

**Home Education Advisory Council**  
**May 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Home Education Advisory Council was called to order by Chairman Amy Gall at 3:32PM in Room 12 at the Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, in Concord.

**Members Present:** Amy Gall, Christine Mukai, George D’Orazio, David Menard, Mike Compitello, Jennifer Pereira, Rep. Glenn Cordelli, Rep. Barbara Shaw

**Minutes:** Minutes of the April 9, 2015 meeting were accepted by general consent.

**Chairman’s Report:**

Amy reported about issues that have been brought to light since the last meeting:

- People are being told that signing up for VLACS is homeschooling.
- A public school principal has been meeting with enrolled students and sending them home from school with a notice of intent for their parents to sign, without the prior approval of the parents, and also telling parents that they should homeschool because “you don’t have to do anything”.
- An adult who graduated from a NH home education program in 2008 cannot get documentation of his education, which he needs in order to verify his identity for a passport application in lieu of other records (birth certificate/SS card) withheld/not filed by his parents. Mike offered to assist him.
- A NH certified teacher was looking for information on conducting homeschool evaluations, and reported that she was hired by a group of families to teach their “homeschooled” children five full days per week from September through June and keep an in-depth portfolio on each student. She decided to hire someone else to perform the evaluations, but doesn’t know if the families had the approval of their participating agencies for the home education to be provided by someone other than the parents.
- A Seacoast-area newspaper reporter was seeking information because she was writing an article on a business that has opened in which a NH certified teacher is offering group courses for paid tuition and calling it a homeschool co-op. The business owner told the reporter that they were submitting grades to the state. The reporter was concerned that group homeschooling conducted in this manner is not subject to health and safety codes.
- A background screening company was looking for information on the location of NH homeschool attendance and graduation records in order to verify education information on employment applications.

These issues highlight the need for a DOE appointee, as well as the importance of the DOE’s role in clarifying policies. A HEAC representative from the Superintendent’s Association would also have been helpful in dealing with some of these issues.

**Department of Education Report:**

Heather Gage will be choosing the new DOE representative to replace Roberta on the Council.

**Old Business:** Nothing new to report.

**New Business:**

- The possibility of changing the meeting day was discussed. A survey may be completed.
- The question of parents being able to sign a work permit for homeschooled children was discussed. This would require a change in the law. No motion was made pertaining to this.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 3:30pm in Room 12.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:22PM.