



NH State Advisory Committee on the
Education of Children/Students with Disabilities
Meeting Minutes

NH SAC Meeting Minutes

DATE	February 7, 2023	START TIME	5:00 PM
PHYSICAL LOCATION	Granite State College, 25 Hall Street, Concord, NH 03301 Map		
MINUTES PREPARED BY:	Tracy Walbridge		

ATTENDANCE

In Person	Virtual	Absent
Rep. Peggy Balboni	Dale Boyle	Kara Buxton
Joe Costanzo	Elizabeth Cannon	William Caruso
Christina Dotson	Katherine Shea (virtual (arrived 6:34 PM))	Carin Daddino-Rogers
Rebecca Fredette		Alyson Eberhardt
Melissa Gray		Darlene Gildersleeve
Kari Grimes		Marion Hanson
Esther Kennedy (left 6:16 PM)		Alicia Houston
Gregory Magoon		Rep. Katelyn Kuttub
Oel Leo		Michelle Lewis
Lance Paquette		Leah Lucier-Pike
Jennifer Pike (arrived 5:30 PM)		Erica Peaslee
Janet Reed		Melissa McKeon
Karen Rosenberg		Christopher O'Reilly
Moir Ryan		
Joy Sabolevski		
Karen Stokes		
Kathleen Talbot		
Tracy Walbridge		
(18)17	(3)2	13

Remote Participation (NH HB 308: *Relative to a quorum for meetings open to the public to include remote presence*)

- Dale Boyle - - -
- Elizabeth Cannon - - -
- Katherine Shea - - -



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1	Call to Order
	Meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM 17 members present, 2 virtual – Quorum has been met
2	Approval of Minutes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kathleen Talbot motioned to approve the January 3rd, 2024, meeting minutes. Gregg Magoon seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote for approval of January 3, 2024 SAC Meeting Minutes			
SAC Member	Vote	SAC Member	Vote
Rep. Peggy Balboni	Y	Ole Leo	ABST
Dale Boyle	Y	Michelle Lewis	
Kara Buxton		Leah Lucier-Pike	
Elizabeth Cannon	Y	Gregory Magoon	Y
William Caruso		Melissa McKeon	
Joseph Costanzo	(was not available at roll call)	Christopher O'Reilly	
Carin Daddino-Rogers		Lance Paquette	Y
Christina Dotson	Y	Erica-Lee Peaslee	
Alyson Eberhardt		Jennifer Pike	(arrived 5:30 PM)
Rebecca Fredette	ABST	Janet Reed	ABST
Darlene Gildersleeve		Karen Rosenberg	Y
Melissa Gray	Y	Moir Ryan	Y
Kari Grimes	Y	Joy Sabolevski	ABST
Marion Hanson		Katherine Shea	
Alicia Houston		Karen Stokes	Y
Esther Kennedy	Y	Kathleen Talbot	Y
Rep. Katelyn Kuttub		Tracy Walbridge	Y
Motion Result: The motion passes with 14 "Yes" votes, and 4 "Abstain" votes.			

3	Advisement from NHED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be a standing item on the agenda regarding our advisory role to the Commissioner. An email exchange with Melissa White, NHED, suggested we focus on legislative matters, which the committee addressed last month. Although no advisement has been submitted, NH SAC anticipates further guidance from the Commissioner and NHED.
4	Presentation: Disability Rights Center NH (DRC NH)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen Rosenberg, Policy Director, provided an overview and history of the Disability Rights Center NH (DRC NH)



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- In the last fiscal year, DRC NH provided legal advice to 961 clients, with 20.5% (197) of these cases being education-related.

Emerging Trends:

- **Failure to Implement IEPs**
 - Students have IEPs with agreed-upon services, but no providers are available, posing health and safety issues with medical supports.
 - Lack of One-on-One Support.
- **Exclusionary discipline/suspension & shortened school days**
 - Shorten school day - Parents are frequently receiving calls from schools requesting them to pick up their children or be suspended and pick up due to a lack of paraprofessionals.
 - Exclusionary discipline/suspension - School are not appropriately addressing behavioral issue and recognizing them as manifestation of disability
 - Lack of Functional Behavior Assessments (FBA) by someone not employed by the school district. When schools conduct evaluations, they fail to develop and implement comprehensive behavior plans.
- **Placement Disputes**
 1. Parents seeking out-of-district placements due to lack of progress, unchanged goals, etc.
 2. Bullying - Parents are reporting their child is being bullied, they reported to the school and the school is not addressing it appropriately.
- **Bullying**
 - Inadequate addressing of reported bullying incidents by schools, and concerns about the lack of student education on this issue.
- **IEP Changes Not Based on Student's Needs**
 - Changes proposed by schools based on their needs rather than the student's.

Additional Points Discussed:

- **Short Staffing:**
 - Schools hiring through staffing agencies.
 - NHED focusing on improvement, retention, and training within the bureau for special education positions.
- **Bullying Legislation:**
 - State bullying law variations across districts, (including policies and procedures) prompting a suggestion for NHSAC to assess its adequacy and the relief available for students, including parent education.
 - Noted instances of students with disabilities bullying others, emphasizing a need for education and prevention measures.
 - The committee proposes presenting these emerging trends and additional points to the commissioner for consideration.

- Jennifer Pike motioned and Esther Kennedy seconded to bring to the Commissioner's attention the concerns raised during the last two presentations. Specifically, the NHSAC has identified three key areas of concern:
 1. Proposing Changes to the IEP Not Based on Students' Needs
 2. School Staffing
 3. Bullying and School Refusal

Roll Call Vote for Commissioner Alert on Education Concerns

SAC Member	Vote	SAC Member	Vote
Rep. Peggy Balboni	Y	Ole Leo	Y
Dale Boyle	Y	Michelle Lewis	



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Kara Buxton		Leah Lucier-Pike	
Elizabeth Cannon	Y	Gregory Magoon	Y
William Caruso		Melissa McKeon	
Joseph Costanzo	Y	Christopher O'Reilly	
Carin Daddino-Rogers		Lance Paquette	Y
Christina Dotson	Y	Erica-Lee Peaslee	
Alyson Eberhardt		Jennifer Pike	Y (arrived 5:30 PM)
Rebecca Fredette	ABST	Janet Reed	Y
Darlene Gildersleeve		Karen Rosenberg	Y
Melissa Gray	Y	Moirra Ryan	Y
Kari Grimes	Y	Joy Sabolevski	Y
Marion Hanson		Katherine Shea	Y (arrived 6:34 PM)
Alicia Houston		Karen Stokes	Y
Esther Kennedy	Y	Kathleen Talbot	Y
Rep. Katelyn Kuttab		Tracy Walbridge	Y

Motion Result: The motion passes with 20 "Yes" votes, and 1 "Abstain" votes.

- Rebecca will contact the Commissioner and will connect with Chairperson Stokes.
- DRC NH's presentation is a part of the larger ongoing discussion on statewide trends, underscoring the importance of continuous dialogue.
 - If others on the committee members would like to present to NHSAC, please contact Chairperson Stokes; NHSACChair@gmail.com

5 Public Comment

- *During public comments, Kim, a parent, expressed concern about the existing challenges for families in documenting refusals and other issues. She emphasized the need for improved understanding and mechanisms to address this issue, advocating for measures that would facilitate more effective collaboration between families and their IEP teams. Suggestion for an IEP Tip Sheet.*
- *Moirra Ryan - The National Teacher Quality Council released information on improving quality of teachers; special education teachers needing reading training.*

6 Legislation Update

[HB1443](#), concerning special education dispute resolution, originates from the NHED Office of Governance. Over the past decade, this bill has seen limited engagement, with fewer than ten individuals accessing it.

- During the NHED audit with legislative office auditors, it was noted that the rules lacked provisions for third-party-mediated discussions. The proposed amendment aims to incorporate additional components of mediated discussions into neutral conferences. The bill suggests a rotation system for hearing officers unless a conflict of interest arises.
- An interim Study is being proposed.



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Discussion on:

- [HB1015-FN](#), relative to requirements for literacy skill development in elementary grades.
- [HB1019](#), relative to the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children.
- [HB1176](#), establishing a commission to study current funding for special education and potential other funding sources.
- [HB1269-FN](#), relative to the use of child restraints in schools.
- [HB1298-FN](#), relative to the definition of part-time teachers.
- [HB1469](#), relative to the retention of individualized education program records.
- [HB1476-FN](#), relative to charter school memorandums of understanding.
- [HB1480](#), relative to alternative dispute resolution within individualized education programs.
- [HB1509-L](#), prohibiting spending of special education moneys for any other purpose and requiring reporting of fund balances to the school board.
- [HB1511](#), relative to liability for children with disabilities in certain court ordered placements or episodes of treatment.
- [HB1560-FN-A](#), relative to unassigned moneys in the education trust fund.
- [HB1587](#), relative to the installation of video surveillance equipment in special education school buses.
- [HB1588](#), relative to court jurisdiction over persons receiving special education.
- [HB1616](#), relative to parental consent for student participation in Medicaid to schools program.
- [HB1639-FN-L](#), (New Title) relative to children with disabilities placed at state facilities for detained or adjudicated youth.
- [HB1670-FN-L](#), relative to including all special education costs under state education grants.
- [HB1682-FN](#), relative to the civics test graduation requirement.
- [HB1692-FN](#), relative to public high school graduation requirements.

Members are encouraged to communicate their support or opposition to any bills by emailing their letters to the NHSACChair@gmail.com email account. These emails will be compiled in the correspondence folder and will be voted on during the meeting.

7 New Business

Review of the NH SAC's Function

- The advisory panel must:
 - (1) *advise the State educational agency (SEA) of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities;*
 - (2) *comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities;*
 - (3) *advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618 of the IDEA;*
 - (4) *advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under Part B of the IDEA; and*
 - (5) *advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.*
- Maureen Callaghan will be presenting a training for the Right Question Institutes. We will follow up with a conformed date.
- Membership Status
 - The Governor's appointment office has informed us of a delay in processing appointments. Members are deemed appointed unless they receive a letter expressing gratitude for their service.
- Moira Ryan motion to send a letter to Commissioner with the information from the National Teacher Quality Council for special education teachers. Jennifer Pike seconded.
 - Discussion
 - Consensus was to send the information to all the committee members to review and add to the agenda for next month, so that we all have a chance to review it.



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Roll Call Vote for Letter to Commissioner Regarding National Teacher Quality Council Information for Special Education Teachers

SAC Member	Vote	SAC Member	Vote
Rep. Peggy Balboni	ABST	Ole Leo	ABST
Dale Boyle	N	Michelle Lewis	
Kara Buxton		Leah Lucier-Pike	
Elizabeth Cannon	Y	Gregory Magoon	ABST
William Caruso		Melissa McKeon	
Joseph Costanzo	ABST	Christopher O'Reilly	
Carin Daddino-Rogers		Lance Paquette	ABST
Christina Dotson	ABST	Erica-Lee Peaslee	
Alyson Eberhardt		Jennifer Pike	Y (arrived 5:30 PM)
Rebecca Fredette	ABST	Janet Reed	N
Darlene Gildersleeve		Karen Rosenberg	ABST
Melissa Gray	ABST	Moiria Ryan	Y
Kari Grimes	N	Joy Sabolevski	ABST
Marion Hanson		Katherine Shea	Y (arrived at 6:34 PM)
Alicia Houston		Karen Stokes	N
Esther Kennedy	left at 6:16 PM	Kathleen Talbot	ABST
Rep. Katelyn Kuttub		Tracy Walbridge	ABST

Motion Result: The motion fails with 4 "Yes" votes, 4 "No" and 12 "Abstain" votes.

8 Old Business

- 306 Rules will be conducting listening sessions in targets subject areas. Rebecca will check to see if the contracted vendor can present to the NH SAC
- No updates on the NH Learn Everywhere proposed rules

9 Public Comment

- During public comments, Kim, a parent, expressed her gratitude to the committee.

10 Motion to Adjourn

Janet Reed motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ole Leo seconded.
Roll call vote to adjourn – Meeting ended at 6:49 PM



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Roll Call Vote to adjourn			
SAC Member	Vote	SAC Member	Vote
Rep. Peggy Balboni	Y	Ole Leo	Y
Dale Boyle	Y	Michelle Lewis	
Kara Buxton		Leah Lucier-Pike	
Elizabeth Cannon	Y	Gregory Magoon	Y
William Caruso		Melissa McKeon	
Joseph Costanzo	Y	Christopher O'Reilly	
Carin Daddino-Rogers		Lance Paquette	Y
Christina Dotson	Y	Erica-Lee Peaslee	
Alyson Eberhardt		Jennifer Pike	Y
Rebecca Fredette	ABST	Janet Reed	Y
Darlene Gildersleeve		Karen Rosenberg	Y
Melissa Gray	Y	Moir Ryan	Y
Kari Grimes	Y	Joy Sabolevski	Y
Marion Hanson		Katherine Shea	
Alicia Houston		Karen Stokes	Y
Esther Kennedy	left at 6:16 PM	Kathleen Talbot	Y
Rep. Katelyn Kuttub		Tracy Walbridge	Y
Motion Result: The February 7 2024, meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM by consensus.			