



**New Hampshire State Board of Education  
Department of Education  
25 Hall Street, Concord, NH 03301**

**Minutes of the December 14, 2023, Meeting**

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education convened at 10:04 a.m. Drew Cline presided as chair.

**Members present:** Ryan Terrell, Ann Lane, Drew Cline (chair), Richard Sala, and Phil Nazzaro (Zoom). Also in attendance were Frank Edelblut, Commissioner of Education, and Deputy Commissioner of Education, Christine Brennan.

**Members absent:** Kate Cassady and Jim Fricchione were not in attendance due to prior commitments.

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Drew Cline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM III. RULEMAKING/LEGISLATIVE UPDATES (part I) - JULIE SHEA, NHED, Administrative Rules Coordinator**

**A. Conditional Approval Response - Proposed Interim Rule: School Nurse (Ed 504.08-Ed 504.10)**

- Motion:** Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education approve the conditional approval response for proposed interim rule Ed 504.08-Ed 504.10 regarding nursing licensing requirements.
- Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education with Drew Cline abstaining.

**December 14, 2023**

**B. Conditional Approval Response - Proposed Interim Rule: Computer Science Teacher (Ed 507.54)**

**Motion:** Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education approve the conditional approval response for proposed interim rule Ed 507.54 regarding computer science teacher certification.

**Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education with Drew Cline abstaining.

**AGENDA ITEM IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*TOM LALIBERTE, as the Chair of the Professional Standards Board (PSB),* attended the meeting to advise the State Board that PSB will implement a 3-column document which will include the current language, their recommendations, and their rationale as to the proposed changes.

*DEAN CASCADDEN, representing himself,* thanked the Board for tabling the Ed 306's.

*DAVID TRUMBLE, town of Weare,* spoke about the public's right-to-know in regard to the Ed 306's. He recommended that when the State Board holds listening to sessions around the state, a note-taker should be hired. Government action should be documented, so that when the Ed 306 process is over and something is sent over to the legislature, there's an appendix that lists what did, for example, Mr. Vermote come up with, and what was the final version from the DOE. Whose recommendation were listened to and whose recommendations were ignored? He feels that that would live up to the constitutional recommendation of openness and accountability.

*GEORGE EDWARDS, Sunapee, NH,* expressed his concern for the approval of a new accreditor for nonpublic schools in New Hampshire. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges has been accrediting nonpublic schools in NH for almost a century, with a consistent level of excellence. He shared that several neighboring states have recently adopted criteria for approval of accrediting agencies, and recommended NH do the same.

**AGENDA ITEM V. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT(S) SPOTLIGHT**

*Carrie Alley-Violette, Career Pathway Educator at Sanborn Regional High School and President of the ELO Network,* said their mission is to educate and advocate and advance the best practices in extended learning. As the ELO coordinator at Sanborn Regional High School, their program has grown from 18 students 10 years ago to 132 currently

enrolled students. Every month they have a different theme surrounding careers and invite career-specific community members to speak to the students. They also offer virtual career speakers available who conduct interviews.

*Adam Krauss, ELO Coordinator at Exeter High School*, explained the ELO process and how they work with the students. They're creating something called the Senior Gateway Project, which will be steeped in a senior having a career-connected experience before leaving.

*Matt Jozokos, Assistant Superintendent at Prospect High School*, said that their focus has been on their mission, and their mission is around personalized education. He highlighted that they partnered with Alton Dance Academy, which has proven to be beneficial to many students.

*Ashley Dowling, Alton Dance Academy*, reported that partnering with Prospect High School has been incredibly beneficial for the students, giving them a sense of validation.

*Sean Peschel, Oyster River High School*, said their students aren't only earning high school credit towards graduation, but they're also earning industry recognized credentials.

*Nicole Bellabona, Portsmouth High School*, believes their CTE programs enhance the learning throughout their school. Their extended learning is more project-based with a mentor. Portsmouth High School has a college counselor, a grade-level counselor at each level, and Nicole does career. They get together to look at their senior class and their pathways.

## **AGENDA ITEM VI. REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Town of Canterbury Withdrawal Study Reports from Shaker Regional School District**

**Motion:** Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the town of Canterbury's withdrawal from Shaker Regional School District.

**Vote:** The motion failed.

### **B. Waterville Valley Elementary School, SAU 48 - FY24 waiver request per RSA 189:11.a**

**Motion:** Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the Waterville Valley Elementary School waiver request with an end date of June 30, 2025.

**Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education with Ann Lane abstaining, as she had to step out of the meeting during this portion on the meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEM VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **12:00 - Legislative Rulemaking**

Chair Drew Cline opened the public hearings at 12:01 p.m.

#### **A. Learn Everywhere Program for High School Graduation Credit (Ed 1400)**

*Deb Howes, President of the American Federation of Teachers New Hampshire,* said that after reviewing the proposed revisions to the Learn Everywhere rules, in some places, it seems that focus on the student has been lost, with regard to their safety, their learning needs, and well-being. The biggest concern for her was the changes to the criminal records check regulation. Currently, Learn Everywhere programs have to have a policy on doing criminal background checks and they have to affirmatively state that they will not allow anyone who is convicted of or accused of serious crimes to be instructing or interacting with students. The proposed change would allow that to become an either or; either you have that policy, or you have a statement and inform parents that you don't.

#### **B. Computer Science Educator (Ed 507.54)**

There was no public testimony. Chair Drew Cline closed the public hearings at 12:31 p.m.

#### **12:30 - Office of Public-School Innovation**

Chair Drew Cline opened the public hearing at 12:31 p.m.

#### **C. Landaff School District Application**

There was no public testimony. Chair Drew Cline closed the public hearing at 13:00 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII. COUNCIL FOR TEACHER EDUCATION (CTE)** - LAURA STONEKING,  
NHED, Administrator, Bureau of Educator Support and Higher Education

**A. University of New Hampshire (Durham) - substantive change**

*Dr. Catherine McCurdy and Dr. Suzanne Graham* were at the meeting on behalf of UNH. The only change of the term of approval would be the elimination date, so in essence, it moves the expiration and effectively closes out the elementary math specialist educator preparation program.

**Motion:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the elimination of the elementary mathematics specialist K through 6 effective 2/1/24.

**Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education.

**AGENDA ITEM XI. BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**A. Office of Charter Schools – TAL BAYER, NHED, Administrator, Office of Public Charter Schools**

**1. The Virtual Learning Academy (VLACS)- amendment**

Tal Bayer brought forward three proposed amendments:

- Updating the language of their mission.
- VLACS currently focuses primarily on career-based learning and believes their students would benefit from interest-based learning as well.
- An option for students to earn credit for prior learning.

**Motion:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the amendment of VLACS Charter Public Schools charter.

**Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education.

**2. NEXT Charter School - renewal**

*Emily Whelan, Director at NEXT Charter School*, introduced five representatives and gave a brief outline of their school. They attended the meeting for their five-year renewal.

**Motion:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education approve NEXT Charter School's application for renewal for five years.

**Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education.

### **3. Annual Fall Report on Charter Schools**

*Casey Silva and Liz Tebow* attended the meeting with Tal Bayer, and they went over a summary of some findings across the 32 currently open and active public schools. This document has been uploaded to Canvas. No motion needed.

**B. Office of Learn Everywhere Programs - TIM CARNEY, NHED, Administrator, Educational Pathways**

#### **1. Izzit.org - new application**

*Rob Chatfield* attended the meeting seeking approval of their Financial Literacy Learn Everywhere program that's embedded in their WIN course that they offer.

**Motion:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the Izzit.org Financial Literacy Learn Everywhere initial application.

**Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education.

**C. Office of Nonpublic Schools - TIM CARNEY, NHED, Administrator, Educational Pathways**

#### **1. Cognia, Inc. - application for recognition as an accrediting agency for nonpublic schools**

*Dave Smith, NH State Director for Cognia, and Jake Goldsmith, Regional Vice President for Cognia*, represented Cognia at the meeting.

**Motion:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education accept the

recommendation of the NSPC and identify Cognia, Inc. as a recognized program approval agency for nonpublic schools for the period of December 14, 2023, through December 14, 2033.

**Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education with Ryan Terrell abstaining, as he had to step out of the meeting during this portion on the meeting.

**D. Office of Public-School Innovation** – *TIM CARNEY, NHED, Administrator, Educational Pathways*

**1. Landaff School District - application**

*Kate Harrington Segal, Superintendent at Blue School, and John Barth, Landaff School District Board Chair,* represented the Landaff School District in their application to become an innovation school.

**Motion:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education approve the Landaff School District Blue School Innovation plan.

**Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education.

**AGENDA ITEM X. RULEMAKING/LEGISLATIVE UPDATES (part II)** – *JULIE SHEA, NHED, Administrative Rules Coordinator*

**A. Initial Proposal - Visual Arts Teacher (Ed 507.09) - Discussion only**

The language used is to be discussed at the next meeting. No motion needed.

**B. Initial Proposal - School Building Construction (Ed 321)**

*Amy Clark, Department of Education and the School's Facilities Bureau,* brought forth the initial proposal for the building aid school construction rules. House Bill 452 passed and has changed the building aid process quite substantially timeline-wise. Because of this, the rule was re-worked in its entirety. A stakeholder group of school business administrators and superintendents with facility managers. They met with Homeland Security, the Fire Marshal's Office, architects, owners, project managers, etc., and produced the initial proposal as per documentation handed out in the meeting.

**Motion:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education approve the initial proposal for Ed 321 relative to school building construction.

**Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education with Drew Cline abstaining.

### **C. Initial Proposal - CTE Teacher Certification (Ed 507.02 & Ed 507.03)**

The proposed changes to the rule center on three ideas:

- In-service experience;
- Pre-service experience; and
- Remove the specific language in the rule about credentialing by state or national boards.

**Motion:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the initial proposal for Ed 507.02 and Ed 507.03 relative to licensure requirements for CTE.

**Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education with Drew Cline abstaining.

### **D. Adopt - Interim Rule: School Nurse (Ed 504.08-Ed 504.10)**

**Motion:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education adopt the interim rules Ed 504.08 and Ed 504.10 regarding nursing licensing requirement.

**Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education with Drew Cline abstaining.

### **E. Adopt - Interim Rule: Computer Science Teacher (Ed 507.54)**

**Motion:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education adopt the interim rules Ed 507.54 relative to certification requirements for computer science educators.



**Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education with Drew Cline abstaining.

### **AGENDA ITEM XI. COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE**

The Commissioner discussed ELO's in more detail regarding the actual numbers he has in his records. He stressed that it is growing, which is encouraging.

The quick recap of the year, some of the highlights for the year:

- In January 2023, the cost per pupil information was released. It'll be released in January 2024 again. It was \$19,399.97.
- In February 2023, it was the Granite Skillet Contest.
- The third year of ReKindling Curiosity was launched.
- Over \$1 million scholarships were awarded for kids to go to camps and did that in conjunction with the partnership with the Community Behavioral Health Associations.
- In March, the Board approved the Ed 1500 rules for innovation schools.
- Also in March, which is the National Reading Month, the statewide literacy program, Leaning into Literacy, was launched.
- The ALMA project was also launched, which is the statewide student information system.
- iGRANT was launched, which is the financial transparency dashboard online.
- With the Leaning into Literacy program, awarded over \$1 million of stipends to educators.
- In May, the College Guidance Network was launched.
- \$1.2 million was awarded in the Beyond School Enrichment Opportunities grant for summer programming.
- In June the Mapping Bright Futures program was launched.
- Awarded \$4.8 million of SAFE grants for schools.
- In July a micro credential was enabled for anyone taking the Letters Program.
- Assessment scores were released.
- 88 students were awarded the NH Seal of Biliteracy Award.
- Max the Moose was introduced in August.
- In September, over \$700,000 of Robotics grants was awarded.
- 8,577 credentials were credentialed.
- In October the Teacher of the Year was awarded.
- We received a grant of \$4 million.

- 4200 students from economically disadvantaged homes are participating in the Education Freedom Account program.
- Awarded another \$10 million in SAFE grants.

**A. Report/Update on New Castle Elementary School, SAU 50 - FY24 waiver request per RSA 189:11.a**

Last year, the Board provided them with a waiver relative to food and nutrition programs. This is a school that services 26 students in Newcastle. There have not been complaints. In terms of how those students are supported; the school supports them with various snack items if a student were to have forgotten something. The most recent partnership in providing this support has fallen through, and they are adopting an additional plan which allows them to work with another local school district to subcontract the school lunch plan.

**AGENDA ITEM XII. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSIONS**

**A. Discussion & Adoption of Modified Quorum Rules**

Legislature passed bill HB 306 that allows for public boards to operate with a reduced in-person quorum.

**Motion:** Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education adopt the procedures regarding a quorum as provided by the amendments to RSA 91:82 enacted by HB 308 for the result that the present and all future meetings of the State Board until this resolution is amended or revoked or modified in the same manner it was approved, members of the State Board may participate in the meeting remotely when physical attendance is not reasonably practical. A member participating in the meeting remotely shall be deemed present for all purposes, including for a determination of a quorum and voting.

**Vote:** The motion was adopted by the State Board of Education.

**AGENDA ITEM XIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

Richard Sala had to leave, and the in-person quorum was lost. No other matters on the agenda were taken up and will be moved to the January 11, 2024 meeting.

- A. Meeting Minutes of October 11, 2023**
- B. Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2023**
- C. Withdrawn Cases - informational only**

**AGENDA ITEM XIV. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

There were no nonpublic sessions.

**AGENDA ITEM XV. TABLE ITEMS**

- A. Initial Proposal – Minimum Standards (Ed 306)**
- B. Initial Proposal ~ Visual Arts Teacher (Ed 507.09)**
- C. Meeting Minutes of October 11, 2023**

**AGENDA ITEM XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

No motion because quorum was lost.



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Secretary