Home Education Advisory Council
March 10, 2016

Call to order: The regular meeting of the Home Education Advisory Council was called to order at 3:44 pm in the Board Room of Londergan Hall.

Members present: Marc Boyd, Christine Mukai, Amy Gall, Heather Gage, George D’Orazio, and Jen Pereira. George left at 4:35 due to another commitment.

Minutes: A motion to accept the February minutes with the change of “GSA” to “NH DHHS” was made by Heather, seconded by George, and approved.

Chairman’s Report: Amy reported on the issue of a homeschooled student who wants to sign up for a CTE class for next year, but the school district told the family they would have to wait until May and sign up then only if there is room left after all of the district’s enrolled students sign up. This is clearly in violation of the equal access statute. However, the parent does not want intervention because they are afraid to jeopardize their prior good relationship with the district.

Department of Education Report: It was reported that Ellie received a call from a school district regarding a parent who sent an email Notice of Intent including the children’s names and birthdates, but no address. The NOI is out of compliance with the law. The school district will follow up, but was looking for guidance. If there is no quick resolution, the process in Ed 315.04 should be followed.

Heather reported that she contacted DHHS regarding our questions about educational neglect. A response is still pending.

Heather also reported that she spoke with VLACS. Their policy is that a student must apply to be a charter school student, but other than that can take up to 6 courses per semester as a part time homeschool student. Students may do all of their coursework in an off-school-year schedule. Heather noted that education RSAs do not define the word “provide”.

OLD BUSINESS: HB1414 should be brought to the floor of the House at the end of the day today.

NEW BUSINESS: Two homeschool members’ Council seats are up for re-nomination in June. This might be a good opportunity to diversify Council membership by reaching out to other home education organizations within the state to nominate representatives.

Marc suggested seeking a retired school administrator to represent the NH School Administrators’ Association.

Amy suggested the DOE offer their empty seat to someone from DCYF if they are handling a lot of homeschool educational neglect and enforcement problems.

Amy brought up the idea of meeting quarterly or every other month. Discussion ensued.

Amy will contact the groups who were not present to make them aware of these proposals, and will put these items on the agenda for next month.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:06pm.