

New Hampshire  
State Board of Education  
Minutes of the December 9, 2021 Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education convened at 9:05 a.m. Drew Cline presided as Chair.

Members present: Ryan Terrell, Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Drew Cline, Chair, Richard Sala, and Phil Nazzaro. Sally Griffin attended remotely, but for only a short time. Also in attendance was Deputy Commission, Christine Brennan. Commissioner Edelblut was not able to attend due to a prior commitment.

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Kate Cassady led the pledge of allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM III. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS**

A. Math Standards Skills and Competencies

Anne Wallace, NHDOE, Education Consultant, Division of Learner Support, reported state and federal law require the state assessments that are based on state competencies. Standards allow equal access and equity in the framework. First, the team created a crosswalk based on New Hampshire College and Career Ready Standards. They began with the high school content because there is more freedom at the high school level. Then they created competencies which were more course and content specific than current competencies. They aligned the standards with the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and current state assessments. Professional development has begun in schools. The standards build upon each other from K-12.

Chair Cline asked about putting more focus on statistics and probability-based on how valuable the competencies are in today's world. Anne Wallace responded that grades K-8 are building up to that. She and the commissioner have discussed alternative pathways and how to bring statistics as more of a choice in high school. Chair Cline shared there has been feedback that statistics skills are more necessary for careers than algebra. Anne Wallace shared she is involved in national discussion groups regarding this subject.

There are two math pathways. The traditional pathway: algebra 1, geometry, algebra 2. Then there is integrated 1, integrated 2, integrated 3. All competencies are matched with standards and skills for each grade level. Charts have been created to allow teachers and students to identify what they are doing well in and what they need to work on.

Melissa White, NHDOE, Director of Assessment and Academics, reported that the project to update competencies began because the previous competencies were broad. They wanted to hone in on the actual skills students need in order to master the standards. Anne Wallace has been working on math and they have an English language arts (ELA) educational consultant working on the ELA version. Eventually, they will move to science and other content areas. The goal is to support districts in ensuring curriculum meets the competencies.

Ryan Terrell asked the difference between competencies and skills. Anne Wallace responded that the competency is the end goal, the standards are the basics, and the skills are the techniques. Ryan Terrell asked why 6th grade has the highest number of skills and the lowest competencies. Anne Wallace responded the competencies are tied to standards. Grade six ties up many skills to prepare for grade 7.

Ryan Terrell asked when does it become evident that a student is struggling with math during transition phases. Anne Wallace responded the resource documents help teachers identify the basic skills needed and which ones a student may need to work on to reach the competency.

Ryan Terrell asked how it would be utilized over what is currently in place. Anne Wallace responded that they are formally introducing it to teachers as a resource; pushing it out to the field and being there to support them understand the resources.

Ann Lane asked if there is a time when curriculum directors meet. Christine Brennan responded across the state they come together. At the elementary level, it is more the Title I teachers who come together.

Kate Cassady asked why the document is just a resource and not something being implemented. Anne Wallace responded the standards are already in place. The schools are responsible for how to break down the standards and the curriculum chosen to teach the standards. As a guidance document, it will help schools choose curriculum. The resource is also more parent friendly than standards.

#### **AGENDA ITEM IV. BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

##### **A. Office of Charter Schools**

##### **1. Cocheco Academy for the Arts Chartered Public School - Renewal**

Brenda McCartney and Mike McMahon were present to represent Cocheco Academy for the Arts Chartered Public School. Brenda McCartney shared at the last meeting, they presented the closing of the school at the end of the school year.

The question to the Board was what to do about the charter renewal. Mike McMahon reminded the Board that the conversation revolved around if a provisional renewal can be given to the end of the year or if they would be renewed for 5 years knowing they will not be open that long.

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education remove this item from the table.

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

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that pursuant to Chapter 194B and Ed 318 Charter public schools, the State Board of Education authorizes the charter renewal for Cocheco Academy of the Arts Charter School.

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

## 2. Ledyard Charter School – Renewal

John Higgins, Executive Director, and Mike Harris, Board Chair attended representing Ledyard Charter School. The renewal application and site visit were completed and the recommendations were following through with the plan to introduce students to the concept of preparing for the SAT assessment during their time at school and correlate and standardize how student assessments are conducted to be more aligned with the state measurements of student academic competencies. The school has adjusted summative assessments to include multiple choice and boxes. An advisory program is in place where a junior advisor is conducting during weekly tutoring sessions to support kids in taking the SATs. Many students come to the school during sophomore and junior year.

Regarding the development plan with specific goals for outreach, the school wants to strengthen parent involvement. Regarding the goal of follow through with stated plan of expanding access to continued professional development, the school has created a summer institute. They strive to engage the board in the professional development opportunities. They are continuing to work on board training. The school is dependent on district funds. A plan should be considered in the event that the district funds area reduced or take those funds away. The school has partnerships with the local districts. They have direct support for students attending Ledyard Charter School as a line item in their budget. Leadership changes have not altered that support.

Chair Cline asked for clarification on tuition coming from the districts. John Higgins clarified that the full tuition does not come from the districts. They receive \$7,200 from disparity gain and they have an agreement where they give \$5,000

for a student. It gives the school financial stability. Kate Cassady asked about the \$5,000 figure. John Higgins responded that it is based on what made a student whole in the budget at the time of the agreement.

Chair Cline asked about teacher retention and recruitment. John Higgins responded the strategy to retain is getting younger teachers with a pay grade system to allow experience to increase salaries. They have not lost a teacher in 4 years. There is a concern around maintaining the salary increases with high teacher retention. The next step will be adding human resource components as benefit packages improve.

Ann Lane asked about the disconnect in the statement that students performed well on internal aligned assessments, but not on the SATs. John Higgins stated it is a combination of disengaged learners and the transition to a new school with only 2 years left in high school. The goal is to highlight the responsibility of the advisory program and bring it to the summative assessments to reengage students.

Ryan Terrell asked about monitoring short- and long-term goals being a challenge. John Higgins responded that they are constantly taking measure of goals and objectives. Mike Harris added that the board has also recognized a set of goals institutionally aligned ranging from the decision to add 7th and 8th grade to reconsidering the faculty compensation model.

Ryan Terrell asked about the goal to build a strong community intensely focused on student learning. John Higgins responded they have been averaging 60-70% of student population at or below the poverty line. Having a ratio of 10:1 helps build community. Supporting students with academic coaches and after school opportunities through Title I funding also helps. Students have personal learning plans and teachers are flexible to meet students where they are.

Ryan Terrell asked what the biggest barriers are for students when he/she first attend the school. John Higgins responded that a lot of students do not have the energy due to lack of food at home. There has also been an issue with students getting to school on time, so they changed their start time to 9:00 a.m. That helps with transportation. The school collaborated with Upper Valley Haven, an organization that works to help students identify resources in the community and the connection to their school. Food is delivered weekly to the school for distribution. They wrote a grant last year to help families with weekend food boxes.

Ryan Terrell asked about the curriculum focus on experiential learning and project-based learning. John Higgins responded students respond well to the new type of learning. They have a relationship with Dartmouth College. Students are able to go to Dartmouth to experience the learning environment and Dartmouth students come to teach lessons at Ledyard. Mike Harris added that the initial plan of the school was designed to attract two types of students: students at risk for

dropping out and capable students who prefer a more project-based learning experience. When the school first started, it was mostly the first type enrolling. Now that the school is more stable and gaining favorable attention, they are seeing a rise in the second type of student.

Ryan Terrell asked about restorative justice practices in relation to behavioral problems. John Higgins responded there are 5 competencies they want to see from every student: learning style, self-advocacy, respect, self-determination, and transition. These understandings help make restorative justice conversations relatable to students. Parents appreciate the process, as it does not focus solely on discipline, but on the skills to help students not repeat the same mistakes.

Ann Lane asked if the school has enough room to maintain 1:10 ratio with adding 7th and 8th grades. John Higgins responded there is enough space in the new building. They received a loan through USDA to renovate the space and bring everything up to code. Ann Lane asked about admittance policy. John Higgins responded they are adding more classes to the curriculum as enrollment grows. Mike Harris added the high school program is best served with enrollment of about 40 students. They do not currently have a wait list but would need one if enrollment exceeds 45.

Chair Cline asked about parent board members. Mike Harris responded they have a former parent on the board, but no current parents. Chair Cline reminded that the board is required to have a parent member and encouraged the board to expand efforts to find a parent. Bylaws must be posted online.

Kate Cassady asked about students coming from the state of Vermont. John Higgins responded there are currently 3 students from Vermont. They require a full tuition payment. Kate Cassady asked about fundraising and money from donors. John Higgins responded they have established a money market account separate from checking account for overages. Mike Harris responded they budget \$50,000 a year in fundraising to support the operating budget and the rest has gone toward the purchase of the building. They have been averaging about \$130,000 per year. There is not a lot of fundraising outside of donors.

Motion: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, pursuant to Chapter 194-B and Ed 318 Charter Public Schools, the State Board of Education authorizes the charter renewal of the Ledyard Charter Public School.

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

### 3. Strong Foundations Charter School - Charter Amendment

Dina Condodemetraky and Sarah Osborne, board members, were present to represent Strong Foundations Charter School. Dina Condodemetraky shared they are asking for a new enrollment cap of 360.

Kate Cassady asked about the current wait list. Dina Condodemetraky responded approximately 70 students are on the wait list. They are finishing up their last addition which will allow for more common spaces and room for specials areas.

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, pursuant to RSA 194-B:3,11 that the State Board of Education authorizes Strong Foundations Charter School to increase the school enrollment from 328 students to 360 students.

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

#### 4. Strong Foundations Charter School – Renewal

Dina Condodemetraky shared that following the school's site visit there were recommendations made in the report. One was regarding setting smart goals for strategic plan and accountability plan. They created their newest strategic plan over the summer to include academic, programmatic, and organizational goals. Committees have been meeting to address each of the goals in the strategic plans. Committees have set interim goals with time frames for completion. They will report to the board quarterly on progress.

Another area for improvement is interaction with local organizations and the business community. The school plans to set that as a board of trustees and parent teacher organization (PTO) agenda item on a monthly basis to get ideas and help in this area. The next area was having a formal fundraising plan. They have not had a need for emphasis on fundraising but will use the charter school office's template to develop a plan. PTO is active in fundraising and the current year's fundraising is going towards the new library.

Another goal is to develop a board of trustees' professional development plan that includes board training and leadership training. They are looking for resources for training. Another recommendation was creating a board of trustees handbook. They hope to tie in resources from training to create a handbook. The last recommendation was reviewing approach to raising third party funds and creating a committee to produce a strategy. Currently the PTO is the main source of fundraising along with summer trainings. They will use this information to create a formal fundraising plan.

Motion: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, pursuant to Chapter 194-B and Ed 318 Charter Public Schools, the State Board of Education authorize the charter renewal for Strong Foundation Charter School.

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

## B. Learn Everywhere

### 1. Sylvan Learning Center

Krista Martin, owner and executive director of Sylvan Learning Center, shared Sylvan Learning has been around for over 40 years. She is a local franchisee. She owns, operates, and teaches out of four different locations in New Hampshire. The learn everywhere proposal is a new program designed to acknowledge learning is not a linear process. They provide avenues for students to achieve credit recovery, advancement, or enrichment in certain areas by completing courses for credit through Sylvan. All courses are accredited through Cognia. In addition to online courses, they provide academic support services ensuring students have resources and instruction around key study habits. They are 18 or 36 weeks depending on whether the course is a single or half credit. There are courses across the four key areas: English, social studies, science, and math.

Chair Cline asked if courses are all a blend of in person and online or if any are online only. Krista Martin responded there are courses offered completely online and all students are offered the opportunity to complete academic coaching virtually or in person.

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education approve the Sylvan Learning Center Learn Everywhere application.

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

## **AGENDA ITEM V. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD APPLICANTS and RENEWALS**

### A. Christina O'Hara, Dean of Humanities, Bedford High School

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro to remove this item from the table.

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

Chair Cline noted that Christina O'Hara's application looked strong, but references did not include the current superintendent. It was explained that she does have the support of her current superintendent, but she had worked for a longer period with her prior superintendent. She has experience as a teacher, curriculum coordinator, and administrator.

Motion: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education approve Christina O'Hara to the Professional Service Board for a term to expire 2024.

Vote: The motion was approved by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education, with Drew Cline and Richard Sala abstaining.

## **AGENDA ITEM VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

### **A. Initial Proposal - Criminal History Records Check for First-Time New Hampshire Applicants (Ed 505.07, Ed 505.08, and Ed 512.01)**

Motion: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Richard to remove this item from the table.

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

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the initial proposal for Ed 504.12, Ed 505.07, Ed 505.08, and Ed 512.01, and Ed 604.09 regarding Criminal History Record Checks for First-Time New Hampshire Applicants and Professional Educatory Preparation Program (PEPP) Candidates.

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

### **B. Initial Proposal - Administrator Endorsements (Ed 506)**

This item remained tabled.

### **C. Final Proposal - Education Freedom Accounts Program (Ed 800)**

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education approve the final proposal for Ed 800 for Education Freedom Accounts.



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

**D. Repeal - School Librarian (Library Media Specialist) (Ed 508.06)**

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion seconded by Phil Nazzaro, to remove the initial proposal for Ed 508.06, School Librarian from the table.

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

Steve Appleby shared that PSB committee was updating 508.06 and 508.07, which were Library Media Coordinator and Library Media Specialist. They found there was tremendous overlap in the standards. The PSB voted to combine the elements of both into one and eliminate the other. The new rules will take the place of both of the existing rules.

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education approve the initial proposal to repeal Ed 508.06 regarding library media coordinator.

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

**E. Adopt - Criminal History Record Check Clearance Credential - School Bus Drivers and Transportation Monitors**

Drew Cline shared that at the previous meeting, they were waiting for response from JLCAR and did not formally adopt.

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education adopt Ed 504.12, Ed 505.07, Ed 505.08, and Ed 505.09 regarding criminal history record check clearance credentials.

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

**AGENDA ITEM VII. COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE**

Deputy Commissioner Christine Brennan shared the Department of Education has been dispersed to different buildings. They will now be moving into the Granite State College building.

The U.S. Senate Youth Program has selected two people to go forward, a student from Manchester Central High and a student from Bishop Brady High School. The iLearn platform has discovery learning, which is excellent curriculum for schools to take advantage of.

The Leadership in Education Banquet took place last week and was a great success.

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION**

Ryan Terrell reflected on his first year on the Board. He has learned a lot and thanked members for their support. He noted the importance of acknowledging people who are doing the work no one is thinking about. He looks forward to the next year.

Ann Lane acknowledged the support Ledyard provides for students with lack of food. She also noted the mental health of students after a difficult year and asked what they can do as a board to support students and raise awareness. Chair Cline responded that they could continue to recognize the issues and discuss them.

Richard Sala asked if board meetings would move to Granite State College. Chair Cline responded that they will. Richard Sala hopes that the facility will be able to support public attendance at meetings. Christine Brenna responded there will be enough space at the new facility.

### **AGENDA ITEM IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Bow and Dunbarton School Districts AREA Renewal
- B. Goffstown and New Boston School Districts AREA Renewal
- C. Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2021, State Board Meeting

Board members noted necessary changes to meeting minutes.

Motion: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as a slate, with the meeting minutes from November 10, 2021, as amended.

Vote: The motion was approved by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education, with Richard Sala abstaining.

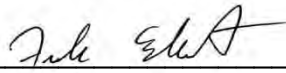
**AGENDA ITEM XII. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

There was no nonpublic session.

**AGENDA ITEM XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

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



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Secretary