

New Hampshire  
State Board of Education  
Minutes of the July 14, 2022, Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education convened at 10:05 a.m. Drew Cline presided as Chair.

Members present: Kate Cassady, Ryan Terrell, Phil Nazzaro, Drew Cline, Chair, and Sally Griffin. Ann Lane and Richard Sala attended virtually. Also in attendance was Commissioner of Education, Frank Edelblut. Deputy Commissioner, Christine Brennan was unable 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**

Ann Marie Banfield, Parental Rights Advocate, shared she hears from parents across the state with children in the public schools. She does not charge for her services. She thanked Commissioner Edelblut for exposing problems and complaints from parents. His transparency has elicited backlash from what she calls supporters of the status quo. She stated there have been previous efforts to increase funding without improving quality of public education. When she gets complaints parents either fight or pull their children out of public schools. The decrease in enrollment is not good for the education system. She believes the qualities of a good public school are academic excellence, safe learning environment, and engaging and respecting a diverse group of parents.

Kate Shea, parent of children in special education programs, stated she is happy with the work done by the Board and the Commissioner. She represents parents of kids with neurodiversity. She feels the Commissioner looks for solutions for all children in all families, which makes a huge difference in their lives. The diverse options being offered allow families to find the best environment for their children as individuals.

Darlene Crildersleeve stated she feels that parents are bullying the Commissioner. She thanked the Governor for appointing Commissioner Edelblut because of the ideas he is brought to schools, giving families options. She feels the schools have advocates for their staff, but children need people looking out for them. There was an incident with a teacher, and she felt the union reps were protecting the teacher over the students. She stood against it. She collaborated with other moms to pass a bill for special education students. The union was against the bill. Commissioner Edelblut has created opportunities for families.

Moira Ryan spoke on behalf of Marilyn Muller who wrote she is a mom of a diverse learner that is denied her right to a free and appropriate public funded education. She is supportive of Commissioner Edelblut because he is committed to providing learning opportunities that are relevant to student needs, interests, and career paths including traditional public schools, charter, private schools, home education, and online education. He recognizes the need for support for classroom teachers. He engages with families to hear the needs of families. She is supportive of the Lean into Literacy Initiative.

Gail Kinney, pastor with the United Church of Christ, stated she collaborates with pastors from multiple denominations, faith leaders, and parents across the state. Her group is concerned about the priorities of the Commissioner. Her group believes in the honest teaching of the history and present. When they speak and when they take issue with what the Commissioner says, what he states in op eds or whatever else, it is not about the man, it is about the policy. She implored the State Board try to understand that and open their hearing and minds to these diverse opinions and the deep concerns that many people in the state have about what is perceived to be a failure of the leader of the Department of Education.

Nancy Brennan stated the New Hampshire Commissioner of Education represents the public interest. She feels the commissioner represents those committed to demonizing teachers, defunding and privatizing public education. She feels the Board of Education dismissed speakers concerns at the previous meeting. She believes there are groups that want to defund public education. The Commissioner speaks at their events promoting school choice over other models. She has not seen him working with Granite State Progress, Support our Schools, or the New Hampshire School Funding Fairness Project. She was disturbed by a speech entitled Gaslighting America. She is unhappy about his speaking out against masking and threatening to withdraw accreditation from public schools that had to close during the pandemic.

Chrissy Curly, a mom of three boys and an art teacher in Croydon, stated she has worked in schools in Vermont and New Hampshire for 14 years. Croydon's school budget was cut by 53%. Commissioner Edelblut was working with the group that initiated the cuts. The school board planned for Croydon students to attend e-school pods run by private companies or to have parents pay out of pocket to attend neighboring public schools. She asked the Department to support the public schools relied on by small town families.

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

### **A. Office of Legislative Budget Assistant (LBA) Special Education Dispute Resolution Audit**

Jay Henry, Performance Audit Manager, reported they are completing three audits within the Department of Education. One audit is on special education looking at the dispute resolution process. Once completed, they will begin an audit of the Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs).

Kate Cassady asked about the last time an audit was conducted of the Department of Education. Jay Henry stated it depends on the legislature, who tells them which agencies or programs to audit. There is not a rotation. It is based upon the interest of the legislature.

Kate Cassady asked for clarification on dispute resolution. Amanda, Performance Auditor, responded they are looking at the special education processes. That includes the due process complaints, due process hearings, state complaints, mediation, neutral conference, third party moderated discussions, and facilitated Individual Education Plan (IEP) team meetings. Jay Henry added the State Board of Education does not have any dealings with the special education dispute resolution process.

Jay Henry explained when the report is completed, it is presented to the fiscal committee, and then becomes a public document. The goal is for the first audit to be completed by the end of this year.

Ann Lane asked when the last audit was done on the special education department. Jay Henry believes it was in 1999.

## **AGENDA ITEM V. COUNCIL FOR TEACHER EDUCATION (CTE)**

### **A. New England College (NEC) – secondary priority progress report**

Laura Stoneking introduced Chris Ward, Academic Dean at Upper Valley Education Institute (UVEI), who was a co-chair on the New England College PEPP review; Dr. Pat Corbett, representing New England College.

Chris Ward reported the initial onsite visit was in November 2019 and a conditional approval was recommended with a priority progress report due 6 months after the Board decision. After that report, they found progress that needed to be made on a number of standards related to clinical practice and partnerships, candidate assessment, and program assessment. The co-chairs produced a schedule to require another progress report due in May of 2022. They found sufficient progress was made to warrant full approval. Improvements included

leadership around collecting data on clinical progress, aggregating that data, showing trends in the data, and using the data for program improvement.

Drew Cline thanked the team for their hard work and collaboration.

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, that the State Board of Education approve the secondary progress report for NEC and grants full approval for the following 8 PEPPs through August 30, 2027.

NH Ed. Standard(s)		Professional Educator Preparation Programs- Content Area(s)	Degree/ Format Offered
612.04	507.11	Elementary Education Teacher (k-6) (k-8)	BA, Licensure
612.05	507.24	English Language Arts Teacher for Grades 5-12	BA, Licensure
612.07	507.40	Special Education Teacher (age 5-21)	BA, Licensure
612.21	507.16	Physical Education Teacher	BA, Licensure
612.28	507.28	Social Studies Teacher for Grades 5-12	BA, Licensure
612.30	507.35	Theatre Education Teacher	BA, Licensure
614.05	506.01	Superintendent	CAGS, EdD
614.04	506.04	Principal Instructional Leader	MEd, CAGS, Licensure

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

#### B. Antioch University New England (AUNE) – substantive change report

Laura Stoneking introduced Tom Julius and Susan Dyer Leon, representatives from Antioch University New England (AUNE). Antioch went through a review over a year ago and had concerns around unmet standards. They were in the process of working through progress reports to meet those standards. The institution has decided to eliminate educator prep programs. One program requires an extension and one that can be eliminated because there are currently no students enrolled.

Kate Cassady asked for suggestions on projecting declining student population and determining market demand for classes. Susan Dyer Leon responded it is a changing market. Demand is high, but interest in teacher prep programs is at a historic low.

Phil Nazzaro mentioned the number of programs being closed and the decline in interest while the need for certified teachers rises. Drew Cline shared the Department has been discussing solutions. The pipeline of candidates has decreased to the point that more closures are likely.

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education approves the immediate expiration/elimination of the Science Teacher Grades 5-8

program and approves the extension/elimination of the Life Sciences Teacher 7-12 PEPP through July 27, 2023.

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

C. Upper Valley Education Institute (UVEI) – 2022 (20) final professional educator preparation program (PEPP) review report

Laura Stoneking stated Upper Valley Education Institute just underwent a full review of twenty licensure programs. She introduced the co-chairs Nick Marks, Dean of Education at Granite State College; and Kathryn McCurdy, UNH. Chris Ward and Page Thompkins represented UVEI.

Nick Marks reported the review occurred at UVEI on March 21 and March 22. They had a group of reviewers. Faculty and staff were present throughout the review. They showed effective clinical practices, well-structured benchmarks and assessment systems, program assessment systems that are indicative of program quality at UVEI, enthusiastic faculty and staff, and an important audience the institution serves. They have an internship module that is embedded throughout the program. The internship practices and partnerships are well documented. They have multiple methods of candidate assessment. There were no recommendations in the report that required responsive action. There were some recommendations from reviewers.

Ryan Terrell asked for suggestions for achieving a high-level report. Laura Stoneking responded CTE established a well-detailed and articulated system. Co-chairs of the review work in tandem with Laura Stoneking to use the system in recruiting PEPP reviewers, training for reviewers, allowing reviewers to review electronic documentation before going onsite, and then interviews of faculty, current students, alumni take place.

Chris Ward stated the process begins several months prior to the scheduled review. Laura Stoneking stated there is a lot of collaboration within the review and feedback. The co-chairs analyze the program assessment, candidate assessment, and clinical practice. Kathryn McCurdy added after the reviewer training, the co-chairs had optional meetings allowing reviewers to ask questions if they could not find something. The co-chairs then worked with UVEI to get additional information.

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education grants Upper Valley Educator's Institute full 7-year approval of the following twenty licensure only programs through August 30, 2029.

NH Ed. Standard(s)		Educator Preparation Program CONTENT AREA	Format Offered
507.33	612.26	Chemistry Teacher for Grades 7-12	Licensure
507.37	612.24	Earth and Space Science Teacher for Grades 7-12	Licensure
507.32	612.25	Life Sciences Teacher for Grades 7-12	Licensure
507.34	612.27	Physics Teacher for Grades 7-12	Licensure
507.29	612.22	Science Teacher for Grades 5-8	Licensure
507.11	612.04	Elementary Education Teacher (K-6)	Licensure
507.55	612.35	English Language Arts Teacher for Grades 5-8	Licensure
507.24	612.05	English Language Arts Teacher for Grades 5-12	Licensure
507.26	612.17	Mathematics Teacher- Middle Level (to Alg.1/Integ 1)	Licensure
507.27	612.18	Mathematics Teacher- Upper Level (Pre-Alg to AP Math)	Licensure
507.56	612.29	Social Studies Teacher for Grades 5-8	Licensure
507.28	612.28	Social Studies Teacher for Grades 5-12	Licensure
507.09	612.01	Visual Arts Teacher	Licensure
507.38	612.14	World Language Teacher- French, German, Spanish	Licensure
507.52	612.02	Reading and Writing Teacher	Licensure
<b>SPECIALTY AREAS</b>			
507.12	614.02	Reading and Writing Specialist	Licensure
506.04	614.04	Principal Instructional Leader	Licensure
506.05	614.13	Curriculum Administrator	Licensure

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

D. Franklin Pierce University (FPU) – 2022 (7) final professional educator preparation program (PEPP) review report

Laura Stoneking stated Franklin Pierce University went through a full review of their seven programs. In 2013, Franklin Pierce was the institution that started the review process under the new requirements of program assessment, candidate assessment, and clinical partnerships and practice. She introduced Jed Donelan, Franklin Pierce; Joan Swanson, Franklin Pierce; and Pat Corbett, NEC.

Pat Corbett, co-chair, reported Joan Swanson has done a lot to build new systems, look at where they are and where they need to go. They are collaborating well with K-12. They are beginning to look at the assessment system. The content area is strong, and they are working well with faculty. They need to continue to work on the assessment system. The candidate assessment and program assessment has begun, rubrics have been created, they have had discussions with faculty. Conditional approval is being recommended to allow time to collect and analyze data.

**Motion:** Ryan Terrell made the amended motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education grants Franklin Pierce University conditional approval for the BA, MeD, and licensure PEPPs for the below 7 listed educator preparation programs through October 31, 2023. FPU will submit a

**July 14, 2022**

progress report addressing development of all unmet standards to NH CTE 6 months from approval decision by the State Board of Education. The progress report shall be due to the division by January 12, 2023.

Ed 500	Ed 600	PROGRAM	DEGREE/ Format
507.11	612.04	Elementary Education Teacher (K-6) (K-8)	BA, M.ED, Licensure
507.24	612.05	English Language Arts Teacher for Grades 5-12	BA, M.ED, Licensure
507.40	612.07	Special Education Teacher (age 5 - 21)	BA, M.ED, Licensure
507.32	612.25	Life Sciences Teacher for Grades 7-12	BA, M.ED, Licensure
507.28	612.28	Social Studies Teacher for Grades 5-12	BA, M.ED, Licensure
507.56	612.29	Social Studies Teacher for Grades 5-8	BA, M.ED, Licensure
507.55	612.35	English Language Arts Teacher for Grades 5-8	BA, M.ED, Licensure

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

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

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

#### 1. The Birches Academy Charter School – charter amendment

Jessica Wachsman, Dean of Operations, and Chris Smith, Dean of School, were in attendance representing The Birches Academy Charter School. Chris Smith stated they are seeking to add seventy-five students to enrollment and add a STEAM focus to the school's mission.

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education approve the amendments to the Birches Academy Charter Public School charter document.

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

#### 2. The Birches Academy Charter School – renewal

Chris Smith stated they are requesting renewal and that the platform is helpful in the renewal process.

Kate Cassady confirmed the school has been open since 2012 and this is their second renewal. Jessica Wachsman confirmed. She asked about the line

item for special programs for \$49,000. Jessica Wachsman responded that includes items done outside of the regular curriculum such as an after-school chess club. They try not to charge a fee for activities and teachers are paid stipends. They have tutoring clubs, after school homework, chess club, cooking club, and an after-care program.

Kate Cassady asked about operation, maintenance. Jessica Wachsman responded rent is \$285,000 a year. The electric bill is \$22,000, the gas is \$7,000. It also includes waste management, building repairs, property insurance. Kate Cassady asked about local revenue for \$96,621. Jessica Wachsman responded they had employees on staff for special education that were contracted out to districts. That will not occur going forward and there will be a budget amendment. Kate Cassady asked about all other title grants \$14,000. Jessica Wachsman responded they also receive Title 2 and Title 4.

Phil Nazzaro asked what they attribute their low teacher turnover. Chris Smith responded when they offer electives or after school clubs, he finds out what the teachers are interested in and have them teach it. When people love what they do, they are happier at work. He also tries to support teachers in meeting their career goals within the school. Jessica Wachsman added teachers have a say in curriculum, events, the school's focus, etc. It creates a team environment.

Drew Cline asked how the school's teacher pay compares to other public schools in the area. Jessica Wachsman responded they are significantly lower compared to the town of Salem including benefits and retirement. Compared to smaller districts in the area, salary is closer, but they still cannot offer a comparable benefits package.

Sally Griffin asked for more details on how the platform was helpful. Chris Smith responded there is a lot of time spent pulling information and making sure it is right. It is often information that has already been submitted. It is helpful to already have it on the iPlatform so they do not have to pull the same information. He also uses it to compare with other schools.

Drew Cline commended their school's board makeup. It is an area some charters struggle with in having the experience needed to run a nonprofit. He suggested allowing struggling charter schools to collaborate with The Birches Academy on how to create a successful board.

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, that the State Board of Education approve the renewal of The Birches Chartered Public School's charter.

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

### 3. Leaf Academy Public Charter School – renewal

Dakota Benedetto, Founding Director; and Judy Hoffman, Community Connections Coordinator, were present representing Leaf Academy requesting a charter renewal. It is their first 5-year renewal. The school is in rural area north of Keene. Students come from an hour radius. The only other charter high school in that region are in Keene. Almost one-third of students have been primarily homeschooled prior to enrolling. Another 20% of students come from other public charter schools, a small number from independent schools, and a few from out of district placements. Almost all teaching staff have master's degrees in their areas. The school started with just a grade 9 class, with fourteen kids. Each year, grades levels were added. Last year, the first class graduated with twenty-three students.

Kate Cassady asked for staff backgrounds. Dakota Benedetto responded she taught in New Hampshire public schools for almost 20 years. She has an advanced degree in education from Harvard. She received her principal certification from UVEI. She has been teaching as well as being administrator. Judy Hoffman organizes all internships as well as teaches the freshman foundation class which focuses on executive functioning skills.

Kate Cassady asked about students coming from traditional public schools. Dakota Benedetto responded Keene District is well-represented. There are also students coming from the Falmouth District and Claremont District.

Kate Cassady asked about transportation. Dakota Benedetto responded the school provides transportation. They purchased a 15-passenger bus that runs a route to drop kids off in the afternoons. There is a mandate allowing students within the district of the charter school to ride the district buses. This transportation makes the school accessible for students in the Falmouth District. For other districts, they try to organize carpools.

Phil Nazzaro asked about enrollment. Dakota Benedetto responded they were in the low eighties last year and anticipate about one hundred in the fall. The number of applicants would bring them over one hundred, but not everyone ends up enrolling. The school's capacity is 112 students.

Ryan Terrell noted the renewal application referred to the school as an "innovative start up culture." He asked what that means to them and when they transition from start up to maintenance. Dakota Benedetto responded the startup culture refers to their unique physical space. It is a former machine shop that gives a different feel than traditional schools. The school is open concept and allows students to flow through their workspace. From the beginning, the school offers the idea that the space belongs to students.

Kate Cassady asked about graduates attending college. Dakota Benedetto confirmed some of their recent graduates are enrolled in college. Many are going to New Hampshire schools as well as smaller schools in the New England area.

Kate Cassady asked about challenges with timely reporting. Dakota Benedetto responded she is the sole administrator as well as teaches full time. The small number and budget have created challenges, but there is now a full-time assistant who has assisted with those challenges.

Kate Cassady asked about the board makeup and noted the membership number of five members is too small. Dakota Benedetto stated they are looking to recruit more board members. They are looking to institute a parent participation policy at the school. There is currently only one parent board member. The charter outlines 2-3 parent members.

Kate Cassady asked about budget concerns. Dakota Benedetto responded they have nine full time staff members and about twelve part time staff members. Many staff members have multiple roles. They had 18-20 students graduate the past year. They do not have an accountant on staff; it is contracted out. Kate Cassady expressed concern over the budget and board membership. She also expressed concern over leadership ability when the sole administrator also teaches full time.

Phil Nazzaro noted the difference between leadership at a startup level and a mature level. As a startup, there needs to be multiple roles taken on by everyone, but eventually there needs to be more specialization of skills. Drew Cline added there is an immediate need for more board members. He also noted a concern over fundraising and suggested using community contacts. Richard Sala shared the concerns of others and would like them to come back to address concerns. Ann Lane stated the school is serving a community that needs them. She wants the school to take the advice of the board to help them succeed.

Motion: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, that the State Board of Education approve the renewal of Leaf Chartered Public School.

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

#### 4. Polaris Public Charter School

Jennifer Murdock-Smith, Director, read the Polaris Charter mission statement. Stacy Harrison, Business Manager; and Don Winterton, Board Chairperson, were also in attendance. Jennifer Murdock-Smith shared a yearly survey is sent to parents asking how well they are doing in terms of meeting the mission. This year 92% felt the school was joyful and exciting, 94% acknowledged

students worked collaboratively, 100% recognizes students are allowed to think critically, 95% were satisfied overall, and 9.03 out ten would recommend Polaris to other families. A former student wrote a letter sharing his positive experience at Polaris over his experience at a traditional public school.

Kate Cassady asked about the connection with charitable gaming. Jennifer Murdock-Smith responded she was informed about the charity by a parent. This is the third year they have participated.

Phil Nazzaro asked about fundraising. Jennifer Murdock-Smith responded early fundraising was limited to parent-based fundraising. They try to expand to the community but have not done much marketing. Most community funds raised have been through word of mouth. Phil Nazzaro asked about enrolled students. Jennifer Murdock-Smith responded there were 109 students last year and this year is 118. The charter max is 120 students. They do have a wait list.

Phil Nazzaro asked about the starting balance in the budget and how they were able to get to a place where they had a large starting balance for the year. Jennifer Murdock-Smith responded she and others have done multiple roles for lower salaries. The school was founded by parents who were motivated to find alternatives. They were able to get parent volunteers to help with building in the beginning. They have been conservative in the use of their funds. The landlord also gave a very low rate.

Ryan Terrell asked about the monthly core values. Jennifer Murdock-Smith responded she is a certified counselor and social emotional learning is important to her. She chose the core values. They adopted the Choose Love curriculum which added components. Every morning, all students come to the gallery room and a whole school morning meeting takes place. The core value is discussed at that meeting. In each classroom, core values are emphasized throughout the day. They follow responsive classroom, which is a behavior management system that emphasizes establishing community, logical consequences, and respecting the child.

Kate Cassady discussed the school's strong board with diverse skill set: marketing, legal, grant writing, technology, finance, administration. They have committed staff with low turnover. Enrollment is stable over time. Test scores consistently meet or exceed state averages. They recently purchased their own building.

Kate Cassady asked when the building was purchased. Jennifer Murdock-Smith responded March 2022. Kate Cassady asked about increased cost due to property taxes and insurance. Jennifer Murdock-Smith responded nonprofit does not pay property taxes. Kate Cassady asked that for which the fundraising money was used. Jennifer Murdock-Smith responded it went towards the down payment on the building. This year's money will be saved for when grants have expired.

Kate Cassady asked about budgeting. Jennifer Murdock-Smith and Stacy Harrison work on the budget together. The board reviews and approves it. Stacy Harrison oversees school accounting. Stacy Harrison's background is in financial in nonprofit. Don Winterton has been chairman of the board for 4 years and was on the board for 2 years prior. He previously managed a national sales force, has been on a planning board, town councilor, and temporary town administrator. He also was co-chair of Granite YMCA Capital Fundraising.

Kate Cassady asked about budget for operation and maintenance of plant for \$161,000. Stacy Harrison responded utilities are \$35,600. The mortgage is \$56,484. Property insurance is \$3,600. Custodial service is \$28,800. Cleaning supplies \$3,000. Interior building services, including building, electrical, HVAC, security, maintenance. Kate Cassady asked about annual fund donations. Stacy Harrison responded there is an annual fund drive with parents. Kate Cassady asked about Polaris Educational Foundation Parent Group support. Stacy Harrison responded they donate every year.

Ann Lane asked about the relationship with sending districts. Jennifer Murdock-Smith responded parents enroll students and there is not a lot of communication with sending school districts. If a student has an IEP, there needs to be collaboration with the sending district for providing services. They now have enough students where Manchester could hire someone to provide services at Polaris rather than through Manchester.

Ann Lane asked about the class sizes for K-2. Jennifer Murdock-Smith responded the class size is fifteen. The classes also have assistants when the positions can be filled.

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education approve the renewal of Polaris Chartered Public School's charter.

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

## B. Office of Nonpublic Schools

1. Commissioner's Nonpublic School Approval Designation – renewals report

Tim Carney, NHED, presented the 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: Holy Trinity Catholic School, Shalom Christian Academy, The Well School, and U.S. Performance Academy.

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

**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: St. Joseph's Regional Junior High School.

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

### C. Learn Everywhere Program

#### 1. Seacoast Science Center – renewal

Kate Leavitt, Chief Program Officer, represented Seacoast Science Center for their 5-year renewal. Drew Cline stated the application was thorough. The Board had no questions.

**Motion:** Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education approve the Seacoast Science Center's Learn Everywhere renewal application.

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

#### 2. Russian School of Mathematics – new application

Tim Carney, NHED, stated the Russian School of Mathematics submitted a new application for the Nashua campus. Aaron Chernin, principal; and Igor Chernin, regional director, and principal of Acton location, were present. There are around fifty schools throughout the country. Nashua is the only New Hampshire location.

Phil Nazzaro asked about the school. Aaron Chernin responded the Russian methodology was developed by psychologists and educators which was implemented in the former Soviet Union. The goal is to use math as a tool to build logic rather than just solving formulas. Students tend to stay in the program over many years.

Ryan Terrell asked how students find the program. Igor Chernin responded the program was created 25 years ago. They currently have around 60,000 students nationwide. Acton was founded 14 years ago. A main objective is helping students use critical logical thinking to find the best and most efficient solution for a given problem. There is no marketing budget. The quality of the education is spread through word of mouth for new enrollees.

Kate Cassady commented that the state has low math test scores. The program outline covers Algebra I, Algebra II, Precalculus I and II, Geometry, Trigonometry, AP Calculus, AP Statistics. Aaron Chernin responded a lot of students come good at calculations at a surface level. The school's goal is to ensure they do not just do math quickly, they do it well and understand. Many students that come into the program have strong math skills. One of the school's core beliefs is that anyone can learn math. They offer programs for K-12.

Kate Cassady asked about online courses. Aaron Chernin responded there has been an online branch for about 8 years. They have their own software that is proprietary.

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, that the State Board of Education approve the Russian School of Mathematics Learn Everywhere application.

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

## **AGENDA ITEM VII. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD APPLICANTS/RENEWALS**

### **A. Kim Yarlott, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instructions, and Assessment, Merrimack School District – renewal application (2022-2025)**

Drew Cline stated Kim Yarlott has submitted a renewal application. The Board had no questions.

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education approve Kimberly Yarlott for her renewal application to the Professional Standards Board for 2022-2025 term.

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

**AGENDA ITEM IX. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSIONS**

After the Town of Carrol's Appeal of the White Mountain Regional School District's Vote to Reject the Proposed Withdrawal Plan was removed from the table. Drew Cline stated the recommendation by Chris was provided to Board members. Richard Sala stated the report and recommendation are straight forward. He asked if there was a vote for an investigation what the timeline would be. Drew Cline responded the understanding would be that the investigation was completed, and the recommendation is the result of that investigation. Richard Sala expressed concern about what needs to be produced in terms of the investigation outside of the hearing. Drew Cline asked for input from representatives of the two parties. Richard Sala suggested the parties submit a finding of facts.

Attorney Gordon, representative of White Mountain School District, stated there was no dispute over the facts of the election. There was a large turnout and an overwhelming vote. The question asked of the Board was what was prescribed for withdrawal. Allison, representative of Carrol, stated they do not dispute the election itself. They want more information about the facts of the investigation. The statute requires an investigation and a report back as to the findings and recommendation.

Richard Sala stated the first step is to vote whether to have an investigation. Then they would look at all the materials received, decide if there are any questions needing answers and getting the answers, and then produce something that looks like findings of facts and recommendations and a judgement as to whether there should be another vote.

Drew Cline stated the question before the Board is whether the attorney's review of the election procedures, submitted materials, legal questions, and facts constitutes an investigation. If so, the investigation is done, and finding are complete. Or does the Board think it was a review of the legal matter and now conduct an investigation. There will be a need for direction on what to investigate. However, there is no accusation of wrongdoing. He has already done a legal review and a fact review. Or should the attorney take his findings and put them into a document that lists the findings of fact, argument, and legal conclusions.

Allison stated it should be considered the general criteria in terms of the statute and the formation of coops and the rationale and the intent that the funding be equitably portioned. These should be aspects of the investigation. Gordon stated all that material has already been submitted in argument and in information provided.

Phil Nazzaro questioned whether the Board should be allowed to decide if the coop's formula is equitable. The steps taken in this process will set precedent for future actions. Richard Sala states the investigation should not close until there

is a documented finding of facts, legal finding, and recommendations. The statute does not provide the scope of the investigation.

Motion: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education have the Department investigate as to whether another special meeting for a vote of reconsideration is warranted.

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)

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

Motion: Drew Cline made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education to take the Town of Carrol's appeal of White Mountain Regional School Board off the table.

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

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

Commissioner Frank Edelblut reported on events nationally and in New Hampshire on school security. There is a grant program for school security that is presently funded by \$13.3 million, and they are seeking additional federal funds for security grants. Schools are currently filling out grant applications. Early decision grants are those submitted by July 22, which will be adjudicated and moved through the process. There is a second grant window ending August 26. The reason for having two windows is to allow schools that are ready to get started without excluding schools that are off for the summer. The grants are focused exclusively on security measures in the schools. They are working with the Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

The pyramid structure of grants follows the MTSS model. The base of the model focuses on programs that touch everybody. Moving up the pyramid, the scope narrows towards populations that need more precise interventions. There are programs in the state, like the Choose Love program, which help all students. Other programs are in place for specific groups of children, like the Regulated Classroom, which helps students who are disruptive in the learning environment. Another program, One Trusted Adult, tries to ensure every student has at least one trusted adult with which they can connect. Another program that was just approved, The Graduation Alliance, is a mentoring program for students who are at risk. The top tier is the contract with the community behavior health association. It involves working with community mental health centers.

Ann Lane asked about looking for warning signs. Commissioner Edelblut responded the tiered model focuses on reaching students and keeping them from becoming isolated. Monitoring of social media does not happen at the school level. However, the Department of Safety has a cyber unit that monitors social media to identify potential threats. There is also the policy of see something, say something. Ann Lane asked about lock systems for schools. Commissioner Edelblut responded all schools can be locked. There are areas of improvement in the security of the buildings specific to campuses. Significant improvements have already been made through grants and they are constantly working toward continued improvements.

#### **AGENDA ITEM XI. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### A. Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2022

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady to accept the meeting minutes of June 9, 2022.

Vote: The motion was approved by the State Board of Education with Phil Nazzaro, Sally Griffin, and Ann Lane abstaining.

##### B. Students/Monroe School Board – SB-FY-19-04-013(LC); SB-FY-19-04-014 (SH) – approval of hearing officer’s proposed decision (nonpublic)

##### C. Clarksville-Pittsburg Authorized Regional Enrollment Plan (AREA) Two-Year Extension

##### D. Hollis-Brookline Cooperative School District Articles of Agreement – certification of the change

Motion: Ryan Terrell made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education to accept the consent agenda as a slate, minus the meeting minutes.

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

**AGENDA ITEM IX. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION contd.**

Kate Cassady questioned how much of the renewal report is needed for Charter Schools and nonpublic schools. Drew Cline responded they do their investigation and provide their summary. The schools also submit a renewal application which includes the budget. Kate Cassady will make suggestions on how to decrease the number of pages required to be submitted to the Board. There was a discussion about what is needed or helpful and what could be taken out based upon what is important for the Board to know.

**AGENDA ITEM XII. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

There was no nonpublic session.

**AGENDA ITEM XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

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



---

Secretary