accepted at receiving schools, teacher qualifications and trainings, number of students and instructors, alignment to Common Core competencies, and process for registering. A contact was given to answer further questions: Kyle Cote Kcote@vlacs.org . Steve would love to come back to a future Council meeting and continue the discussion.

Heather Gage, Chief of Staff for the Department Of Education gave a brief overview of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which goes into effect school year 2017-18. She invited members to let the Department Of Education know if they would like to be on any committee. A handout from the National Title I Conference was introduced, but due to time constraints, Heather offered to come to another meeting and continue the discussions.

Ron Leclerc from the Department of Education gave information on the tax credit scholarship that the Department of Revenue administers. He spoke of a bill in process to repeal the tax credit scholarship, but it isn't expected to pass because it has minimal impact.

Department Of Education legal representatives, Erin McIntyre and Diana Fenton spoke briefly on restraint and seclusion law RSA126-U; and the fact that they affect and apply to nonpublic schools. Rules are now complete; and now will be working on how to collect the reporting requirements.

Diana will work on the wording on the change requested for administrative rule 405-c regarding accrediting agencies.

Gina Powers spoke of legislative changes on funding availability; and Districts paying for nonpublic student tuition

A bill in process would make it legal. She spoke about Ban the Box campaign by civil rights groups and advocates for ex-offenders, trying to remove the box asking potential employees if they have a criminal record. Criminal background checks were discussed.

Emergency response plans were brought up for discussion and it was asked why no technical support was offered by the state. Nonpublic schools had not been invited to participate. They receive emails, but the emails are addressed to superintendents. We will follow up with the department's emergency response administrator for Bureau of School Safety and Management Facility and invite her to attend our next meeting. A bus issue between Mt. Sunapee and a nonpublic bus driver was mentioned. No issues ensued from that incident.

Topics for conferences were discussed and included adult and student safety and risk management.

Next meeting date is May 6, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Vans MFSABs 15 passengers or more...

KB: Hosted conferences

Committee talk, trustees, huge missteps, proactive would serve us well.

LJ: trends institutional teams-analyze (Phillips Exeter)

Adult and student safety; risk management, focusing on one or two issues;

KB: NEASC creditation; risk management is huge

LB: St. Paul's testimony (risk management)

Smaller schools more hands on; issues could be completely different;

Risk Management- Heather Gage

FrJF: bathrooms issues---gender identified on birth certificate

LJ: videotape law does not apply to nonpublic schools.

Name tent for Gina Powers?

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am

Next meeting date: May 6, 2016

