

**Nonpublic School Advisory Council (NSAC) Meeting
NH Department of Education
Londergan Hall – Room 15
September 25, 2015
Minutes**

Members Present: Bill Bennett, Kent Bicknell, Lisa Braiterman, Janelle Cotnoir, John Fortin, Judith Fillion, Lyn Kutzelman, Rick Johnson, Greg Magoon, Eileen Mullen, Dave Parker,

Members/Staff Absent: Claire Doody, Laurie Hurd, Linda Johnson, Karen Simmons

Staff Present: Nancy Jacobs, Jane Levesque

Guests Present: Jeff Collins, Director, NHIAA

Meeting was called to order by Lisa Braiterman 10:10am

Motion was made to approve the agenda by Fr. John Fortin; seconded by David Parker; motion carried.

Lisa Braiterman opened the meeting inviting members to check in with updates on their new school year:

Dave Parker announced Parker Academy has a new principal.

Eileen Mullen, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), talked about the transformation of Sununu Health and its possible revamp in the future.

Fr. John Fortin, Diocese of Manchester, reported two schools closed last year; 15 of 21 schools are at budget enrollment; and announced this is his last year of being superintendent.

Greg Magoon, NFI North, Contoocook, said his school is off to good start; with school approval in the spring; enrollment is down a little and there are no middle school students.

Lyn Kutzelman, Hampstead Academy, noted a drop in enrollment, mostly in the Pre-school and Kindergarten. Her school is focused more on their middle school, which is an exciting new program and they are looking for new head of school.

Rick Johnson stated that things are good at the Beech Hill School, enrollment of thirty students, sixteen of the students in 6th grade.

Janelle Cotnoir, Department Of Education, Bureau of Special Education spoke of Private provider monitoring; gearing up to start monitoring season this year.

Kent Bicknell is beginning his forty-third year at Sant Bani . They have hired an outside consultant and eliminated high school this year. Their budget went down and Sant Bani School had to lay off half of the faculty. Educational space was revamped with focus on kindergarten to grade 2. He would like to invite a guest from Sant Bani to attend a meeting prior to his eventual transition from the council.

William Bennett, representing New England Association of Schools and Colleges, hosted an international event.

Judith Fillion, Department of Education, Director, Division of Program Support announced she will be retiring in November after serving over forty years in the Department Of Education and has always enjoyed working with the Nonpublic School Advisory Council (NSAC).

Lisa Braiterman from Brewster Academy, the third largest boarding school in the state said this year more staff children are enrolled, with 290 boarding student. Their new head of school comes from Groton School.

Judith Fillion introduced the support staff for the Department Of Education.

Approval of NPSAC Meeting Minutes, May 1, 2015

Eileen Mullen asked that a correction be made: Angele Keef stood in for her last meeting, Claire retired, corrections made.

A motion was made to approve.

The motion carried.

New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) Director, Jeff Collins was the invited guest speaker. He is starting his second year in that position. He talked about bass fishing with students; only Illinois offers this activity besides New Hampshire; 10 pin bowling; state tournament; sports are overseen by sport sub-committees; part of federation of high schools; local rules allowed for golfers. Jeff discussed a successful program, "Life of an Athlete." It is a free anti-drug and alcohol program. (grant) for member schools; Those schools participating in the Life of an Athlete program are seeing shift in school culture, attitudes in Juniors and Seniors; and focus on making healthy choices. He will send a link to the members.

A lengthy discussion ensued, with a focus on students who want to play sports with local schools and their own schools during the same school year, which is against regulations.

Best Practices in accreditation was a discussion brought forth by Rick Johnson. He recommended that this group accept proposed guidelines. Ask that the link be put in the minutes: <http://theaccreditationalliance.com/about.html>. Discussion of amending administrative rules, making recommendations to the State Board of Education , approval for Attendance and Program, as well as the impact of the types of approval on college applications ensued. A list of Approval for Attendance (AA) and Approval for Attendance and Program(AP) schools was requested, and will be sent to NSAC members.

Kent Bicknell discussed an experience with Intern Placement Program from Plymouth State University (PSU). Sant Bani School had accepted a student teacher for a 16 week placement for this school year, but the new director (of PSU) pulled her out of the program because Sant Bani doesn't participate in state testing. Commissioner Virginia Barry suggested she be allowed to stay for 8 wks. The issue is still unresolved.

Judith Fillion stated that educators use nonpublic schools for student teaching and the issue of assessment; 50% of graduates of New Hampshire leave New Hampshire so the process of assessment is more important than the assessment used. Further discussion prompted Lisa Braiterman to suggest a motion be made to further discuss.

William Bennett made motion.

Rick Johnson seconded.

Motion approved.

Fr. John Fortin made a motion to thank Judith Fillion for her service. The motion seconded and was carried.

Next meeting date for the NSAC was decided. It will be on December 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., Londergan Hall, in room 15.

Meeting was adjourned by Lisa Braiterman at 12:01 p.m.