

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the June 12, 2014 Meeting

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH. Tom Raffio presided as Chairman.

Members present: Tom Raffio, Cindy C. Chagnon, Bill Duncan, Gary Groleau, Helen G. Honorow, (arrived at 10:20 a.m.), Gregory Odell, and Emma Rous. Virginia M. Barry, Commissioner of Education, was present. Paul K. Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education, was unable to attend this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Emma Rous led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Santina Thibedeau and Mary Mayo met with the Board to discuss the Restraint Rules. SB 396, relative to child restraint practices, requires facilities and schools regulate the use of seclusion and restraint. Seclusion and restraint are carefully defined and limited to use by trained personnel in emergencies only to ensure the immediate physical safety of persons when there is a substantial and imminent risk of serious bodily harm to the child and others.

Bonnie Dunham, representing the Parent Information Center, said that the Governor is expected to sign SB 396. It will then be entered into rulemaking. She thanked the Board and Department for engaging parents and stakeholders. Bonnie then spoke as a private citizen and said that at the national level states are not as progressive as in New Hampshire. Bonnie distributed an Action Alert for the National Call-In Day to ask Congress to support their bill to prevent dangerous restraint and seclusion.

AGENDA ITEM IV. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Update on Charter Schools - Chairman Raffio said that Gate City is on the agenda this month. MicroSociety will be on the July 24th agenda.

Commissioner Barry said that she attended the charter schools meeting recently. There will be a training in September on how the dashboard will work. Commissioner Barry said Mary Earick has been meeting with charter schools. Charter schools did not accept Title I funding and we are strongly encouraging charter schools to seek funding. Commissioner Barry said the waiver process allows greater flexibility. This video that is being shown at the Board meeting was done by students for the ten years the North Country Charter Academy has been in existence. They have reduced the dropout rate. Last weekend were two events to celebrate the end of the school year: one was an event on Saturday to recognize the ten superintendents who support this charter school and the second was the graduation. Charter Schools have a teacher evaluation model in place.

1. Charter School Matrix - Keith Burke and Tim Eccleston met with the Board regarding charter school reporting. Keith Burke demonstrated a prototype of a reporting dashboard that is being developed for the future. The dashboards will eventually be available on the Department website. Keith explained how the dashboards will work once it is up and running. Tim Eccleston, the NAEP Coordinator, said a lot of effort has been put into getting the charter reports set up. Bill Duncan said he would like to be the liaison between the Board and Department and work with Keith and Tim.

B. Update on Unity - Judy Fillion, Chip Baldwin, Principal of the Unity School, provided an update of the Unity Elementary School Construction project. He indicated that although there are ups and downs as in the recent sewer system problem, the project is progressing as planned. The students and staff look forward to starting the school year in the new building. The State Board will be invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony being planned for late September.

C. Discussion on Strategic Items – Goals – Heather Gage met with the Board and asked if there was anything else they would like included in the strategic plan. The Board will let the Department know if there is anything further they need regarding the plan.

D. Miscellaneous

1. Special Education and Dropouts – Santina Thibedeau explained the dropout rate in relation to special education students. One reason why the rate was so high was that the Bureau of Data Management calculation double counted IEPs. This explained the increase in the 2011-2012 dropout rate.

2. Restraint Legislation, Laws and Rules – A copy of the rule for Limiting the Use of Child Restraint Practice that the Board adopted last month, a copy of the law annotated with the language in Senate Bill 396, and the 2013 School Restraint Report was distributed to Board members.

3. Coherence of NH Educational Reform Efforts – Emma Rous presented Scott Marion's Educational Reform in New Hampshire slides to the Board and spoke about each of the slides. There are multiple reform Initiatives such as College & Career Readiness, Common Core State Standards, Competencies, NCLB Waiver, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, Performance Assessments, ELOs, (Extended Learning Opportunities), NH Networks, SLO (Student Learning Objectives), and Teacher Evaluation which are all connected by the instructional core of student engagement, instructional quality, and meaningful content and rich tasks.

4. Gary Groleau said he was the graduation speaker at Laconia Academy and it was a gratifying experience. The Academy is in its 42nd year.

5. Chairman Raffio said that Cindy Chagnon, Bill Duncan, and Helen Honorow attended the "Ed"ies on Saturday night. Fred Bramante was the MC. It was the 21st year of this event.

6. Chairman Raffio said he presented awards at the state-wide scholars program at Winnisquam Regional High School and at Concord High School.

7. Chairman Raffio said that on Monday he, Bill Duncan and Heather Gage will be at Hollis Brookline High School to present on the Common Core State Standards along with a panel of five teachers.

8. Cindy Chagnon, along with Commissioner Barry, attended the Middle School Scholar Leaders Program in late May.

9. Chairman Raffio said that Board members are getting out in the field, meeting with students, and attending school events.

AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Strong Foundations Chartered Public School – Beth McClure, Principal, Strong Foundations Chartered Public School, spoke to the Board regarding Strong Foundations request to amend its charter for an increase in enrollment during a four-year time period beginning in school year 2015-2016. Currently the elementary grades have a single class of each grade through fifth grade. This plan would phase in two classes of each grade, beginning at the early elementary level and going through Grade 8. By beginning expansion in 2015, the school will expand the amount of classroom space available to students. This increase would be to better serve more students and begin building a strong foundation from the early elementary level. Based on Strong Foundations wait list there are enough students to fill the proposed classroom expansion over the next five years. The approximate projections are as follows: Currently: 225; 2014: 226; 2015: 256; 2016: 288; 2017: 308; 2018: 328.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education authorizes the Strong Foundations Chartered Public School proposed enrollment increases in the years 2014 – 2018.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Gate City Charter School for the Arts – New Location – Commissioner Barry said that the Gate City Charter School for the Arts is requesting to amend the existing charter to reflect the new location for their public charter school at 7 Henry Clay Drive, Merrimack, NH. The Charter School staff worked with a commercial real estate broker to identify a facility for their school in Nashua. They pursued a potential location, but were left without a landlord/developer to fund the necessary improvements to that building. They sought an alternative facility in Nashua and considered the possibility of sharing space with an existing school or university. After an extensive search, they were unable to secure a location in Nashua that would meet all fire/life/safety codes for use as an elementary school. Their search led them to Merrimack where they were able to identify a ground floor facility and a landlord willing to renovate the space to meet building codes for an elementary school. The Board of Trustees is very pleased with the 7 Henry Clay Drive location and the opportunities it will offer their students.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education amend the existing charter of the Gate City Charter School for the Arts to reflect the new location for their public school at 7 Henry Clay Drive, Merrimack NH.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

B. Vision Verse & Verve – An Interdisciplinary Artist in Residency Project at Portsmouth Middle School – Catherine O’Brian, Arts Education Coordinator, NH State Council on the Arts and Anna Nuttall, Art Educator and Artist Residency Coordinator, from Portsmouth Middle School made a power point presentation on an innovative interdisciplinary arts and community service program with 8th graders at Portsmouth Middle School. The presentation included a variety of artist residencies funded in part by the NH State Council on the Arts that have taken place over the past four years. Many of the projects had a career in the arts’ awareness component and they all included partnerships and outreach with businesses, nonprofits and the arts community in Portsmouth. These dynamic and creative projects enrich a strong arts curriculum with full time arts educators at the Portsmouth Middle School. The NH State Council on the Arts offers grants to fund quality arts learning projects in the school day, and also after school and during the summer/out of school times. Many of these projects include mentoring and teaching by high quality, professional teaching artists. Vision, Verse & Verve: Timeless Themes of the Harlem Renaissance opened on Saturday, April 12, at the Seacoast African American Cultural Center, and will remain on display until the end of June. This project was made possible by an Artist Residency in Schools Grants from the NH State Council on the Arts, in partnership with community funds and the Portsmouth Middle School. Eighty-five students participated in this project. Students sketched paintings while music played in the background. The paintings that resulted kicked off the students’ study of the Harlem Renaissance. As the music played live, the students responded to the music by creating collaborative abstract paintings.

C. Warrant and Special Meeting for Goshen and Lempster – Chairman Raffio said that pursuant to RSA 195:30 a special meeting of the voters of the withdrawing district shall be held at a time set by the State Board of Education at which the voters will vote on a warrant article, approved by the State Board, providing for the election of officers in the withdrawing school district. Board members received copies of the proposed warrant articles.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education vote to set times for the Goshen Lempster special meetings and approve the warrant articles presented.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

D. Manufacturing Week – Gary Groleau said that New Hampshire joined 37 other states in observing National Manufacturing Day on October 4, 2013, and followed it up with a week’s worth of activities that culminated with the 11th Annual Governor’s Advanced Manufacturing and High Technology Summit where 238 attendees celebrated manufacturing as an integral part of the state’s overall economic development strategy and a vibrant and growing sector of the economy. The NH Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the NH Division of Economic Development coordinated the statewide series of events throughout the week with the collaboration of the Community College System of NH and the Department of Education and other regional partners and manufacturers. The goal was to raise awareness about and spread excitement for manufacturing. Christopher Way and Zenagui Brahim spoke of their involvement with manufacturing. NH Manufacturing Week is September 29 – October 2, 2014 this year.

E. Hearing - Ed 513.01 and Ed 513.03, Requirements for Initial Certification Including Basic Academic Skills and Subject Area Assessment and Highly Qualified Teacher – Chairman Raffio opened the hearing at 11:00 a.m. These rules require each candidate seeking initial teacher certification under one of the alternatives pass a nationally approved test of academic proficiency at or above 50th percentile in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics. The change in Ed 513.01 removes the exemption for a candidate who has a master’s degree or higher or has 7 or more years of education experience issued by another state. The change in Ed 513.03 updates the language for a highly qualified teacher by limiting the hgt eligibility to the duration of the credential, not require a fee and require documentation pursuant to federal law. There was no testimony at this hearing. Chairman Raffio closed the hearing at 11:30 a.m.

F. City Year's Plan for Manchester Grade Schools to High Schools – Pawn Nitichan, Executive Director and VP, City Year New Hampshire; David Ryan, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for SAU #37 Manchester; Jeff Jablow, Senior Vice President of City Year; Christine Brennan, Principal, Beech Street Elementary School in Manchester; and Blake Benton, City Year Corps member, were present. City Year has a partnership with the Manchester school system to integrate City Year with district strategies ensuring shared professional development, access to and review of summative and formative data at the school and district level, have ongoing assessment of school conditions, oversight of fidelity of implementation, strategic deployment of corps members within school schedules in support of teacher effectiveness, sharing of best practices across schools, and a commitment to multi-year partnership and deployment.

G. Student/Kearsarge Regional School Board – SB-FY-14-11-006 – The parent, Jerome Frew, Superintendent of Schools, SAU #65 Kearsarge, and Barbara Loughman, Attorney for the Kearsarge Regional School Board, were present. Chairman Raffio asked the parties if they would like the hearing held in public or nonpublic session. The Attorney elected to hold the hearing in nonpublic session.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to take the student/Kearsarge Regional School Board item – SB-FY-14-11-006 – from the Tabled Items.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, to go into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3.

VOTE: This was done by a roll call vote: Emma Rous – Yes; Gary Groleau – Yes; Gregory Odell – Yes; Cindy Chagnon – Yes; Tom Raffio – Yes; Bill Duncan – Yes; Helen Honorow – Yes.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, to come out of nonpublic session.

VOTE: This was done by a roll call vote: Emma Rous – Yes; Gary Groleau – Yes; Gregory Odell – Yes; Cindy Chagnon – Yes; Tom Raffio – Yes; Bill Duncan – Yes; Helen Honorow – Yes.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer's Report and adopt the Hearing Officer's Recommendation in the matter of Student/Kearsarge Regional School Board – SB-FY-14-11-006.

VOTE: This was done by a roll call vote: Emma Rous – Yes; Gary Groleau – Yes; Gregory Odell – Yes; Cindy Chagnon – Yes; Tom Raffio – Yes; Bill Duncan – Yes; Helen Honorow – Yes.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education seal the Minutes of the Nonpublic Session re: Student/Kearsarge Regional School Board – SB-FY-14-11-006.

VOTE: This was done by a roll call vote: Emma Rous – Yes; Gary Groleau – Yes; Gregory Odell – Yes; Cindy Chagnon – Yes; Tom Raffio – Yes; Bill Duncan – Yes; Helen Honorow – Yes.

H. Student/Rochester School Board – SB-FY-14-08-003 – The Parent, and Mary Moriarty, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for SAU #54 Rochester, were present. Chairman Raffio asked the parties if they would like the hearing held in public or nonpublic session. They elected to hold it in nonpublic session.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to go into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3.

VOTE: This was done by a roll call vote: Emma Rous – Yes; Gary Groleau – Yes; Gregory Odell – Yes; Cindy Chagnon – Yes; Tom Raffio – Yes; Bill Duncan – Yes; Helen Honorow – Yes.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to come out of nonpublic session.

VOTE: This was done by a roll call vote: Emma Rous – Yes; Gary Groleau – Yes; Gregory Odell – Yes; Cindy Chagnon – Yes; Tom Raffio – Yes; Bill Duncan – Yes; Helen Honorow – Yes.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer's Report and adopt the Hearing Officer's Recommendation on Remand and direct the Rochester School District to participate in mediation between the school and the parent.

VOTE: This was done by a roll call vote: Emma Rous – Yes; Gary Groleau – Yes; Gregory Odell – Yes; Cindy Chagnon – Yes; Tom Raffio – Yes; Bill Duncan – Yes; Helen Honorow – Yes.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the State Board of Education seal the Minutes of the Nonpublic Session re: Student/Rochester School Board SB-FY-14-08-003.

VOTE: This was done by a roll call vote: Emma Rous – Yes; Gary Groleau – Yes; Gregory Odell – Yes; Cindy Chagnon – Yes; Tom Raffio – Yes; Bill Duncan – Yes; Helen Honorow – Yes.

I. Manchester School of Technology – Debra Livingston, Superintendent of Schools, Karen White, Principal of the Manchester School of Technology, and David Ryan, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, were present. Commissioner Barry said that with Dr. Livingston's and Mr. Ryan's help there is amazing work going on in Manchester. The Innovation Zone in Manchester is the first in New Hampshire and they are being very creative. Commissioner Barry said she is proud of the work they are doing. The Manchester School of Technology requested high school approval in June of 2012 for its innovative model based on the following criteria: project-based learning, competency-based assessment, personalized education, 1:1 device instruction, integrated academics and CTE; and early college and internship experience. At the March 18, 2014 meeting of the Building and Sites School Board, over \$80,000 was allotted by the school district for the needed upgrades to MST high school to meet high school requirements. MST was built as a stand-alone CTE Center. This year they had an architect assess the facility for needed improvements and waiver issues for State Board approval.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education approve the request for seventeen waivers for the Manchester School of Technology as listed in the Request for Full High School Approval Executive Summary.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

The Manchester School District must annually update the Department on progress to address the approved waivers.

AGENDA ITEM VI. NEW DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

There was no New Department Business.

AGENDA ITEM VII. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

A. Final Proposal for Ed 302, Duties of School Superintendents, Ed 303, Duties of School Boards, Ed 304, Duties of School Principals, Ed 311, School Health Services, Ed 316, Procedure to Mark Drug-Free School Zones, and Ed 900, Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program – A vote is needed by the Board to adopt the Final Proposal for this rule filing 2014-26. The Department has made no changes from the initial proposal. The Final Proposal will be submitted to the JLCAR for its review. After their public hearing and approval by the JLCAR, the State Board may then adopt the final rule at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the State Board of Education adopt the Final Proposal for rule filing 2014-26 which includes: Ed 302, Duties of School Superintendents, Ed 303, Duties of School Boards, Ed 304, Duties of School Principals, Ed 311, School Health Services, Ed 316, Procedure to Mark Drug-Free School Zones, and Ed 900, Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Barry did not have a specific report but did speak during several items on the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM IX. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old business at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM X. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of May 13, 2014 Meeting

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to approve the Minutes of May 13, 2014.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM XI. TABLED ITEMS

Student/Kearsarge Regional School Board – SB-FY-14-11-006

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to take the Student/Kearsarge Regional School Board item – SB-FY-14-11-006 – from the Tabled Items.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM XII. NONPUBLIC SESSION

The Board went into Nonpublic Session during Special Presentations.

AGENDA ITEM XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Emma Rous, to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Virginia M. Bury

Secretary