

## Home Education Advisory Council (HEAC) Approved Minutes

December 16, 2021 Walker Building, Room 100

Placeholder meeting to orient new members Called to order at 3:46pm

Physically present: Jen P., Amanda W., Heather B., Mike K., Shireen M.

Present via Zoom: Members- Althea B., Sarah C., Allison O. Public: Michelle Levell and Rep. Greg Hill

Members not in attendance: April Villiani, Catie McLaughlin, Senator Ruth Ward, Representative Cordelli, Representative Shaw

Amanda and Jen are taking notes for minutes.

Motion to accept November minutes, all members agree except two abstaining members because they were not present at the November meeting. (Sarah Cheek and Heather Barker)

Motion passed

No Chair report due to vacancy

Jen. P discusses the role of HEAC, Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary positions

Jen P. reviews "Right to Know" policy, slides are available from the DOE presentation upon request

All members are asked to introduce themselves and Jen and Amanda will give updates on current issues.

Shireen Meskoob is the DOE representative, point person for homeschooling questions at the DOE and responsible for the website.

Sarah Cheek is the Director of Acton Academy Seacoast, a homeschool microschool in Dover.

Catie McLaughlin (introduced by Amanda Weeden, Co-Leader of CHENHSME) is the representative from Christian Home Educators NH and Southern Maine. She is a veteran homeschool mom.

Althea Barton is the representative from New Hampshire Homeschooling Coalition. She is a veteran homeschool mom.

Jen Pereira is a representative from Catholics United for Home Education (CUHE for short), veteran homeschool mom and a senior member of HEAC.

Amanda Weeden is the representative from Granite State Home Educators. She is a veteran homeschool mom and Special Needs Homeschooling Representative on HEAC.

Allison O'Neill is the representative from Hampton Homeschool Co-op. She is a veteran homeschool mom who has recently graduated her youngest child from high school.

Heather Barker is the representative from New Hampshire School Administrators. She has an extensive background in education, special education and creating positive relationships between homeschoolers and public schools.

Mike Koski is the representative from New Hampshire Association of School Principals. He is a homeschool dad and currently serves as the Science Director at Windham Schools.

Nonpublic School Advisory Council- vacant NH School Board Association- vacant

Jen Pereira reviewed old business saying that the council has been comparing various educational options presented to the public as home education (full course load VLACs and Prenda Community PODs) with home education as defined under 193-A. The council has stated that these options do not fit the definition of home education under 193-A. Jen also mentioned that the language of the new EFA law makes it clear that those receiving EFA funds are not legally home educating under 193-A. Due to the legal separation between the EFA program and 193-A, the HEAC council does not have jurisdiction over the functioning of the EFA program.

Jen shares that Representative Layon has an upcoming bill, but full text is not yet available.

Amanda Weeden provides an update from Granite State Home Educators. DOE new enrollment 2021 numbers are out. There is still confusion from families regarding educational options, requirements and definitions. Their organization has spent time encouraging and equipping EFA families to rally for upcoming legislation. January 24-28, 2022 is School Choice Week, GSHE is hosting State House tours on 1/24, 1/25 at 10am. Sign up required. Amanda invites the House Education Committee and any legislators to join us, tours will be hosted by GSHE and Representative Erica Layon.

No other member updates

Sarah Cheek asks where people can find upcoming legislation.

Jen. P responds with various places: the Legislative Website, Granite State Home Educators.

Amanda Weeden responds with Granite State Home Educators newsletter, blog, website and Facebook page.

Member of the public Representative Greg Hill responds with the House Education Committee calendar for perusal of upcoming legislation.

Public comment:

Michelle Levell, Director of Granite State Home Educators thanks all members for serving. No other comments.

Motion to adjourn at 4:48pm by Amanda, seconded by Heather. Motion passed.