

Nonpublic School Advisory Council (NPSAC) Meeting  
NH Department of Education, Concord, NH  
**October 7, 2011**

Present: Bill Bennett, Brian Bell, Cathy Chesley, Mary Moran, Kevin Moody, Lyn Kutzelman, Eileen Mullen, Patricia Tilley, Ed Murdough, Leslie Higgins, Marie Morgan

Guests: Lucy Hodder with the Rath, Young, and Pignatelli Law Firm; Linda Johnson with the McLane , Graf, Raulerson & Middleton Law Firm.

Ed Murdough opened the meeting at 10:10 am. Ed welcomed Eileen Mullen, a new member who is filling the seat previously held by Robert Doty. Eileen is the Administrator, Division of Children, Youth, and Families within the NH Department of Health and Human Services. Her office is in the Thayer Building on campus. Her contact information is 271-4343; [EMullen@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:EMullen@dhhs.state.nh.us).

Ed explained that due to budget cuts the nonpublic school consultant position had been eliminated earlier in the summer; however, there has been some action within the Department to find funding for the position.

Ed noted that David Parker recently lost his wife, Liz Parker. Our thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family at this difficult time.

Kevin Moody is stepping down from his position on the NPSAC. Kevin has been a longtime member and he will definitely be missed. Best wishes and many thanks, Kevin!

The NPSAC Meeting Minutes for Feb. 2011 were approved.

There was a discussion of NH Senate Bill 67, Education Tax Credit in NH. The Committee studying this bill will research the features of education tax credit and education voucher programs implemented or being considered in other states. The Committee's Meeting Report for Sept. 8, 2011 was distributed. NPSAC members questioned how such a credit would be funded and if it would apply to both "for profit" and nonprofit private schools. Brian Bell noted that Rhode Island capped its statewide "scholarship" fund available for this purpose and that Pennsylvania has put aside \$40+ million dollars to fund their program.

FYI The following is from the August 10, 2011 NH State Board of Education Meeting Minutes:

*School Choice and Vouchers – Paul Leather introduced Andrew Heumann, who is an intern from the University of London. Andrew is doing research on vouchers... The Blaine Amendments are provisions in a majority of state constitutions that restrict the use of public funds to support religious schools. Most states adopted the amendments at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the historical consensus, while contested, associates them with the nativist, anti-Catholic sentiment common to the time.*

Ed Murdough noted that RSA 189:1, Days of School, and RSA189:24, Standard School, have been revised with the passage of HB 112. Both still require public schools to schedule 180 days or the “equivalent number of hours”; however, a calendar of less than 180 days no longer requires approval from the Education Commissioner. The Commissioner will still be required to review and approve waivers of the required days/hours due to emergency situations.

There was further discussion about schools scheduling “online” instruction when facilities are closed for weather or other reasons.

At the last NPSAC meeting there was strong interest in holding a workshop on the increasing admission of international students to private and public schools. Linda Johnson noted that NEASC hosted such a conference in Connecticut in June which was well received. NEASC and ISANNE will co-host a similar conference at Rivier College in Nashua on Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be space for 150 attendees. A fee will be charged to cover the lunch and other expenses.

Attendees noted several issues regarding international students:

- The NHIAA only allows one year eligibility.
- There are many immigration laws which must be followed.
- How does one determine the reputation of agencies seeking to place international students in the US?
- Can one ask for the academic records of these students?
- What happens when the host family no longer wants to be responsible for the student?
- What can a school do if a decision is made to dismiss an international student?
- How does one explain local laws to these students?
- A flyer in Worcester, Mass area advertised a payment of \$22,000 to families to host an international student. This may be considered taxable income, a fact not always explained to host families.
- NEASC has a standard related to the process of screening host families and integrating international students into a school’s social and academic fabric.
- Some agencies are bringing American teachers and administrators to China for 2 -3 week paid trips to advertise these programs.
- A transcript or diploma should state the student attended a school approved by the NH Department of Education.

Ed distributed the NH Legislative LSR Listing dated June 22, 2011. Many of these bills could be introduced in January 2012 when the House and Senate reconvene. Two of these would eliminate the Department of Education. One would repeal the 180 day school year requirement. The Listing is available online.

Mary Moran expressed her appreciation for the calls and emails Ed sent during the Hurricane Irene watch. There was some discussion regarding private schools’ plans for emergencies such as these.

Ed Murdough noted that three NPSAC members' terms have expired: Kent Bicknell, Kevin Moody and Cathy Chesley. Anne Kuster who fills one of the two citizen representative seats on the Council has resigned. Three candidates have expressed interest in this position which is appointed by the Commissioner. They are: Attorneys Lucy Hodder, Cathy Chesley, and Linda Johnson. Ed distributed resumes for Linda Johnson, Lucy Hodder, and Peter Flint, Principal at Concord's Trinity Christian School. Ed will forward any comments from Council members to the Commissioner along with the resumes of Lucy, Linda, and Cathy to assist the Commissioner in making a selection.

Kevin who is stepping down from the Council, recommended Peter Flint for the school representative vacancy. Bill Bennett agreed with his recommendation. Brian Bell made the nomination. Mary Moran seconded it. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote. Ed expects that Kent would want to continue on the Council. Ed noted that he had tried to contact John D'Entremont, Director of Studies at Cardigan Mountain School, but had not yet received a reply. Mr. D'Entremont had expressed an interest in serving on the Council. Anyone wishing to nominate a candidate should submit that person's name and resume to Ed Murdough.

Linda noted that the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has postponed the implementation of a new requirement to post a notice in the workplace describing employees' rights under the National Labor Relations Act. The new deadline to post the notice is January 31, 2012.

Ed asked about possible dates for future meetings. It was agreed to try the second Wednesday of the month. The Council has been meeting bimonthly so the next NPSAC meetings will be:

Wed., Dec. 14, 2011

Wed., Feb. 15, 2012

Wed., April 11, 2012

The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

Submitted by Marie Morgan