

New Hampshire  
State Board of Education  
Minutes of the January 14, 2021 Meeting

Meeting held via Zoom webinar due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency

*Please note that these meeting minutes have not yet been reviewed by the State Board and are subject to change.*

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:10 a.m. The meeting was held via Zoom webinar due to the COVID-19 state of emergency. Drew Cline presided as Chair.

Members present: Sally Griffin, Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Phil Nazzaro and Drew Cline, Chair. Helen Honorow was not able to attend due to a prior commitment. Also in attendance were Commissioner of Education, Frank Edelblut and Deputy Commissioner, Christine Brennan.

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Drew Cline led the pledge of allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no live public comment and any written commentary submitted will be posted to the public materials on the Board's [webpage](#).

**AGENDA ITEM IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

**A. Conditional Approval Response ~ Demonstrated Knowledge and Skills in High School (Ed 306.27(d))**

Amanda Phelps, NHDOE Administrative Rules Coordinator, shared that the first conditional approval response is the Ed 306.27(d) for graduation requirements in high school. This was approved by Joint Legislative Commission on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) as amended. Approval is needed of the conditional approval response. If approved, Amanda will send to Joint Legislative Committee for Academic Rules (JLCAR) or Office of Legislative Services (OLS) and they will review to make sure it is consistent with approval request and can be adopted later in the meeting.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, for the State Board to approve the conditional approval response for the amendment ED206.27(d).

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Sally Griffin, Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon and Phil Nazzaro with the Chair abstaining.

B. Conditional Approval Response ~ Home Education (Ed 315)

Ms. Phelps presented the second conditional approval Ed 315 for home education. Minor edits based on OLS comment and approved by JLCAR. She also submitted the changes to the Home Education Advisory Council for feedback and they all approved of the changes. Upon approval of the board it will be sent to OLS and presented for adoption later in the meeting.

Ann Lane stated she saw reference to the portfolio, which was not defined in the definitions. In RSA193(a)(6), there is detail on portfolio. She thought it was confusing that the portfolio is not defined or referred to in RSA193(a)(6). Chairman Drew Cline stated that definitions are left out to keep rules from being too long, but it does put the burden on the parent. He asked Ms. Phelps if it should be copied or referred to in the other statute. Ms. Phelps responded that RSA193(a)(6) describes the portfolio but does not define it. The Home Education Advisory Council agreed to pointing to the statute and not defining what it is specifically because it varies. There is no clear definition of what it should look like. Chairman Cline and Ms. Lane agreed that the change can be approved as is and then an amendment can be made later.

Ms. Lane referred to Ed 315.08 Annual Evaluation. She believed the language "the parent shall provide for there to be an evaluation" was an odd sentence. Ms. Phelps responded by saying the language is to allow the parent to conduct an annual evaluation or find another avenue. Chairman Cline suggested Ms. Lane and Ms. Phelps work together to amend at the next meeting.

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, for the State Board to approve the conditional approval response for the amendment Ed 315.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Sally Griffin, Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon and Phil Nazzaro with the Chair abstaining.

C. Initial Proposal~ Vocational Rehabilitation Program (Ed 1000)

Chairman Cline stated that OLS meets Friday and there was an emergency rule for vocational rehab in December. OLS is concerned about the emergency rule. NHDOE Attorney Chris Bond stated that JLCAR staff reached out with anticipated objections. Emergency rules are only supposed to be adopted for health, safety or financial issues. The board's rationale was the financial harm that would result to the program if there were no administrative rules due to COVID's impact on employment. JLCAR objected that the emergency rule is not supposed to extend the amount of time to make a rule. Attorney Bond spoke with attorney general and it is not uncommon to administer a program while

a rule is expired. The authority of the program is rooted in federal law. He believed that the program can be run without the emergency rule until rules can be put back in place. He asks that the board remove the emergency rule.

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, for the State Board to repeal the emergency rule for vocational rehabilitation programs ED1000.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Sally Griffin, Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon and Phil Nazzaro with the Chair abstaining.

Ms. Phelps explained that she removed the bold and italic text because it is working on expired rule. It is the same text sent previously, just edited.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, for the State Board to approve the initial proposal for Ed1000 Educational Rehabilitation Programs.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Sally Griffin, Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon and Phil Nazzaro with the Chair abstaining.

D. Adopt ~Demonstrated Knowledge and Skills in High School (Ed 306.27(d))

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, for the State Board to adopt Ed 306.27(d) Demonstrated Knowledge and Skills in High School.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon and Phil Nazzaro with the Chair abstaining.

E. Adopt ~ Home Education (Ed315)

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, for the State Board to adopt Ed 315 Home Education.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon and Phil Nazzaro with the Chair abstaining.

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

A. Proposed Amendment and Renewal of the Grantham-Lebanon-Plainfield AREA Agreement

Attorney James O'Shaughnessy stated that Lebanon, Plainfield and Grantham are part of an Authorized Regional Enrollment Area (AREA) agreement. They have been a group of school districts that have educated their students together in the Lebanon middle and high school for over 50 years. A facilitator worked with the three districts to reach common ground on a number of issues including language changes. They are before the board today seeking approval for the amendment and renewal. Once approved, the districts will then submit the changes to their voters in each district to confirm that the citizens in each district affirm that the relationship between the districts should continue. He referenced the submission document that outlines the changes. The districts asked for an approval of the AREA agreement for an additional term of 10 years and approve the warrant articles. Lebanon School District has their deliberative session on January 30, leaving a tight deadline.

Chairman stated that the submission is straightforward and there is no need to go through each section. Ms. Lane commented on the language change under H. Exceptions for Enrollment. She commended them in being proactive talking about educational hardship and enrollment.

**MOTION:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board approve the submitted documents in accordance with RSA195(a) and approve the proposed amendments and proposed renewal of the AREA agreement for 10 years, expiring June 30, 2031, and approve the proposed warrant articles.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Sally Griffin, Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon and Phil Nazzaro with the Chair abstaining.

**B. Addendum to the ESEA Consolidated State Plan and the Waiver for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools for 2020-2021**

Nate Greene, NHDOE, Administrator, Bureau of Educational Opportunities stated they are submitting an addendum and a waiver request as part of their current accountability system for this year. The addendum would allow pushing accountability dates, which would affect Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), and Advanced Technical Schooling (ATS) school designations. There was no assessment date for the 2019-2020 school year due to the pandemic. There is no data to assign new designations. In the 2021-2022 designations can be made based on 2020-2021 data.

Mr. Greene stated they are asking for a waiver of the federal requirement of the assessment of TSI every year. CSI are schools in the state identified as being in the bottom 5% based upon assessment system across four indicators. These include academic achievement, student proficiency on math, English language arts and science tests; academic growth, how well schools are progressing students; EL, how well schools are doing in progressing growth of English language learner students; equity, how well

students are targeting the achievement in typically underrepresented groups. TSI and ATS are identified because one or two of the student demographic subgroups are performing in the bottom 5% of the state, but not the whole school.

Cindy Chagnon stated that she agrees with the waiver due to lack of data last year. She does not believe data from the current school year is reliable. Parents are not completing free and reduced lunch when going virtual. Some students are not participating regularly. She asked for a two-year waiver.

Chairman Cline stated it would be premature to ask for a two-year waiver due to unknown processes for the spring assessments. Mr. Greene stated that there has been no waiver for the assessment system and assessments will have to go forward.

Melissa White, NHDOE, Administrator for Academic & Assessment stated that the federal government has said assessments must take place as normal. The New Hampshire Statewide Assessment System (SAS) test, which covers ELA and math for grades 3-8 and science for grades 5, 8, and 11 provides a wide testing window. Dynamic Learning Maps alternative assessment for severely disabled students also provides a wide window. Access test for EL students was given an extension to allow a wide range of time. The only assessment that must be administered in March and April is Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, digitally.

### C. Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) School Presentation

Mike Schwartz, President, Demonstrated Success, LLC, shared that CSI schools are 12 elementary schools the board has been meeting with. He shared trend data to show improvements to give context of significant hardships being experienced and the hard work to make improvements. Primary indicators are achievement scores and growth percentiles. Achievement looks at proficiency on state assessments. Growth looks at how students are growing from year to year.

Mary Hill, Principal, Grinnell Elementary School, shared that the data at Grinnell shows a decline in enrollment. There is a low percentage of EL students and high percentage of students with IEPs. 53% came to the school already identified. Free and reduced is lower percentage, but the paperwork has not been turned in with students being virtual. The math and ELA scores improved in 2018-2019, showing high growth levels. The pandemic has changed instructional courses.

Ms. Hill stated that surrounding businesses and schools have offered help. Parents and families showed involvement through the Parent Teachers Organization (PTO) and staff remotely through several changes of school settings between virtual, face to face, and hybrid. Staff surveys from 2019 to 2020 showed increases in all areas. The money for CSI school funding allowed an interactive digital display system to support in person and at home learning. Professional development for all staff increased. Parents have been more involved with digital pieces.

Donna Furlong, Principal, Upper Elementary, Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School, highlighted trend data showing decrease in enrollment due to pandemic causing parents to choose to homeschool their children. They do offer a virtual school. Some families have reached out for reenrollment. Jeni Laliberte, Principal, Lower Elementary, Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School, stated that they were only able to take preschool students with identified needs. Typically developing students were not enrolled in the school's preschool due to space for social distancing. Ms. Furlong shared that the school is reaching out to homeschool families to stay in touch. Christine Brennan, NHDOE, Deputy Commissioner, asked Commissioner Edelblut about Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) money to solve the problem of space. Commissioner Edelblut responded that it would not be an eligible expense with the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) one funding but would have been with the CARES Act money in November, which would have been too late for this school. The recent grant ESSER two would allow for getting more space.

Ms. Furlong shared that there was a downward trend in proficiency. Hillsboro has changed their leadership model. PreK to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade principal is Ms. Laliberte, and 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> grade principal is Ms. Furlong. It creates a collaborative team. The school hired a behavioral interventionist to help students in all areas. A school counselor was hired for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. Laliberte shared that Hillsboro partnered with WestEd, which has gotten professional learning communities running.

Ms. Lane asked with the downward trend in enrollment, will the current leadership model be sustainable? Ms. Furlong shared that the leadership is committed to the model. The data will need to show whether the model is working.

Ms. Furlong stated they strive for curriculum alignment with standards with the help of WestEd. The school is using iReady diagnostic and the school just purchased the math instructional piece, which focuses on the path based on individual student needs.

Ms. Laliberte shared that staff has worked to teach remotely and through a hybrid model. The two principal model allows them to participate in classrooms more frequently. One goal is to work on student behavior, and they are creating a behavior plan.

Ms. Furlong stated that the call survey showed all indicators went up. Ms. Laliberte shared the three priority goals are making performance expectations clear to teachers, increasing alignment of instruction and assessment to the standards, and improving behavior management support systems.

Ms. Laliberte shared that there feels like there is never enough time for all professional development. They have been working on finding the best ways and most purposeful ways to incorporate the time. The principals work to support teachers with new curriculums, programs and varying teaching models.

Ms. Laliberte shared that key successes include training staff in safety care, de-escalation strategy. Guidance counselors are going into classrooms weekly to provide

lessons. Behavior interventionist is assisting students and teachers to meet behavioral needs due to a significant population with trauma history. Ms. Furlong shared that flexible seating available has been really successful. Some flexible seating was purchased with CSI funding. Teachers have been provided with various professional development in community and virtually. Some classrooms have new audio systems.

Chairman Cline asked why curriculum is not always aligned to standards. Ms. Furlong answered that curriculum is often passed down, staying the same even when standards have changed. The school is working to realign everything they are doing. Ms. Laliberte shared that antiquated resources do not always match current standards and needs to be updated.

D. New Vision for what it means to be educationally prepared to exit a New Hampshire high school

Fred Bramante, National Center for Competency Based Learning (NCCBL), shared that college should not be the only focus of an education driven economic development system. A team was formed to look at the K-12 component of getting more New Hampshire residents to have some form of credential. Mr. Bramante's team went to school administrators with a vision statement, by 2025 virtually every New Hampshire student will earn or be on a personalized path to earning a post-secondary or career related credential. The statement was approved by the coalition allowing NCCBL to work with administrators. An action plan has been created. NCCBL worked with Commissioner Edelblut to find a way to implement the plan in all schools throughout the state. The goal is to work with manufacturing companies and schools to prepare students for the workforce.

Chairman Cline stated that the goal is to allow students to graduate with a certificate to do a job. College preparation has been the goal in the past and the focus is shifting to help a high school graduates to be self sufficient if they do not choose to go to college. Employers would also know that students are graduating ready to work. Mr. Bramante stated that they hope to create a balance of credentialing opportunities, which can include college but also career schools and specific certification programs.

Commissioner Edelblut clarified that legislation was passed to provide career counseling and pathways to students. An assessment gives students perspectives of careers they may choose based on interests. When a student chooses a career they are interested in, they are given a pathway to follow. Employers are linked in to offer specific employment information in New Hampshire.

Ms. Lane asked about national connections. Mr. Bramante answered that it is something the team can investigate. Commissioner Edelblut stated that students can look at their pathway on a continuous basis and change their pathway to ensure students are ready for the path they intend to follow. Ms. Chagnon shared that the Bedford School Board has been researching alternate pathways through high school through surveying

parents, surveying the town, surveying businesses. Businesses state the self-management skills are just as important as academic skills.

Ms. Lane asked about getting staff members to implement this program. Mr. Bramante stated that the funding would come from the state level for all schools. He stated that presentations have been given to anyone who is interested, paving the way for the new program.

Mr. Nazzaro asked how the board can assist the new vision. Mr. Bramante stated that they are looking for a written endorsement of the vision that by 2025 virtually every New Hampshire student will either earn or be on the pathway to a career related credential. Chairman Cline stated that there can be a formal endorsement written and approved at a later meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **A. 10:00-10:30 AM ~ School Lease Aid and Charter School Lease Aid (Ed 322 & Ed 323)**

Chair Cline opened the hearing at 10:02 a.m. and closed it at 10:32 a.m. with no speakers.

#### **B. 10:30-11:00 AM ~ Chartered Public Schools (Ed 318)**

Chair Cline opened the hearing at 10:32 a.m. and closed it at 11:02 a.m. with no speakers.

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

#### **A. Plymouth State University(PSU)Substantive Change Request~ Degree Level Change for Ed 614.06School Psychology**

Laura Stoneking, NHDOE, Administrator, Bureau of Educator Preparation and Higher Education, introduced Brian Walker, Interim Director of the Holmes Center for School Partnerships and Ed Preparation. Mr. Walker and Ms. Stoneking have been collaborating to look at the various programs offered.

Mr. Walker stated PSU is proposing to change the school psychology program students currently earning a Master's of Education Degree to earn instead an Education Specialist Degree. This is based on the recommendation of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The Plymouth State program is the only program in the state approved by NASP. The school worked with the school accreditors regarding this change and it has been approved.

**MOTION:** Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education grant Plymouth State University



approval to change the degree level of the current PEPP of School Psychologist from a Master's in Education to an Educational Specialist degree level through December 31, 2024.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Sally Griffin, Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Phil Nazzaro, and Chair Cline.

## **AGENDA ITEM VIII. LEARN EVERYWHERE APPLICATIONS**

### A. Signum University

Nate Greene, NHDOE, Administrator, Bureau of Educational Opportunities, stated that this Learn Everywhere application has been reviewed by the committee. Last month, the state board approved the first Learn Everywhere application for the Academy of Sciences. All application materials put together by Signum University have been included in the packet. Chair Cline added that when the assessment is done, it will be to the state standards.

Corey Olsen, President, Signum University, summarized that they are approved by the higher education commission to offer a master's degree in language and literature. The school is excited to offer this extracurricular activity. Signum University is an entire online university. As a university, they have been looking at ways to step in to help during the pandemic. The clubs program is a new initiative inspired by the struggle for schools to allow for extracurricular programs. Three clubs: book club, literature discussions; writing club, creative writing workshops; language club, immersive foreign language conversation club and a translation club. Teachers are drawn from existing faculty and alumni of master's degree programs. All instructors have a minimum of a master's degree.

Ms. Lane asked about languages being taught and the levels/age ranges to start requiring reading. Mr. Olsen stated that the versions of the clubs that are pre high school age are not relevant to the Learn Everywhere application. There are plans for K-12, but the lowest in the rollout will be grades 3-5. The languages being considered are Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, German, Anglo-Saxon, Old Norse, Greek, Latin and invented languages. The application is written with flexibility so languages can be chosen based upon interest of students and availability of teachers.

Ms. Chagnon asked about the Learn Everywhere program replacing taking that level of course in their high school experience. Would the student need to take both reading and writing courses to meet the standards of a regular class? Mr. Olsen answered that there is not a time component. When a student meets the standard, they receive their certificate. Grants are being applied for that will be used for scholarships. The clubs will provide high level literature educational experiences however; they are not necessarily meeting all English standards. They better meet elective credits rather than full English curriculum.

Mr. Olsen stated that the student population are going to be students that are enthusiastic in the club topic. Students will be encouraged to try the other clubs to get the course credits. Small club sizes will assist in keeping all students engaged in the discussions. The school has a lot of experience in providing engaging and accessible education virtually. While the grant is only for New Hampshire, the clubs will be open to other students which would create interactions of students from different places.

**MOTION:** Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education approve the Learn Everywhere initial application from Signum University.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Phil Nazzaro, and Chair Cline.

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

Commissioner Edelblut discussed grants. ESSER one were grant funds received in the spring and made available to schools in May. That was about 34 million dollars. Those grants were provided to the districts for responses for COVID based on the Title 1 formula. In November, all districts filed plans for use of those funds. An additional 45 million dollars was provided to schools through CARES Act funding with a precedent that a plan for the 34 million dollars had to be provided. ESSER two is going to provide New Hampshire about 156 million dollars. Guidance is needed from the U.S. Department of Education. The difference between ESSER one and ESSER two is driving towards a focus on student learning loss and unfinished learning. It also includes a provision to use it for school facility repairs and improvements to reduce the virus transmission and support student health.

Commissioner Edelblut reported on the COVID vaccine. Educators are in Phase 2A behind people who are over 65, vulnerable and significantly high risk, healthcare workers, first responders and long-term care facility residents and staff. The Department of Health and Human Services has made the decisions based upon risk factors. The estimated timetable for that rollout is between March and May. Two studies showed that there is low transmission in K-12 environment.

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

Ms. Lane stated that the charter school public hearing did not provide guidance for renewals for less than 5 years. The only option is to not renew and noted that there may be situations where the Board may not want to renew for a full five years based on the status of the school in question. This will need to be addressed with charter schools.

### **AGENDA ITEM XI. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**AGENDA ITEM XII. CONSENT AGENDA**A. Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2020

Ms. Lane stated that there was a reference to her calling something large and she did not. Chair Cline stated that misdescribed was transcribed in error.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, for the State Board to approve the consent agenda for December 10, 2020 as amended.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Phil Nazzaro, and Chair Cline.

**AGENDA ITEM XII. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, for the State Board to move to nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II(c).

VOTE: The motion was approved to enter into nonpublic session at 1:15 p.m. by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Phil Nazzaro, Cindy Chagnon, and Chair Cline.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro to return to public session.

VOTE: The motion was approved at to return to public session at 1:40 p.m. by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Phil Nazzaro, Cindy Chagnon, and Chair Cline.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane to seal the minutes indefinitely of the nonpublic session.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Phil Nazzaro, Cindy Chagnon, and Chair Cline.

**AGENDA ITEM XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, to adjourn the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Phil Nazzaro, and Chair Cline.




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Secretary