

New Hampshire  
State Board of Education  
Minutes of the June 9, 2022, Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education convened at 9:10 a.m. Drew Cline presided as Chair.

Members present: Kate Cassady, Ryan Terrell, Drew Cline, and Richard Sala. Phil Nazzaro, Ann Lane, and Sally Griffin were unable to attend due to prior commitments. Also in attendance were Commissioner of Education, Frank Edelblut and Deputy Commissioner, Christine Brennan.

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Richard Sala led the pledge of allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jennifer, Sandown resident, stated her 9-year-old attends third grade at her local public school. She is impressed by how much she learns, progresses, and enjoys school. She stated she is worried public schools are being sabotaged by people in power. She formed an organization, Support Our Schools New Hampshire to protect public education. She asked for the resignation of Commissioner Edelblut. She feels he uses his authority to create a climate of fear for teachers, refers to public schools as government schools, and criticizes public school teachers and staff. She feels he sponsors legislation that makes schools less competitive by removing core academic domains from curriculum. She wants a leader who builds coalitions and relationships with teachers and administrators. She presented a request for immediate resignation.

Janet Ward stated she is unhappy with the State Board's support of Commissioner Edelblut. She recommends Board members look at the League of Women Voter's website, which has a history of the United States public schools.

Mary, Concord resident, referred to an op-ed written by Commissioner Edelblut which stated public school teachers owe a sacred trust to their students. She stated that the commissioner and the Board also owe a sacred trust to the public school students in New Hampshire. The statute that creates the DOE directed the department to help public schools achieve the highest possible degree of programming and teaching. However, the focus is on privatization of schools and public schools are spoken about negatively.

Lydia stated she came to New Hampshire at age 7 as a refugee and did not receive education prior to that due to lack of funding. Families had to send children

to boarding school if they could afford it or to rich families. She appreciated her public education growing up but does not feel she would feel the same today. She was unhappy with a proposed bill that would remove important domains from public education. She does not feel Commissioner Edelblut values public education or the public interest.

Claudia, Acworth resident, stated she is an educator who taught over 30 years teaching public high school in New Hampshire and 5 years as an adjunct in the community college system. Education gives children the opportunity to gain equality and become participants in society and economy on equal footing.

Reverend Gale, pastor with United Church of Christ, stated she is a former school counselor and school board member. As a pastor, she works with leaders across the state from multiple faith traditions. There is concern in the faith community about words and actions from the Commissioner's office that attack public educators. Public schools are viewed as part of the core foundation of community. There is a national effort to manufacture outrage about public schools and public school teachers. She urged the Board members to rethink the priorities of the education system.

Chair Cline stated the Commissioner does not answer to the Board. The law gives the Board no authority over the Commissioner and the Department.

#### **AGENDA ITEM IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS**

##### **A. Jump\$tart Coalition 2021 Survey of New Hampshire Students**

Chair Cline introduced Dan Hebert, president of Jump\$tart. They are an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization started in 2000. They are a state affiliate of a national nonprofit called the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy based out of Washington, D.C. The mission is to help kids learn how to manage money.

Jump\$tart conducts a study every 2 years, which started in 2006 when the State Board of Education was considering removing the graduation requirement for economics. Junior Achievement, Council for Economic Education, and Jump\$tart were placed on a subcommittee for reviewing the curriculum frameworks for economics. They introduced a standard for personal finance within economics from the national Jump\$tart standards in K-12 education. The study is used to follow up with schools to ensure the requirement is being met. In 2013, there were three school districts in the state who met the economics requirement and had a stand-alone personal finance requirement. The districts serve vastly different socio-economic areas.

The most recent study was completed in 2021. There are now ten districts that require a stand-alone personal finance class. There are forty-two schools that

offer personal finance as an elective. House Bill 1671 is adding personal finance as a core academic requirement. It could change the Coalition's mission from advocacy to effectiveness.

Kate Cassady asked about grades for personal finance. Dan Hebert responded Jump\$tart has resources for kindergarten through college. In New Hampshire, they have a program called I Can Save for second graders. It teaches them needs vs wants.

Chair Cline stated he receives feedback about young people not knowing enough about bank accounts, credit cards, etc. The personal finance piece is a good first step in that area. Another feedback he receives is people saying young people do not know anything about economics. They have a half credit economics requirement. That does not seem to be enough. He asked if there are best practices in other states that have a higher requirement. Dan Hebert responded Virginia offers a full credit for personal finance. There is a distinction between economics and personal finance. He does not agree with economics being taught under social studies by teachers who do not have training in economics or personal finance.

Richard Sala noted the report shows 6% of New Hampshire high schools require economics. Dan Hebert clarified that is economics only. The other schools are offering economics in addition to personal finance.

Chair Cline asked what Dan Hebert would ideally see as the requirement for the teacher and the preference for how much class should be given. Dan Hebert responded he would focus solely on personal finance. The national organization already identified what they think is effective financial education. It includes, training teachers, embedded resources, and instructional hours based on grade level. He thinks macro economics should be the focus in the economics requirement.

Ryan Terrell asked if children should be exposed to multiple thoughts within economics or mainstream economic systems. Dan Hebert stated his focus is not on economics, but personal finance.

## **AGENDA ITEM V. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **A. 10:00 am ~ Early Childhood Education Teacher (Ed 507.18)**

Chair Cline opened the hearing at 10:05 am and closed it at 10:30 am.

There was no public comment.

The Board discussed defining the word young in the rule since it is used throughout the rule.

B. Theater Teacher (Ed 507.35)

Chair Cline opened the hearing at 10:30 am and closed it at 11:04 am.

There was no public comment.

Chair Cline asked about the degree requirement of theater teachers. Professional Standard Board (PSB) committee member stated having a bachelor in theater results in a more in-depth program. A revision is being proposed to the standard to change the requirement from any bachelor to a bachelor in theater.

Chair Cline stated all teachers have a general requirement of a bachelors. Then the skills, competency, and knowledge section outlaws the specific requirements. There are lots of ways to show the skills, competency, and knowledge for theater and Chair Cline questioned the added value in requiring a bachelor's degree. PSB committee member questioned how that would change the pathway to certification. Her program, which trains theater educators, students take 6 courses on how to teach theater. There is value in learning not just content, but how to teach the content to students.

Chair Cline asked how to measure the competencies during the hiring process. PSB committee member responded the certification or portfolio would be used to show competencies.

C. Classical Languages Teacher (Ed 507.37)

Chair Cline opened the hearing at 11:04 am and closed it at 11:36 am.

There is no public comment.

Chair Cline asked about changes to C1 and C2. They were combined taking out certain language. PSB committee member, Scott responded that English vocabulary involves etymology and word formation. Chair Cline asked about changes to C3. Scott responded they wanted to change the language in C3 to be in line with C1 and C2. Within the subcategories, classical embodies Greek and Roman culture. They did not want to limit the study of classical influence to just Greece and Rome.

Chair Cline asked the reason behind striking western and replacing it with European traditions. Scott responded the term western tradition has become less effective and European is more specific and precise a term. PSB committee member, Christina stated it lines up better with terminology used across courses.

D. Music Teacher (Ed 507.39)

Chair Cline opened the hearing at 11:36 am and closed it at 12:05 pm.

There was no public comment.

The Board discussed the language change again of western culture to various cultures. Chair Cline expressed concerns with taking out teaching western music specifically.

**AGENDA ITEM VI. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD APPLICANTS/RENEWALS**

A. Tom Laliberte, Assistant Superintendent, Bedford School District, Renewal Application

Chair Cline stated Tom Laliberte is requesting reappointment to the Professional Standards Board. He is impressed with the way Tom Laliberte has been running the PSB and is an asset. Richard Sala added his application shows he is qualified but would like a recommendation from members who have been collaborating with him.

Steve Appleby, NHED, Director, Division of Educator Support and Higher Education, stated Tom Laliberte has been acting chair since Fall 2021 and has been effective with moving rules through the committees. He understands the intent of the Board and brings that understanding to meetings. Chair Cline added he is strategic in setting up subcommittees and thinking about how things can get done efficiently.

Motion: Drew Cline made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education to approve Tom Laliberte's Professional Standards Board application.

Vote: The motion was approved without dissent by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

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

A. Office of Charter Schools

1. Robert Frost Public Charter School – renewal

Tal Bayer, NHED, Administrator, introduced Janine McLauchlan, Head of School, and Tracy Strout, Board of Trustees. Janine McLauchlan shared this is her 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> school year as head of school. Prior to that she was an executive officer. She served on the Conway School Board for nine years, eight as chair, and had a

position on the New Hampshire School Board Association. Robert Frost opened in September of 2012 and is in Conway, New Hampshire.

Tracy Strout shared she is the chair of the Board of Trustees and acting treasurer. She has 20 years of experience in bookkeeping and accounting. Most of her previous employment includes management of businesses and organizations. This is her first school board.

Ryan Terrell asked what is working well and what the school is trying to improve. Janine McLauchlan responded they use a Montessori based approach with individualized learning for each student. They have small class sizes, with a maximum of 15-16 students. The model is a lead teacher with an assistant in every classroom. They have a dedicated staff. They have four classrooms with four lead teachers.

Janine McLauchlan stated they are hoping to serve more students in their area and are working to expand the physical space. They have an informal partnership with another organization that has a Montessori based preschool.

Tracy Strout stated from a board perspective, the head of school has been a benefit. She been able to support staff and families through pandemic. Their board is happy with the leadership of the school and the staff.

Kate Cassady asked for the school's current head count. Janine McLauchlan responded they have forty-two students. They have experienced a loss of students over the past few years and are bringing more students into the building through marketing.

Chair Cline asked about the marketing plan. Tracy Strout responded they get referrals through word of mouth from current families. They have a plan for using Facebook and social media marketing as well as the local newspaper. They are trying to attend the National Charter School Conference in Washington. Professional development for both administration and board training are starting to be more available again as well. There is not currently an alternative high school in their area. Adding grades 9-12 could be a draw for students who die not previously have another option.

Richard Sala asked if the addition of the high school is the reason for the large projected growth over 3 years. Tracy Strout confirmed this. Janine McLauchlan added they would like to start with one multi-age classroom for high school to build the foundation and then expand.

Chair Cline asked about the addition on the grades in the application. Janine McLauchlan responded when the renewal application was submitted, they had not yet been approved to add high school. They plan to add four multi-age classrooms: K-1, 2-4, 5-8, and 9-12.

Kate Cassady asked the number of board members. Tracy Strout responded there are currently six members. Kate Cassady asked the background of board members. Tracy Strout responded she has the financial background. The vice chair has 30 years of Montessori education experience and ran her own Montessori preschool. The secretary is a parent and has her master's in education. The second parent representative has worked in business. Kathy has a mental health background and is a certified social worker. An advisory member was the director for the White Mountain Community Health Center for many years and her background is in medical management, HR, nonprofit. The newest board member is an educator with experience and degrees in leadership, administration, curriculum development, and special education.

Kate Cassady asked about transportation. Janine McLauchlan responded they do not provide student transportation to and from school, but they do have some transportation in the budget for field trips.

Kate Cassady asked about fundraising. Janine McLauchlan responded they want to do more community events going forward. They tap into their community resources as much as possible. Kate Cassady and Chair Cline praised the variety in their fundraising. Chair Cline suggested reaching out to create relationships to gain donors.

Kate Cassady asked about the budget for general administration, other school board, \$2,000. Tracy Strout responded that covers any training events for the board and administration. Kate Cassady asked about miscellaneous, other business expense. Tracy Strout responded that covers transportation for ski club, pizza Friday, bank fees, finance charges, etc. Kate Cassady asked about other local revenue, contributions. Tracy Strout responded that is a combination between individual and business contribution goal.

Kate Cassady asked about rent costs. Tracy Strout responded \$3,800 a month. Kate Cassady asked about out of state students. Janine McLauchlan responded they have two this year. Kate Cassady asked if they have promoted themselves in Maine. Tracy Strout responded the tuition they charge is equivalent of what they would receive from New Hampshire for students. They do not want to advertise and fill with out of state students, so they have space for New Hampshire students.

Janine McLauchlan shared they used the ESSER funds to bring in Moby Max which has helped to benchmark students and provide extra support and skill building. They now have 80% of students in the highly proficient or proficient category for ELA and 54% in Math.

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education approve the renewal of Robert Frost Charter Public School.

Vote: The motion was passed without dissent by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

#### B. Office of Nonpublic Schools

##### 1. Commissioner's Nonpublic School Approval Designation: Renewals Report

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education accept and approve the following schools for continued attendance approval status for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025, as a slate.

Vote: The motion was passed without dissent by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

##### 2. Commissioner's Nonpublic School Approval Designations: New School Approvals

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education accept and approve the following schools for continued attendance and program approval status for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2027, as a slate.

Vote: The motion was passed without dissent by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

#### C. Learn Everywhere Program

##### 1. New Hampshire Academy of Science – renewal

Chair Cline stated an evaluator commented this program is the gold standard for Learn Everywhere.

Tim Carney, NHED, Administrator of Educational Pathways, stated the New Hampshire Academy of Science Learn Everywhere program is looking for a 5-year renewal.

Peter Faletra, Executive Director, stated the New Hampshire of Academy was created in 1919. They are a scientific organization. One of their early high school programs led to a group of first-generation students making a discovery and

becoming famous. They now have a federal grant to build satellite labs around the state. Learn Everywhere allows them to give credit to students who are working in their labs where 91% of students publish scientific publications.

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education approve the New Hampshire Academy of Science's Learn Everywhere renewal application.

Vote: The motion was passed without dissent by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

## 2. Friends Forever International – new application

Tim Carney introduced Friends Forever International who had been approved prior to COVID but did not run any programs. They have submitted a new application with additional credits.

Steve Martineau, Executive Director, stated the company has been around since 1986. He has been working there since 2005. Incorporating Learn Everywhere will allow them to bring in the educational piece in their mission to help young people become the best they can be and give back to the community. They hired a teacher full-time and assisted in adding additional courses onto the application.

Alex DesRuisseaux, Program Community Engagement Coordinator, stated she has been a teacher at Rochester Learning Academy which is an alternative high school. She taught social studies and was the ELL coordinator.

Ryan Terrell asked how the school applies contact theory, the idea that the way you learn about other cultures and people is being integrated with them. Steve Martineau responded they have a history of working with very divisive topics. They have come to understand there is dialogue processes and direct communication around the areas where people have conflict or disagreement. The organization focuses on empathetic leadership development. They provide a safe space for young people to speak.

Ryan Terrell asked how students respond to the rigorous interview process and the challenging work in the program. Steve Martineau responded they want students to complain and teach them coping mechanisms and strategies individualized to each student. They teach students how to respond to failure or when confronted by something they find difficult.

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education approve the Friends Forever International Learn Everywhere application.

Vote: The motion was passed without dissent by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

#### **A. Conditional Approval Response – Learn Everywhere Program (Ed 1400)**

Chair Cline stated there were minor changes made, but nothing substantial. Nate Green stated he will submit the signed version to be approved so the final approval can be voted on.

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education adopt Ed 1400 Learn Everywhere Program.

Vote: The motion was passed without dissent by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

#### **B. Initial Proposal – Criminal History Records Check Clearance (Ed 504.12, Ed 505.05, Ed 505.07, Ed 505.08, Ed 505.09, Ed 512.01. Ed 604.09)**

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education approve the initial proposal for Ed 504.12, Ed 505.05, Ed 505.07, Ed 505.08, Ed 505.09, Ed 512.01, Ed 604.09 regarding criminal history record checks for first time New Hampshire applicants and professional educatory preparation program PEP candidates.

Vote: The motion was passed without dissent by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

#### **C. Adopt – Holocaust and Genocide Education (Ed 306 various)**

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education adopt Ed 306.26, Ed 306.27, Ed 306.46, Ed 306.49 regarding Holocaust and Genocide Education.

Vote: The motion was passed without dissent by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

#### **D. Adopt – Learn Everywhere (Ed 1400)**

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education adopt the final rule for Learn Everywhere Ed 1400.

Vote: The motion was passed without dissent by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education.

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

Frank Edelblut, Commissioner of Education, introduced Attorney Liz Brown, replacing Chris Bond, who took a position at the Attorney General's office. Liz has joined as the new attorney working directly with the Department. Liz stated she has 28 years of legal experience. Her career started in Delaware as a litigator. She has had a broad general practice. She has also done nonprofit work. She served on the coop school board for Hollis Brookline for 8 ½ years giving her education experience. Kate Cassady asked what attracted her to the job. Liz responded she wants to use her legal background with her passion for public education.

Frank Edelblut shared a video from 603moments.com. The program was created in response to the pandemic to encourage people to relax. They are distributing white boards and people write down something that makes them happy to share on social media. The goal is to fill social media with uplifting, encouraging things.

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

Richard Sala stated he came to New Hampshire after retiring from the marines. For the four years he has worked with Commissioner Edelblut, he has seen the commissioner working hard on ideas for improving public education. He has two kids in public school, and he is happy with the work the Commissioner is doing.

Ryan Terrell added Commissioner Edelblut has helped create programs that could be recognized at a national level. He supports the commissioner.

Chair Cline stated charter schools are public schools and often partner with traditional public schools to instruct students in a different way. The Learn Everywhere programs also collaborate with traditional public schools to give students a different experience, like being able to write a peer reviewed research paper. Everyone's goal is to improve the system to make it work for every child. Kate Cassady added that every child learns differently.

**AGENDA ITEM XI. TABLE ITEMS**A. Initial Proposal - Administrator Endorsements (Ed 506)

There were no updates.

B. River View Public Charter School - Application

There were no updates.

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

Chair Cline shared that Chris was getting legislative history and legal options. He hopes to have information at the July meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM XII. CONSENT AGENDA**A. Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2022

Board members noted suggested changes.

Motion: Kate Cassady made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala to accept the meeting minutes of May 12, 2022, with amendments.

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

**AGENDA ITEM XIII. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

There was no nonpublic session.

**AGENDA ITEM XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala to adjourn the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

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




---

Secretary