

NH Home Education Advisory Council (HEAC)

Draft Minutes of January 10, 2025 Meeting

Granite State College, 25 Hall St., Concord, NH

In physical attendance: Heather Barker, Tim Carney, Alyson Landrigan, James O'Rourke, Mike Koski, Michelle Rohrbacher, Marcus Zuech, Althea Barton, and Senator Ward. Four members of the public present: Amanda Weeden, Debra Sullivan, Jennifer Marker, and a visitor who observed.

In remote attendance via Zoom: Darlene Gildersleeve and other members of the public who observed.

Meeting called to order at 2:30PM by the Chairperson, Mr. Zuech.

Minutes: No changes. Motion to accept December 20, 2024 minutes 'as is' made by Ms. Barker. Ms. Rohrbacher seconded the motion. Voice roll call: All in favor.

Appointments/Resignations: none

Immediate Business: Sen. Ward has been re-appointed to HEAC.

DOE update: Mr. Carney announced that he is leaving the department, being replaced by Aly Landrigan as the home education support person for HEAC. No other report from the DOE since the last meeting.

Adoption/Readoption of HEAC Best Practices: Ms Barker motioned and Ms Barton seconded the adoption of the first three Best Practices 'as is' as listed in the HEAC Agenda. Discussion of the Best Practices as they pertain to the 'Public Comment' period of future meetings ensued. Mr. Zuech favored public comment toward the end of the meeting. Ms. Barker stated that she would prefer a different approach to allow the public the opportunity to participate within the meeting time frame. Mr. Zuech suggested that this issue will be taken up at the next meeting because a consensus could not be reached. The Best Practice regarding meeting materials being accepted as part of the draft materials on the DOE website was discussed. Motion to review and approve meeting materials before posting as draft materials was made by Ms. Barker and seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Voice roll call: All in favor.

Member Reports: Sen. Ward had no new business to report. Ms. Barton had nothing to report. Ms. Rohrbacher had nothing to report. Mr. Zuech had nothing to report. Mr. Koski had nothing to report. Mr. Rourke had nothing to report. Ms. Barker had nothing to report.

New Business: Sen. Ward received a letter from a constituent regarding a family who they believed had a home educated child who needs educational assistance. Ms. Barker suggested that a parent or legal guardian would need to address the situation and seek assistance, if appropriate and desired. Several members believed that this issue was not within the purview of the HEAC to address. Mr. Carney noted that the DOE had independently responded to this concern already.

Continuing Business: Ms. Rohrbacher presented a letter (Amendment A) drafted to the Commissioner of Education with concerns about the administration of the Education Tax Scholarship program. She stated that these issues within it were from home education community members. Discussion ensued. Ms. Barton suggested delaying this letter in order to gather more information from the rest of the home

education organizations. It was agreed that the letter be sent immediately, with polling from each member organization polling their own organization prior to the next meeting. Ms. Rohrbacher referred to the Education Tax Credit Law 77-G:1 and read it aloud. She is to bring the segment of the law referenced in her letter to the next meeting. Motion was made to include RSAs in the minutes by Ms. Barker, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Voice roll call: All in favor. Mr. Carney suggested that any letter addressed to the Commissioner should reference 'we' as the HEAC, not 'I' as one individual. He also suggested that the chairperson sign the letter. Motion to accept and send the letter was made by Mr. Koski, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Voice roll call: All in favor.

Rulemaking/Legislative Updates: no change.

LSRs: Mr Zuech referred to a list of LSRs on the agenda. A discussion ensued regarding the origination of the list. Ms. Barker read each item listed. Some will be eliminated. A revised list will be provided at the next meeting.

Information Items: Ms. Zuech referenced the items as listed. Questions arose regarding the SAT Bootcamp. Further discussion will be taken up at the next meeting on eligibility for this program.

Announcement: Next meeting is March 14, 2025.

Open Board Discussion: Ms. Barton mentioned that the NH Homeschooling Coalition website has been revised and language regarding the educational pathways has been updated.

Public Comments: Letter (Amendment B) from Jennifer Bobolia was read into the record by Mr. Zuech. Jennifer Marker, New Durham, addressed HEAC to request the resignation of Ms. Pattison and stated that she had sent a letter directly to Ms. Pattison. Ms. Weeden, Rochester, GSHE and Christian Home Education of NH & So. Maine, asked for the resignation of both Ms. Pattison and Ms. Barton. Debra Sullivan, Goffstown, reiterated support for the previous comments. Online participant, Darlene Gildersleeve, Hopkinton, commented as well.

Non-Public Session: None.

Adjournment: At 4:30PM a motion for adjournment was made by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Ms. Barton. Voice roll call: All in favor.

Attachments: A) Ms. Rohrbacher's letter to the Commissioner of Education B) Letter received by HEAC from Jennifer Bobolia on January 7, 2025.

Minutes DN