

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the February 18, 2022, Special Meeting

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the State Board of Education convened at 1:08 p.m. Drew Cline presided as Chair.

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

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was done as a group.

AGENDA ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

A. Conditional Approval Response ~ Education Freedom Accounts Program (Ed 800)

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the conditional approval response for Ed 800 regarding the education freedom account program.

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

B. Adopt ~ School Year and Distance Education (Ed 306.18 and Ed 306.22)

C. Adopt – Education Freedom Accounts Program (Ed 800)

AGENDA ITEM IV. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

A. Martin Luther King Jr. Educational Initiative

The message of the initiative uses Martin Luther King Jr. and some of the inspirational aspects of his life to help encourage and motivate students. Dr. Vern Howard shared background on Martin Luther King Jr. and spoke about history showing the success of nonviolence.

Board members discussed the educational initiative. Dr. Howard noted that there are lesson plans centered on Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, legacy, and aspirations. There are resources available to schools.

AGENDA ITEM VI. BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A. Office of Charter Schools

1. Granit State Arts Academy Charter School - Name Change

Don Erdbrink, founder and board chair introduced Christine Caron, director of school and guidance counselor, and Frank Sharlow, visual arts teacher and co-director. Don Erdbrink stated the Granite States Arts Academy is currently in its 8th year. It is an art-focused school with an art-integrated curriculum. Some students have been published for creative writing and they have placed 2nd twice in the New England Theatrical Guild competitions. They have started a successful robotics competition.

Don Edbrink shared they have noticed a trend of students without an interest in the arts applying to the school because they are small and have a safe reputation. The students are accepted due to open enrollment, but then they are unhappy with the curriculum and leave midyear. It impacts both students and the school. The name tends to be abbreviated to either Granite State or GSA, which does not imply art. The requested name change to the Arts Academy of New Hampshire will make the focus of the school clearer. They believe it would strengthen the perception of the school as an arts-based school, regain enrollment lost during COVID, and help grow the school while honoring the charter. The name change will also help students make a more informed decision when considering enrolling.

Phil Nazzaro asked if the rebranding could potentially effect enrollment with decreased recognition of the reputation. Don Edbrink responded starting the change now should allow enrollment to be consistent. Christine Caron added they will get the students excited about the name change. Ann Lane asked about sending districts. Don Edbrink responded 32 towns are represented at the school. Ann Lane suggested sending a letter to all of them. Ryan Terrell suggested just dropping the original name and going full force with the rebrand.

MOTION: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, pursuant to RSA 194b(3)11 that the State Board of Education authorizes the name change from Granite State Arts Academy to Arts Academy of New Hampshire, *Chartered Public High School*.

VOTE: The motion was passed by unanimous vote by the State Board of Education, with the Chair abstaining.

B. Learn Everywhere

2. Comligo USA, Inc.

Dr. Calvo introduced Comligo. They specialize in teaching Spanish online.

Ann Lane asked about alignment with Spanish classes in a traditional high school setting and the abbreviation ACTFL. Dr. Calvo responded it is the American Council of Teaching Foreign Languages. It is a common standard for teaching foreign language in the United States. The standards align with New Hampshire's standards.

Ann Lane mentioned the outline shows 60 hours of instruction lead to a credit. She asked how many hours of instruction are in a typical Spanish class. Nate Greene responded it depends on the school and district. Typically, a foreign language class will run from 1-1 ½ hours a week. They are moving toward a competency-based system. The Learn Everywhere Program review committee had a high school Spanish teacher go through the application and felt A1 aligned well with Spanish 1 and A2 aligned with Spanish 2 in terms of the competencies.

Ann Lane asked how the advanced classes line up. Nate Greene responded the committee found aspects of a traditional Spanish 3 or 4 course as well as aspects that would only be found in an AP Spanish course.

Kate Cassady asked if incoming students take a placement test. Nate Greene stated that competency would show through course completion allowing enrollment in the next level.

Ryan Terrell asked for insight into the teacher recruitment process. Dr. Calvo responded they are in contact with universities in Mexico and Spain. Many of the teachers do internships with Comligo to learn from senior teachers. When they finish their masters, many apply for the position.

Chair Cline stated the application showed teachers must be native speakers. Nate Greene stated the committee felt the alignment with international standards makes them stand out.

Richard Sala asked why the committee was looking for differentiation from VLACS. Nate Greene responded there is a fee for Comligo and VLACS is free. They discussed the reason students may be willing to pay for the course.

Ann Lane asked about scholarship opportunities. Dr. Calvo responded they offer scholarships.

MOTION: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell, that the State Board of Education approve the Comligo Learn Everywhere application.

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

AGENDA ITEM V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 10:00 - Holocaust and Genocide Education (Ed 306)

The hearing was opened at 10:02 a.m. and closed at 10:32.

Reverend Zachary Harmon participated virtually. He commended the work to implement the Holocaust and genocide education program into schools. He spoke on behalf of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Hamstead and The New Hampshire Council of Churches who support the rules, generally. He expressed concern about the importance of including the Armenian genocide in the curriculum. Armenian Americans attend many New Hampshire churches and are decedents of Armenian genocide survivors. The U.S. House and Senate recognized the Armenian genocide in 2019 and the executive branch recognized it in 2021. The New Hampshire State Senate passed the resolution for April 24, 1990, to remember the Armenian genocide. It could be listed under 306.49(a)(1)(b)(4) in the education rules.

AGENDA ITEM VII. COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

Frank Edelblut, Commissioner of Education, discussed the Friday Forum. The purpose of the forum is to send out information that may be missed during the week with links to make information easily accessible. One program highlighted was the regulated classroom. A program was rolled out which aims to give teachers tools to deal with students that are more dysregulated this year than they have been in the past.

The Department produced videos with the Woodson Center for Black History Month. One video is being released each week during the month of February. These stories of courage cover individuals who have overcome discrimination, racism, oppression and have succeeded.

The Department has moved into the current building with the exception of special education, who are currently occupying office space the Hotel Concord. . The old building is in the process of being cleared out. Remediation will take place once it is cleaned out.

There were over 100 pieces of legislation introduced to the education committee across a variety of topics. The department is being supportive of legislators as they have questions regarding different bills. Richard Sala asked if any of the legislation mentions expanding the education freedom account. The commissioner responded there are some working towards broadening the program and there are others working to eliminate or constrict the program.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

Ann Lane discussed the language in the revised Ed 306 rules. Ed 306.26(h), she suggested adding the words "developmentally appropriate" before instruction.

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala, that the State Board of Education amend the rule Ed 306.26(h) to add the language, "nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent developmentally appropriate instruction."

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

MOTION: Richard Sala made the motion, seconded by Sally Griffin that the State Board of Education amend Ed 306.49(a)(1)(b)(5), to include Armenian genocide.

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

AGENDA ITEM IX. TABLE ITEMS

Richard Sala discussed initial proposal for Ed 508.06 School Librarian. Chair Cline responded it was taken off the table in December. Richard Sala suggested reviewing requirements and getting rid of some due to the declining availability of teachers. Flexibility at the local level would allow schools to fill some vacant spots. The board will look at statute list versus licensure at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM X. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2022, State Board Meeting

Board members noted necessary changes to meeting minutes.

B. Tuition Agreement - Lisbon and Landaff Regional School Districts

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro to accept the consent agenda as modified.

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

AGENDA ITEM XI. NONPUBLIC SESSION

There was no nonpublic session.

AGENDA ITEM XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ryan Terrell to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

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



Secretary