

New Hampshire  
State Board of Education  
Minutes of the September 14, 2023, Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education convened at 10:11 a.m. Drew Cline presided as chair.

Members present: Ryan Terrell, Phil Nazzaro (remote), Ann Lane, Drew Cline, Chair, Jim Fricchione, and Richarda Sala. Also in attendance were Commissioner of Education, Frank Edelblut, and Deputy Commissioner, Christine Brennan. Kate Cassady was not in attendance due to a prior commitment.

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Drew Cline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lilly Tang Williams, Weare, supports PragerU's financial literacy program. She suggested the financial literacy videos as optional courses for students. She expressed that the financial literacy program will help the kids to learn fundamentals of the basics.

David Trumble, Weare, shared objections to the Prager plan.

Deborah Nelson, Hanover, a retired English and Social Studies teacher, and currently serves on local school boards, although not speaking on their behalf. She expressed her concern of the education levels decreasing in the State of New Hampshire.

Brenda Perkin, a 40-year resident of NH, and a product of NH public schools reminded everyone that NH is known for its public education. She wholly supports inclusivity for all and believes PragerU's platform does not bring balance to education; it brings exclusionary behavior.

Mary Wilke, a retired public-school teacher, invested her concerns primarily to the quality of this as an educational experience.

Paul Royal, Exeter, NH, more recently volunteered at a program called JumpStart.

Janet Ward, resident from Contoocook, NH, also expressed her concern about PragerU's courses offered on its website.

Micaela Demeter, resident of Dover and serves on the Gilbert School Board, but spoke for herself. She opposed the PragerU's financial literacy program.

Annemarie Banfield stressed that she does not agree with everything that Prager has said, but it is important to look at the content of what the students will be learning.

Representative Linda Haskins of Rockingham 11, Exeter, NH, highlighted the fact that those who oppose this program are not arguing against financial literacy.

Karen Dudra from Exeter, NH, spoke to the process that's employed in choosing this curriculum.

Nancy Brennan, Weare, NH, a retired educator and has served on a local school board opposed the PragerU curriculum.

William Pollitt, Weare, NH, wholeheartedly supports public education. He stated that he objects to PragerU's crash-course offerings being included in the curriculum.

Teresa C. Wyman from Canterbury, NH, was at the meeting in opposition to PragerU's financial literacy program.

Lorna Carlisle noted that she's not in favor of the financial literacy program offered by PragerU.

Reverend John Gregory-Davis from Meriden Congregational Church earnestly opposed the program but supports programs which will benefit the students.

Claudia Istel, Acworth, NH, is a retired high school teacher asked the Board to oppose the PragerU financial literacy program.

Debra Howes, President of the American Federation of Teachers, New Hampshire, reminded the Board of their responsibility to set high standards for all of the credit state students.

Tia Winter, Lebanon, NH, representing the Lebanon School Board stated that she had been granted approval by the Lebanon School Board to make a statement in opposition to approving PragerU. Speaking on behalf of the Lebanon School Board, Tia Winter said that the members of the Board have watched the PragerU crash-course videos, and they have determined that these videos do not meet the level of quality students need and deserve as an accepted financial literacy curriculum.

Representative Perez from Milford, NH spoke in opposition to the Prager U financial literacy curriculum.

Rev. Dr. Gail Kinney from Canaan, NH spoke in opposition to the Prager U financial literacy curriculum.

Giana Gelsey, a resident of Madbury, NH, is a trained scientist and active member of the community and doesn't agree with giving PragerU accreditation for any course in New Hampshire.

Karen Scott from New Boston is in support of PragerU and requested the Board to grant them approval.

Anthony Poore from the New Hampshire Center for Justice and Equity reminded those present what their center does.

Jennifer Smith voiced her reasons for opposing the PragerU financial literacy curriculum.

Pam Brown from Kingston has an Economics PhD and currently teaches online for high school and undergrads. She doesn't support the complete course PragerU provides on that subject, but she does support the content.

Representative Lauren Salig, Durham, strongly opposed any content from PragerU, saying it doesn't provide true educational content.

Carissa Corrow, Penacook, NH, said she visits schools and helps aligns their performance tasks to the curriculum, starting with defining what the standards are. She reported that there are no state standards for financial literacy.

Marcia Garber, Manchester, NH, voiced her concern about PragerU.

Bruce Berke, Manchester, NH said even though he opposes this amendment, he went on the PragerU website and found positive messages. NH politicizes education, which must change.

Aubrey Freedman from Bridgewater spoke in support of adding this financial literacy option for students.

Nancy Biederman, New Boston, NH, is in favor of the PragerU option. She reminded those present that the Learn Everywhere program is a choice, it's not mandated. Not every student is required to take the PragerU course. It's a choice that parents and students have.

Ken Barnes, Contoocook, NH, opposes PragerU being an option.

Louise Spencer, Concord resident and co-founder of the Kent Street Coalition, an all-volunteer grassroots advocacy organization.

Lorna Landry, Bow, NH, a retired RN, added her name to the list of those who oppose the PragerU contract.

Jay Lucas, Portsmouth, NH, came to the meeting in support of PragerU.

Debra Kruzel from Pelham, NH, is in strong support of PragerU and the Learn Everywhere program.

Jody Underwood was on the Croydon School Board for 13 years and has a PhD in Education spoke in support of PragerU.

Ian Underwood has a master's degree in Learning Science reminded those present that NH has a state law which says students are required to have actual literacy yet failing at it.

Charlie Post, a retired corporate executive with a degree in finance, fully supports the PragerU financial literacy program. Personal finance is the key to success in America, among other things.

Richard Girard noted he has taught the material in the PragerU curriculum to thousands of families throughout NH in the last 22 years and spoke in support of the financial literacy program.

Corinne Dodge, Derry, NH, expressed her opinions in opposition to the PragerU financial literacy program.

Lynn Mulrooney, NH resident, came to meeting to voice her views in opposition to the PragerU financial literacy program.

Shelly Frost, Northwood, NH, licensed engineer, spoke about her dismay at the proposed changes to ED 306.48 changes the language minimum standards and more.

CJ Pearson with PragerU, 21 years old, NH resident, said that he's excited about this proposal as the Board will be moving into a place where they're allowing students not only to take control of their own destiny, but to prepare to live a fruitful life that sets them onto a path of financial freedom. He reiterated that the PragerU course wasn't a mandate, it's a choice.

Michael Strand, Bedford, NH, shared his opinions in opposition to the PragerU program.

#### **AGENDA ITEM IV. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT(S) SPOTLIGHT**

Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent of Kearsarge SAU 65, which incorporates seven towns from Bradford to Springfield, shared their efforts to work on the second expanded regional preschool program, which is a SO3 funded program on early learning inclusion and equity for the regional district. He extended an invitation to everyone to the grand opening of the new preschool in Bradford on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 3:30 PM.

Andres Mejia, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice (DEIJ) was at the meeting on behalf of SAU 16, which is Exeter and surrounding towns. He brought along some students from Exeter High School as well as an educator from the school. They're at the meeting in support of DEIJ. He read the Proclamation put out by the Governor in September out loud.

Four students, the social studies teacher, and the social media coordinator from Exeter High School addressed the Board.

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

- A. Summary of withdrawn cases – Informational only. No action required.
- B. Student/Northeast Woodlands Charter School Board of Trustees – SB-FY-22-03-009 (Nonpublic Session)

Motion: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II(c) at 1:55 PM.

Vote: The motion was approved by roll call vote by State Board of Education members Ryan Terrell, Ann Lane, Phil Nazzaro (virtual), Drew Cline (chair), Jim Fricchione and Richard Sala.

Motion: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell for the State Board of Education to accept the Hearing Officer's report and recommendation and find that the Board of Trustees reasonably concluded that the September 30, 2021 incident did not constitute an imbalance of power and therefore was not "bullying" as defined by the School's anti-bullying policy nor within the meaning of RSA 193-F:3.

Vote: The motion was approved by roll call vote by State Board of Education members Ryan Terrell, Ann Lane,

Phil Nazzaro (virtual), Drew Cline (chair), Jim Fricchione and Richard Sala.

C. Educator/NH Department of Education – SB-FY-23-06-017 (Nonpublic Session)

The board remained in nonpublic session.

Motion: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane for the State Board of Education to accept the Hearing Officer's report and adopt the Hearing Officer's recommendation; granting the Department's Motion to Dismiss.

Vote: The motion was approved by roll call vote by State Board of Education members Ryan Terrell, Ann Lane, Phil Nazzaro (virtual), Drew Cline (chair), Jim Fricchione and Richard Sala.

D. Student/Winnacunnet School Board – SB-FY-23-10-005 – Motion for Rehearing (Nonpublic Session)

The board remained in nonpublic session.

Motion: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane for the State Board of Education to deny the Winnacunnet School Board's Motion for Rehearing.

Vote: The motion was approved by roll call vote by State Board of Education members Ryan Terrell, Ann Lane, Phil Nazzaro (virtual), Drew Cline (chair), Jim Fricchione and Richard Sala.

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education return to public session at 2:11 PM.

Vote: The motion was approved by roll call vote by State Board of Education members Ryan Terrell, Ann Lane, Phil Nazzaro (virtual), Drew Cline (chair), Jim Fricchione and Richard Sala.

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education seal the minutes of the nonpublic sessions indefinitely.

Vote: The motion was approved by roll call vote by State Board of Education members Ryan Terrell, Ann Lane, Phil Nazzaro (virtual), Drew Cline (chair), Jim Fricchione and Richard Sala.

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

A. Office of Charter Schools – KASEY SILVA, NHED, Administrator, Office of Public Charter Schools

1. Lionheart Public Charter School – charter amendment

Lionheart has applied to add 20 seats. Their retention rate has been higher than what they anticipated, at 93%. They have space for the additional seats, and a breakdown was provided in the application. Currently, they have a waitlist of about 50 students.

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education approve the charter amendment of Lionheart Academy Charter Public School.

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

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

1. Learn Everywhere Program Annual Report

There were no questions or discussion.

2. Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute, Inc. (ARMI)

The program's manager at ARMI explained they'd like to be part of the Learn Everywhere program to promote their program BioTrek.

Motion: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education approve the Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute, Inc. Learn Everywhere initial application.

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

### 3. PragerU Kids

Brandon Ewing, Head of Education and Curriculum at PragerU Kids, spoke about the benefits of PragerU. The misconceptions the public have about PragerU was also discussed.

Requesting approval for the PragerU Kids Learn Everywhere program in financial literacy. Brandon had sent screenshots of the new website and learning platform to the Board as a supporting material, along with their formative and summative assessments.

Motion: Drew Cline made the motion, no second, that the State Board of Education amend the PragerU Kids application from 1/2 credit to 1/4 credit.

Vote: The motion failed with no second.

Motion: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the PragerU Kids Learn Everywhere initial application.

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

## **AGENDA ITEM VII. RULEMAKING/LEGISLATIVE UPDATES** ~ JULIE SHEA, NHED, Administrative Rules Coordinator

### A. Conditional Approval Response – Professional Educator Preparation Programs (PEPPs) Definitions and Procedures for Approval (Ed 601-602)

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the conditional approval response for Ed 601 and Ed 602.

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

### B. Conditional Approval Response – Program Content and Area Specialty Standards for PEPPs (Ed 607-608)

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education approve the conditional approval response to readopt Ed 607 and Ed 608, and repeal Ed 612 and Ed 614.



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

C. Proposed Interim Rule – School Nurse (Ed 504.08-Ed 504.10, Ed 509.01-Ed 509.02)

Motion: Drew Cline made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education strike (d) mentor from the proposed interim rule.

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

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education approve the amended proposed interim rule.

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

D. Proposed Interim Rule – Computer Science Teacher Certification (Ed 507.54)

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

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

E. Initial Proposal – Criminal History Records Check – Bus Monitors (Ed 504.12)

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the initial proposal Ed 504.12 relative to criminal history record checks for transportation monitors.

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

F. Initial Proposal – Investigations and Disciplinary Proceedings (Ed 511)

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the initial

proposal for Ed 511, Ed 510.05 and Ed 511 are all relative to investigations and disciplinary proceedings.

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

G. Final Proposal – Regional CTE Agreements (Ed 1304.02)

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the final proposal Ed 1301.01 and Ed 1304.02 regarding regional CTE agreements.

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

H. Adopt – Home Education (Ed 315)

Motion: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education adopt Ed 315.

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

I. Adopt – PEPP Review Fees (Ed 602.05)

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education adopt Ed 602.05.

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

J. Adopt – PEPP Standards for Curriculum, Clinical Practice, Resources and Assessment Systems (Ed 603-606)

Motion: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education adopt Ed 603 through Ed 606.

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

K. Adopt – PEPP Definitions and Procedures for Approval (Ed 601-602)

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve Ed 601 and Ed 602 PEPP definitions and procedures.

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

L. Adopt – Program Content and Area Specialty Standards for PEPPs (Ed 607-608)

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education accept Ed 607 and Ed 608, program content and area specialty standards for PEPPs.

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

**AGENDA ITEM VIII. COMMISSIONER’S UPDATE**

Deputy Commissioner, Christine Brennan, discussed the video for the ReKINDling Curiosity camps. The link to the video was shared via Canvas.

The holiday cards for the military will be running again this year. The goal is to have 1 million cards this year.

**AGENDA ITEM IX. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSIONS**

There was no open board discussion.

**AGENDA ITEM X. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2023

Motion: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Jim Fricchione, that the State Board of Education approve the July 20, 2023 meeting minutes.

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

B. Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2023

Motion: Drew Cline made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education approve the August 10, 2023 meeting minutes.

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

#### **AGENDA ITEM XI. TABLED ITEMS**

##### A. Initial Proposal – Minimum Standards (Ed 306)

##### B. PragerU Kids – new LE application

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education remove PragerU Kids from the table.

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

##### C. Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2023

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education remove the July 20, 2023 meeting minutes from the table.

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 XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education adjourn at 4:26 p.m.

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




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Secretary

**September 14, 2023**