

Non Public School Advisory Council (NPSAC) Meeting Agenda

NH Department of Education

Londergan Hall – Room 15

May 6, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Minutes

Nonpublic School Advisory Council (NSAC) Members present include Kent Bicknell, Lisa Braiterman, Claire Doody, Fr. John Fortin, Judith Fillion, Rick Johnson, and Patricia Tilley. Laurie Hurd, Linda Johnson (represented by Meg Bateman), Lyn Kutzleman, Gregg Magoon, Eileen Mullin (represented by Sarah Fox), Dave Parker, and Karen Simmons were unable to attend. Jay Stroud attended representing NEASC, Gina Powers from Pignatelli, Roth and Young was available for comment on changes in RSAs. Rich Farrell, Marjorie Schoonmaker, and Jane Levesque were representatives of the Department of Education.

The meeting was called to order by Judy Fillion at 10:20a.m. Not having a quorum present, the minutes from March 4, 2016 and today's agenda could not be held to a vote to accept. Judy introduced Rich Farrell, investigator of teacher misconduct for the Department of Education.

Rich gave a presentation on investigating certified educator misconduct with a focus on Senate Bill 152, which would require state police to disclose the results of a criminal records check to school officials. He mentioned training as cause in the rise of number of complaints, especially in regards to new teachers. Social media such as Facebook should not be utilized between students and staff. An updated list of revoked educators was given to members and NASDTEC-the national clearinghouse of revoked credentials was mentioned. USA Today ran an article on states' reporting records. New Hampshire's list is accurate, though some information is vague.

Rich gave examples of misconduct and how the new proposed legislation, SB 152, will be helpful when screening new employees, allowing more information on convictions.

Title II Child Protection Act carries serious implications if school officials fail to report to parents and police sexual contact involving students whether consensual or not. Guidance counselors are not able to maintain confidentiality with students. They have to report. This Act carries unintended consequence for children needing assistance or having medical needs that indicate sexual contact.

ED 1200 How to work through RSA 126 was detailed. The principal has to make report, document, update, investigate, and file their findings. Rich suggested the report be detailed and thorough. They send their information to local police and Department of Education if it is not a residential issue.

Discussion ensued. Concerns included possible repercussions or defamation charges against reporting agent for the nonpublic school, proper procedure, availability of the revocation list, which is available to the public, but is not available on the Department of Education's website. Revocation will not inform

potential employers if the applicant is not certified in the State of New Hampshire, so nonpublic schools must rely on references from past employers.

Marjorie Schoonmaker was introduced by Judy Fillion. She spoke about Emergency Operations Plans and the federal grant that is currently providing training to public schools in New Hampshire. A future training may be opened to nonpublic schools, but the intent of this grant is to help public schools. Marjorie offered to send out template detailing emergency plans and what is required to be in place.

Discussion revolved around real-time notification to schools of incidences in surrounding area (SB370), trouble with local responders, and Cop Sync programs.

Judy spoke of update to 405 administrative rule processes and stated that the wording was being looked into by Department staff. The process could take weeks or months. It became a big issue last year in regards to approval and denial of accrediting agencies.

Gina Powers updated the council on Amendment HB 1637-FN, legislation to make Croyden issue legal. Croydon continued sending kids to Montessori School not sure who pays the bill the rest of the year. It seems like it will not pass and 193-e; every student must take assessment. Judy also mentioned House Bill 1457, Model code of educator ethics.

Fr. John Fortin was thanked for his service. The search for Fr. John Fortin's replacement as Superintendent of the Diocese of Manchester is in process. Not sure who may fill the position. Fr. John will let us know.

Jay Stroud was introduced. He is the interim head of New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

A request was made by Lisa Braiterman to send Items for next fall's meeting agenda in fall.

The meeting adjourned 11:35 a.m.