

HOME EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

January 23 2020

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Present: Kathryn Michelotti, Stefanie Marsh, Michelle Levell, Sen. Ruth Ward, George D’Orazio (arrived at 3:40pm), Jennifer Pereira (arrived at 3:40pm)

Absent: Michael Koski, Helen Rist, Ellie Riel, Fred Fraser, Rep. Glen Cordelli, Rep. Barbara Shaw

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m.

Minutes: Correction suggested for December minutes to read: “George is also concerned that the technical advisory will not carry the weight of the rules because TAs can be changed by subsequent commissioners.”

Chairperson’s Report:

- Kitty read Cara Potter’s resignation letter. HEAC needs a new unschooler home educator rep and someone to fill the secretary role.
- George suggested the possibility of asking VLACs to act as a participating agency for students who are leaving public school before they can become full time VLACs students. Michelle pointed out that this is probably not possible because RSA 193:A mentions commissioner, nonpublic school, or resident district superintendent as agencies that can receive notification for home education programs.
- Kitty is looking into reports of two families having difficulties with their local district.
- George was contacted by a homeschool family from Pelham who sent him the letter of acknowledgement from the district. Although the letter could have been phrased better, the district was only offering help and not requiring the family to do anything beyond the law.

Rules: The council began to review the latest revision of the proposed rules from Amanda Phelps. Rep Cordelli's comments were reviewed, and other members of the council also made comments. Due to lack of time, another meeting of the rules subcommittee will be scheduled. Commissioner Edelblut also indicated a willingness to meet with the committee concerning rules proposals.

Member Reports:

Stefanie Marsh was questioned by a parent regarding documentation required for receiving social security survivorship benefits. Stef suggested providing a letter of acknowledgement for the current year and a copy of the NH law and rules indicating that that the state of NH does not issue documents for homeschoolers.

Kitty reported to the council the following opportunities for homeschool students: McAuliffe-Shepard overnights, BioBuidler Learning Labs at MIT, Latitude Learning in Manchester, SPARK at MIT, SPLASH at MIT, and HSSP at MIT 2020 beginning registration mid Feb. Announcements were also made about School Choice week, Valentine's Dance sponsored by Latitude, and an art show to be held May 2nd in Derry.

Public comment: There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:04pm.

No votes were taken due to lack of quorum.

Minutes recorder by Jennifer Pereira