

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the September 8, 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), Richard Sala, and Sally Griffin (remote). Also in attendance was Commissioner Frank Edelblut. Deputy Commissioner Christine Brennan was not able to attend due to a prior commitment.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Drew Cline led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Hirschfield, Bishop of the Episcopal Churches in New Hampshire shared his support for public education. He went to public school growing up. He told a story about a classmate having drawn a Nazi swastika on his wrist. His Jewish teacher asked about it and the classmate did not know what it meant. She explained to him that it was a symbol of hate and represented many people losing their lives. She did not shame him, she taught him. He shared concern over the instability in current public schools.

Megan Tuttle, President of NEA New Hampshire, asked for a report on how many children have signed up for Learn Everywhere since the program started, how many attended, and how many got credit.

Sarah Robinson, Education Justice Campaign Director for Granite State Progress, stated she is a graduate of New Hampshire public schools and has 2 children currently in New Hampshire elementary school. She asked about the recently released 306 rules, which are the minimum standards for public schools. She asked the timeline by which the rules are being revised because the state does not have up to date social studies standards. She asked if the department plans to provide revised social studies standards. The 306 rules are not due for implementation until 2024. She asked if the year would allow the public to be involved in the revision process.

Janet Ward, League of Women Voters of New Hampshire, shared a copy of a public service advertisement published August 28. It was designed and paid for by the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire. She read the following section of the ad, "Our nation's founders and others sought to establish public schools to ensure each new generation understands values and works to preserve

our democratic republic. Children who attend public schools practice democracy everyday by being together, by learning together, and by resolving conflicts together. Public education is a public good that benefits all of us.”

Jen Bison, Sandown, NH stated she was born and raised in New Hampshire. She has a fourth grader and a 3-year-old. She spoke at a previous meeting of concerns about Commissioner Edelblut and stated she did not feel heard. She is concerned about the lack of transparency from the Department. She learned an outside company was hired to make changes to the state's minimum standards for public school approval, Ed 306. She is alarmed there has been no public meetings, meeting minutes, or public input in this process. She is concerned how the changes will affect her children. She will send a right to know request.

Claudia Istel, Acworth, NH stated concern over the meeting starting late while Board members met privately. Chair Cline responded they were meeting with legal counsel.

AGENDA ITEM IV. HEARINGS

A. Executive Summary of Withdrawn Cases

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

B. Student/Goffstown School Board – SB-FY-22-06-017

Chair Cline asked for discussion on the case packet. The relief requested was granted by the district, so the case was settled after being sent to the State Board. The district did not originally follow procedures for placement.

Motion: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education render the issue moot and send a letter to the school saying they must follow their own policy, which they did not.

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

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

Chair Cline noted that the parties were not present to give oral arguments. The board would like the parties to be present at the next meeting to allow questions to be answered.

Motion: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education table until questions can be drafted to the Hearing Officer.

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

AGENDA ITEM VI. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

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

Melissa White, NHED, Director, Division of Learner Support, presented on alternate assessments for students with severe cognitive disabilities. They are currently using Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) as assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities for whom the state assessment is appropriate. This is 1% of identified students with special education needs. DLM have been used since 2015. The standards must be formally adopted.

The DLM uses Essential Elements for alternate standards. They propose the State formally adopt DLM Essential Elements. The packet provided shows breakdown of standards. There are linkage levels allowing teachers to start with a student's current level and show their progression.

Nate Greene, NHED, Administrator, Bureau of Educational Opportunities, added the assessment must be peer reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education. Part of the peer review process requires the state formally adopt the standards.

Sally Griffin asked if knowledge is shared with private institutions. Melissa White confirmed they work with the private educators and facilities. Training opportunities are provided to out of district and special placement providers.

Chair Cline asked if the Board needs to go through the rule making process to adopt the standards. Melissa White responded it is like an earlier proposal with standards adopted for English Language Learning students. The standards align with current state standards. It is a map of the current standards to be accessible for students with cognitive disabilities. Nate Greene added from the U.S. Department of Education's perspective, they have accepted the adoption of the Common Core Standards and see these as an extension of those standards. The goal is to ensure that alternate standards crosswalk into the standards, which the DLM does.

Phil Nazzaro asked if the U.S. Department of Education requirements are in terms of standards or the assessment. Melissa White responded they provided evidence of the Common Core Standard adoption and Next Generation Science adoption. They now also want evidence for the alternate standards.

Melissa White stated the deadline is December. The Board discussed what process is necessary for official adoption.

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education table the discussion.

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

AGENDA ITEM V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Initial Proposal – Innovations School (Ed 1500)

The public hearing was opened at 11:05 a.m. and closed at 11:35 a.m.

Chair Cline stated the rules align well with the statute. He referred to the section on written explanation for a rejected innovation plan. He suggested adding the State Board as a recipient of the letter for informational purposes.

Kate Cassady referred to the section on performance reviews on the innovation plans every two years by the local district. She would like a presentation to the State Board so they can ask questions. Chair Cline added that the section on State Board revocation rights should be more specific in terms of what that would be based upon. The statute requires the local board reviewing every two years. There was a discussion about a useful timeline for State Board review.

AGENDA ITEM VII. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD (PSB) APPLICANTS/RENEWALS

A. Cynthia Lucero, Professor of Education/Clinical Coordinator, NHTI – renewal application (2022-2025)

Steve Appleby stated the applicant has previously served on the PSB but had to leave due to the previous limit of two terms. The statute has been updated and now the limit is three terms. Steve Appleby approached Cynthia Lucero about returning because she had been a valuable member of the PSB. She led the committee that rewrote the credential rules related to special education.

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, that the State Board of Education accept the application of Cynthia Lucero to the Professional Standards Board for a three-year term.

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

AGENDA ITEM VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

A. Introduce Julie Shea, new Administrative Rules Coordinator

Steve Appleby introduced Julie Shea, the new rules coordinator. She has met with the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) and reached out to her counterpart at Health and Human Services. Kate Cassady asked about her professional background. Julie Shea responded she came from banking, working in a learning and development capacity. She was interested in the position because she loves education. She has a writing and editing background from higher ed.

AGENDA ITEM IX. COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

Commissioner Edelblut reviewed some of the last week's Friday Forum announcements. The Leaning into Literacy contract launched and has 3 different levels for elementary educators, early childhood, and administrators. It is offered broadly to anyone who is working with children. Over 1,000 people signed up in the first week.

Graduation Alliance had around 60 schools signed up so far. This program is a mentor program for students in high school who are not engaged and do not have support at home. School counselors and social workers are recruited to provide supports for students. Schools identify students who would benefit from this program.

Tutor.com has a 24/7 tutoring program. Many schools have signed up. Some schools were concerned about personally identifiable information and as a result a data privacy agreement was put in place.

More educator licenses have been reviewed than any other year. Nine districts have filed for waivers declaring teacher shortages. The shortage areas are physical education teachers and paraeducators. Districts do not have to declare shortages for statewide shortage areas. Buses are all running with the bus driver shortage with extended routes and different schedules.

Prior to the pandemic, work was started on the 306 rules. The work was put on hold during the pandemic. A team has been compiled representing the NH School Administrators Association (NHSAA), the NH School Boards Association (NHSBA), the NH Association of School Principals (NHASP), along with many others. It is a work in process. A working draft was obtained and presented to the public prematurely. When it is ready for presentation, a draft copy will be presented to the board and public input will be requested.

AGENDA ITEM XI. TABLED ITEMS

A. Initial Proposal – Administrator Endorsements (Ed 506)

The administrator endorsements have been submitted to OLS and should be ready to present at the October meeting.

B. River View Public Charter School - Application

River View submitted an updated application; however, it was decided it was still not ready for submission.

AGENDA ITEM X. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSIONS

The Board discussed the differing views on what is going on in public education. Phil Nazzaro stated all the supportive programs presented show intention of helping all students. Chair Cline stated there is misunderstanding by the public regarding charter schools, which by law are public schools. Kate Cassady referenced programs like Learn Everywhere that allow students different opportunities to learn based on their own interests and learning styles. Richard Sala stated everyone wants quality education for New Hampshire students.

AGENDA ITEM XII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2022

Board members noted suggested changes to the meeting minutes.

Motion: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education accept the consent agenda as amended.

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

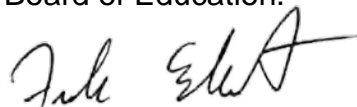
AGENDA ITEM XIII. NONPUBLIC SESSION

There was no nonpublic session.

AGENDA ITEM XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education adjourn at 11:53 a.m.

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



Secretary