

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the October 13, 2022, Meeting

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education convened at 10:17 a.m. Drew Cline presided as Chair.

Members present: Kate Cassady, Ryan Terrell, Phil Nazzaro, Ann Lane, Drew Cline (chair), Sally Griffin and Richard Sala (remote). Also in attendance was Commissioner Frank Edelblut and Deputy Commissioner Christine Brennan.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Kate Cassady led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Ward, *League of Women Voters of New Hampshire*, commented on an article written by Commissioner Edelblut published on September 29 in Seacoast Online. She disagreed that support for education freedom accounts does not reflect a lack of support for public schools. Money is being taken from public schools to private schools with no oversight.

Chip McGee, *Superintendent of Schools, Pelham School District, and representing the South-Central Regional Superintendents*, noted that the Nashua middle schools are being renovated. At the Career Technical Education Region 17 meeting, local school board members met to discuss innovations in career technical education. They also worked to coordinate schedules for 2023-2024 to ensure students participating in those programs are aligned. Pelham middle school renovation plan has been approved. COVID money allowed the elementary school to get air conditioning on the second floor over the summer.

Judith McGann, *Superintendent of Schools, Lin-wood School District, and representing the North Country Regional Superintendents*, shared a document with the Board. The north country superintendents collaborate and communicate with each other as well as the community. Outside agencies and businesses support the local school districts and provide opportunities for students.

Claudia Istel, *Acworth, NH, and private teacher*, commented on the previous discussion about raising the minimum standards for public schools. She asked how the public will be able to have input on the product of and development of the standards. Drew Cline replied the normal rule making process allows for public participation. The process is laid out in RSA 541a.

David Ryan, *Superintendent of Schools, Exeter School District*, and *representing the South East Regional Superintendents*, shared updates from the Southeast region. SAU 21 has partnered with local officials on school safety plans. SAU 16 developed Portrait of an Educator, which is a reflective practice for teachers to build a portfolio of their accomplishments that lead to improve learning in the classroom. SAU 16 is partnering with Southern New Hampshire University with the Master Teacher Leadership program. It gives expanded opportunities for teachers to take on leadership roles in and outside of their classroom. Over 300 students participated in the extended learning opportunities program last year. They have a full time ELO coordinator allowing students to be out in the community learning.

AGENDA ITEM IV. HEARINGS

A. Summary of Withdrawn Cases

The informational only summary was provided. There were no questions.

B. Student/Salem School District – SB-FY-22-06-018 (nonpublic session)

Motion: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II(c) at 10:30 a.m.

Vote: The motion was approved by roll call vote by State Board of Education members Kate Cassady, Ryan Terrell, Phil Nazzaro, Ann Lane, Drew Cline (chair), Sally Griffin and Richard Sala (remote).

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane that the State Board of Education return to public session, which reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll call vote by State Board of Education members Kate Cassady, Ryan Terrell, Phil Nazzaro, Ann Lane, Drew Cline (chair), Sally Griffin and Richard Sala (remote).

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell that the State Board of Education adopt the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation, upholding the school district's decision.

VOTE: The motion was approved by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education with the chair abstaining.

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education seal the minutes of the nonpublic session indefinitely.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll call vote by State Board of Education members Kate Cassady, Ryan Terrell, Phil Nazzaro, Ann Lane, Drew Cline (chair), Sally Griffin and Richard Sala (remote).

C. Student/Contoocook Valley Regional School Board – SB-FY-22-06-019 (nonpublic session)

There was a problem with the meeting packet, and it was decided that rescheduling would be in the best interest of the parties.

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro to table and reschedule the hearing.

VOTE: The motion was approved by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education with the chair abstaining.

D. Student/Profile School Board – SB-FY-22-03-008 (nonpublic session)

Motion: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II(c) at 1:07 p.m. a.m.

Vote: The motion was approved by roll call vote by State Board of Education members Kate Cassady, Ryan Terrell, Phil Nazzaro, Ann Lane, Drew Cline (chair), and Sally Griffin.

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell that the State Board of Education return to public session, which reconvened at 2:10 p.m.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll call vote by State Board of Education members Kate Cassady, Ryan Terrell, Phil Nazzaro, Ann Lane, Drew Cline (chair), and Sally Griffin.

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane that the State Board of Education reject the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation, and remand the matter back to the Hearing Officer for a full fact-finding hearing.

VOTE: The motion was approved by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education with the chair abstaining.

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education seal the minutes of the nonpublic session indefinitely.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll call vote by State Board of Education members Kate Cassady, Ryan Terrell, Phil Nazzaro, Ann Lane, Drew Cline (chair), and Sally Griffin.

AGENDA ITEM V. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

A. Adoption of Alternate Standards for English language arts, mathematics, and science

No discussion and remains tabled.

AGENDA ITEM VI. BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A. Learn Everywhere Program

1. Summary of Learn Everywhere Program Provider Annual Reports

Tim Carney, NHED, Administrator, provided a summary of Learn Everywhere program providers annual reports. Several programs have been renewed. Outreach is taking place to encourage new programs to participate. The website has been updated. Tim Carney met with leadership at the Nashua School District to discuss Learn Everywhere and correct misconceptions about the program.

Ryan Terrell suggested New Hampshire Academy of Science share their best practices in their successful program. Tim Carney shared Russian School of Mathematics has opened their facility for that purpose as well. They are looking to meet with other districts to provide schools with information on the program.

Drew Cline commented on some of the Learn Everywhere programs that chose not to renew. The Boys and Girls Club previously testified in public hearings while the rules were being written because they were passionately in support of Learn Everywhere. Tim Carney responded they are still passionate about the program. They did not get the renewal completed due to unrelated circumstances. They will be renewing in the future.

Drew Cline stated information on Learn Everywhere is not public knowledge. Many parents do not know about the program. Some of the school administrators are also unaware of how the program works. Tim Carney is working

towards educating the school districts. Drew Cline suggested alternate learning opportunities be added to school handbooks to inform parents of options. Ann Lane stated the School Board Association would be able to suggest to schools. Richard Sala suggested advertisement on social media should be recommended to the commissioner.

2. Spanish NVivo, LLC – New Application

Mariel Carmelo, Spanish Teacher, presented her application. She created an online program after teaching Spanish in school districts in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Spanish is her first language and she learned English not in a classroom, but through different communication experiences. She believes people learn in different ways and some students struggle to learn a new language in a traditional classroom setting. Her approach is communication based while learning about the culture. She teaches students based upon their interests to make it applicable to their own lives.

Sally Griffin asked about the current program and student enrollment. Mariel Carmelo stated she currently works with students in Vermont as part of their school choice program. She also teaches students internationally.

Ann Lane stated there are state resources to assist in rolling out the program and encouraged Mariel to take advantage of those resources.

Drew Cline added Mariel Carmelo has a bachelor's in special education, a master's in Spanish, and is a certified licensed teacher in both special education and Spanish.

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, that the State Board of Education approve the Spanish NVivo LLC Learn Everywhere application.

Vote: The motion was approved by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

Kate Cassady asked about tracking of extended learning opportunities. Tim Carney responded Learn Everywhere is supportive of educational offerings schools can provide to families. Kate Cassady suggested finding ways to get information to kids to get them excited about the options. Phil Nazzaro shared it's difficult to get information to families, even about things like free and reduced lunch. Drew Cline added without an advertising budget, it is challenging to get information out about new programs.

AGENDA ITEM VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

A. Initial Proposal – Administrative Endorsements (Ed 506)

Steve Appleby provided the initial proposal for Ed 506. Approval of the initial proposal still allows for changes throughout the process. Board members suggested linguistic changes.

There were questions over who is responsible for ensuring schools have a vision statement. Drew Cline stated it would be the superintendent's job to bring the vision statement to the school board for approval. Phil Nazzaro stated there is some clarity needed in the rules defining the role of the superintendent versus the school board and how they are intended to work together. It was noted that the rules are for endorsements; therefore, may not need to outline the job descriptions.

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the initial proposal for Ed 501.02, Ed 505.23, Ed 505.05, and Ed 506.01 through Ed 506.09.

Vote: The motion was approved by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

B. Initial Proposal – Criminal History Records Checks for First-Time New Hampshire Applicants and Professional Educator Preparation Program (PEPP) Candidates (Ed 504.12, Ed 505.07, Ed 505.08, and Ed 512.01, and Ed 604.09)

Steve Appleby stated the initial proposal is to replace the interim rule that was approved earlier in the year. Julie Shea stated the interim rules are expiring soon. The initial proposal will go to the Office of Legislative Services (OLS). There were only minor changes from the interim rules including additional forms.

Drew Cline suggested language be changed from “video tape and audio tape” to “video recording and audio recording.”

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, that the State Board of Education approve the initial proposal for Ed 504.12, Ed 505.07, Ed 505.08, Ed 505.09, Ed 512.01, and Ed 604.90 regarding criminal history records checks for first-time New Hampshire applicants and professional educator preparation program (PEPP) candidates.

Vote: The motion was approved by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

C. Repeal Initial Proposal – Speech Language Specialist (Ed 508.05)

Steve Appleby stated that HB1016, at the request of the speech language pathologist field, put in a bill to take speech language specialist out of the State

Board's purview. Speech language specialists work with New Hampshire Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) on a lesser license so they can bill Medicaid. There are currently 41 individuals with an active Speech Language Specialist license. Most also hold the OPLC license as well.

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, that the State Board of Education approve the initial proposal to repeal Ed 508.05.

Vote: The motion was approved by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

AGENDA ITEM VII. COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

A. New Castle Waiver Request per RSA 189:11a – Food and Nutrition Programs

Commissioner Edelblut provided information on the New Castle waiver request. They have an elementary K-5 school that has 26 students. Prior to COVID, school meals were provided through a contract with a company. They lost that company. Most students are bringing their lunches. They have asked for a waiver that allows them time to be able to get a new meal service in place.

The rule states school boards can make an application to the State Board. The request may be granted by the Commissioner of Education. The State Board reviews and can grant up to 1 year to rectify the situation. Commissioner Edelblut granted the waiver. A plan is being put in place to bring to the State Board for review.

Commissioner Edelblut stated the Work as Learning program coordinates with businesses across the state to enable students to take work-based learning opportunities, internships, career exploration for credits, wages, or both. Thirty-seven thousand cards were sent to households with high school students to promote the program. Kate Cassady asked if Learn Everywhere and Work as Learning could be included in school fairs.

A new website was released relative to COVID relief funds. It shows funds that were passed to the schools, the amount allocated to districts, the amount budgeted, and amount reimbursed from the state to the school. The information will be refreshed weekly.

AGENDA ITEM IX. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSIONS

A. Town of Carrol's Appeal of the White Mountain Regional School District's Vote to Reject the Proposed Withdrawal Plan

Richard Sala completed an investigation and provided a report to the Board. Drew Cline stated the report was thorough. He concluded there was no legal issue with the vote and election materials. The recommendation concludes with, "Although we do not have the authority to regress the outcome of a free and fair election, the State Board of Education recommends that the withdrawal process be terminated." The other recommendation was, "The districts that form the White Mountain Regional School District continue to engage in a constructive dialogue to boast a cooperative school district where 5, not 4, districts participate of their own volition." The current cooperative school district law does not allow districts to leave even after a significant amount of time has passed and things within the districts have changed.

Motion: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education adopt Board Member Sala's investigation and recommendation.

Vote: The motion was approved by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

AGENDA ITEM X. TABLED ITEMS

A. Initial Proposal – Administrator Endorsements (Ed 506)

Motion: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education remove Ed 506 from the table.

Vote: The motion was approved by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education

B. River View Public Charter School - Application

C. Student/Raymond School Board – SB-FY-23-07-000

D. Adoption of Alternate Standards for English language arts, mathematics, and science

AGENDA ITEM XI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2022

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, that the State Board of Education accept the meeting minutes as presented.

Vote: The motion was approved by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

AGENDA ITEM XII. NONPUBLIC SESSION

There was no nonpublic session.

AGENDA ITEM XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education adjourn at 2:11 p.m.

Vote: The motion was approved by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.



Secretary