

Nonpublic School Advisory Council (NPSAC) Meeting

NH Department of Education, Concord, NH

April 11, 2014

Present: Stephen Poirot, Chair; Bill Bennett, Kent Bicknell, Lisa Braiterman, Claire Doody, Judith Fillion, Lyn Kutzelman, Gregg Magoon, Rick Johnson, Trudy Wright, Marie Morgan

Guest: Gina Powers

The meeting was held at the Walker Building, room 100.

Chairman Stephen Poirot opened the meeting at 10:10 am.

He welcomed Rick Johnson, Head of the Beech Hill School in Hopkinton. He is the newest member of the Council. The other attendees introduced themselves.

The Council members voted to approve the NPSAC Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2013.

The revised Ed 406.02(a)(3), Approval of Nonpublic Schools, states “The commissioner shall appoint one public school administrator.” Chair Poirot contacted various state school administrator groups concerning the vacancy, but has not received any requests for nomination. Gregg Magoon will make some inquiries.

Gina Powers provided a legislative update on:

HB 1334 which would revise a law passed last year and permits charitable organizations to withhold from employee wages voluntary contributions to such charitable organizations when the employee has given his or her written authorization; and

SB 186 which would require that every publicly supported voluntary corporation ensure that the chairperson or presiding officer of its board of directors, or his or her designee, receives biennial management training.

Judy Fillion noted that HB 1587 being heard in the NH Legislature only pertains to the records of public school students. She will send the bill which passed the House and is now at the Senate to Chair Poirot.

The Education Tax Credit Program overseen by the NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) and authorized by RSA 77G is being heard at the NH Supreme Court this month.

There was some discussion regarding the NH Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) rule which prohibits nonpublic school students from representing more than one school in an academic year. Chair Poirot contacted the new director of the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) and was told they don't have an official body which could take any action regarding the NHIAA rule. Chair Poirot also noted that the present NHIAA executive director is retiring and candidates are being interviewed to replace him. He encouraged the attendees to meet the new director to discuss this rule. It appears to be against the spirit of RSA 193:1-c which states “Nonpublic or home educated pupils shall have access to curricular courses and co-curricular programs offered by the school district in which the pupil resides”.

Chairman Poirot stated that he and Lisa Braiterman have been working with an informal group of private school business managers regarding their school bus transportation policies and procedures. A "Fleet Safety and Drivers Manual" has been developed which sets up a common standard and applies mainly to 14 passenger buses. When it is finalized by the group, it will be brought to the NPSAC. The intent is to present it to the NH Department of Safety to show that students can be kept safe without mandated requirements.

At this point Chair Poirot announced that he was offered the Dean of Faculty position at the Marianapolis Preparatory School in Thompson, Connecticut. He will be leaving the Tilton School at the end of the school year. He encouraged the attendees to work over the summer to find a chair and co-chair for the Council to ensure the meetings continue in the fall.

A ceremony to honor Bud Moore, a cofounder of the NPSAC and its chair for 30 years, will take place following today's meeting. Attendees are encouraged to stay and meet Bud's family. Those who knew Bud are invited to share their memories of him.

There was much discussion regarding the AdvancEd accrediting agency request for approval. There was some dissatisfaction regarding Section 4.08(b) of this Agency's **Accreditation Policies and Procedures** which appears to allow schools to be accredited in a district if "The school system certifies that the school meets AdvancED Accreditation Standards and is actively engaged in the school system's process for quality assurance."

It was determined that the Agency would be invited to present its policies and procedures at the next Council meeting.

Trudy Wright indicated she would be retiring this summer and hoped the Seventh Day Adventist Accrediting Association could be approved.

Gina noted that the Department of Environmental Services (DES) hasn't released the draft administrative rules for RSA 485-A:23 II which states:

"Youth skill camp" means a nonprofit or for-profit program that lasts 8 hours total or more in a year for the purpose of teaching a skill to minors. Such camps include, but are not limited to, the teaching of sports, the arts, and scientific inquiry.

More information is available at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/youth-skills/index.htm>

There was some discussion regarding the federal food program guidelines which have become so burdensome that several private schools have stopped participating in it.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Submitted by:

Marie Morgan