

New Hampshire  
State Board of Education  
Minutes of the April 8, 2021 Meeting  
Meeting held via Zoom webinar due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:06 a.m. The meeting was held via Zoom Webinar due to the COVID-19 state of emergency. Drew Cline presided as Chair.

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

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ann Lane 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 [website](#).

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

**A. New Hampshire School Building Authority (NHSBA) Consultation per RSA 198:15-c, II (c) (School-Building Project Applications in Descending Rank Order)**

Greg Hill, Chair NHSBA, stated that he serves as state representative covering the towns of Northfield and 1/3 of the town of Franklin. He provided a written testimony prior to the meeting with the rankings of the school project applications. He pointed out there are systemic flaws in the process. Most applications have not been before the voters, which could be problematic. The House voted 19.7 million dollars for school building aide in the House version of the budget.

Chair Cline asked for a summary of the Board's role in this process. Greg Hill replied that the Board's authority is to accept the NHSBA's rankings and approve the priority list to be sent to the Division 2 Finance Committee. Phil Nazzaro asked if the rubric is statutory, or a tool developed by a team. Amy Clark, Administrator for the School Safety and Facility Bureau at the Department of Education, answered that criteria is required in RSA 198.15 and the points are awarded in Ed 321. Phil Nazzaro asked if the Board has the authority to rewrite

the Ed rule to determine the point system, and noted that legislation would have to change for the criteria. Amy Clark responded that he was correct. Greg Hill shared that District 2 is looking to change the timeline from 2 years to 10 years.

Ann Lane asked what happens if the Board does not approve the priority list and what are the ramifications if a community votes to reject the money. Greg Hill answered that he has never experienced a list not being approved but does not think there are any ramifications. If the project is voted down by a community, the money reverts back to the education trust fund. Amy Clark shared that just because a project is on the list does not mean they get money. The legislature appropriates money starting at the top of the priority list.

**MOTION:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro that the State Board approve and publish the FY22 and FY23 school building aide list of applications in descending ranked order dated March 2, 2021.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Richard Sala, Phil Nazzaro, and Ryan Terrell with Chair Cline abstaining.

#### B. Governor's Proclamation ~ Genocide Awareness Month

Chair Cline shared that April is Genocide Awareness Month as decreed by the Governor. William Corbett, Stratagem Consulting LLC, shared that the Governor's proclamation stated the importance of remembering genocide as well as contemplating lessons that can be learned in local communities. William Corbett shared his experiences where genocide perpetrators are expected to seem evil, but just look like regular people. There is nothing that stands out and can be an eerie reality to deal with. The Governor's proclamation mentions threats in the form of ideas having distorting events.

Ryan Terrell asked how the current age of obsession encouraged by social media could result in genocidal acts in modern day. William Corbett responded that when people are insulated by likeminded groups without being given an alternative perspective, the result can be seen through the life of a gentleman charged with genocide based on radio stations he owned and used to propagate hate and extremist views. His actions inspired and encouraged people to commit genocide in the name of purpose.

William Corbett encouraged people to look at a website called Campaign for Uyghurs which lays out atrocities that have been designated on genocide, but corporations are not prioritizing the human rights component.

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

Christine Brennan, NHDOE Deputy Commissioner, shared that Freedom Elementary School and Franklin Elementary School have different populations and different sizes and have used their leadership in different ways.

Mike Schwartz, President, Demonstrated Success LLC shared that CSI schools are the schools that have been struggling academically as measured by the state assessment test for their student performance. One thing that was stressed to schools is the importance of looking at data to inform their instruction. Most schools in the program have some type of system to analyze data with greater rigor to inform instruction.

Ann Lane asked how the Board can be sure the interventions are happening after identifying areas of weakness. Mike Schwartz shared that throughout the year, schools are looking at data to determine the success of an intervention. Schools will also look at the state assessment to look for growth.

Pat Stone, Principal, Freedom Elementary School, shared that this is her fifth year as principal. Freedom is a Title I, school wide school, which means they are able to provide support and interventions to all students. The school is rural, K-6, averaging 50 students per year. They have a higher-than-average percent of students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and families who qualify for free and reduced lunch. There are currently have no English language learner students. Due to the size of school, they have been able to personally reach out to all families to ensure they complete and submit free and reduced lunch paperwork.

Pat Stone stated that Freedom had shown low math scores and as a result began a new math program. As a small school, one or two students can make a big difference in overall scores. As a result, they look and work with each individual student. They are a child centered staff with one-to-one technology for all students. All but one student was currently learning face-to-face. The call survey they conducted has shown increases and the school continues to monitor how students are doing in class and on assessments. Instructional coaching of staff has been a priority. A coach worked with groups and individual teachers to assess data and instruction. A math coach began working with staff virtually.

Pat Stone shared the school's challenges are keeping enrollment up and cost down. The number of young families moving to the area is small. Recruiting and retaining teachers is a concern as many staff members near retirement age. All itinerant teachers (math, PE, etc.) are part time, making challenging to hire certified teachers. Single class grade level limits collaboration opportunity.

Instructional coaching has been embraced by staff. There was a slide in assessment scores when returning in the fall after COVID. However, students

made the growth and were on target. Student led conferences allow students to make their own goals and share their growth with their parents.

Ann Lane asked about current enrollment and teacher certification. Pat Stone replied that they have 48 students. There can be 2-10 students per grade level. K-1 and 4-5 are combined this school year. Teachers are all elementary certified.

Erik Kress, Principal, Franklin Elementary School, shared that he has been principal for 7 years after teaching and working as assistant principal at Keene Middle School for 14 years. Franklin is a K-5 school with around 240 students per year. The current enrollment is between 180-190 students. Many students left for fully remote education. They typically have 65-70% free and reduced lunch. Math and reading were historically 30-40% proficiency. One year 4<sup>th</sup> grade dropped to 20% proficiency in math. Franklin is a magnet school for English language learner students.

The CSI process has helped the school create a structure to write achievable goals. Funding has been used to purchase Chrome books one to one, transforming classrooms to allow more flexible seating, small groups and technology. Erik Kress shared a positive school culture. Shared leadership through six teams drives improvements. The call survey showed continued progress in all areas of school improvement.

Erik Kress shared the school goals are: engage families, professional development, and math instruction. Changing models due to COVID has presented staffing challenges and learning challenges for students. Attendance was always a challenge and remote attendance was a challenge during the current school year. Every staff member had a part in the school improvement plan.

Ann Lane asked about free and reduced lunch percentage. Erik Kress responded that it was difficult to get an accurate number because all students received free lunch in the beginning of the year due to COVID and they lost about 50 families to remote learning. Ann Lane asked about enrollment and class size. Erik Kress answered that typical enrollment is 240 students with class sizes ranging 16-22, with 2 sections per grade level. Ann Lane asked about parent engagement during remote learning. Erik Kress responded that many families were involved, many students did not have a private area to work. March parent conferences were online and about 80% of families signed up, which is higher than normal.

Richard Sala asked about sustaining the intense approach to data use after leaving the CSI program and without grant money. Erik Kress shared that the school and district have always had data teams. Franklin is using more modular assessments to allow data analysis to occur more frequently. He does not believe data assessment will be a future challenge.

Richard Sala stated that rural communities in New Hampshire need better access to internet. The lack of internet access highlighted a delivery gap during the pandemic.

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

##### **A. Vocational Rehabilitation Programs (Ed 1000)**

The session remained open from 10:04 a.m. to 10:34 a.m. with no public comment.

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

##### **A. New Hampshire Technical Institute (NHTI), Concord's Community College Substantive Change Request**

Laura Stoneking, NHDOE, Administrator, Bureau of Educator Preparation and Higher Education, shared that when she began at CTE they found that some institutions had up to 5 different expiration dates. CTE is looking to streamline the approval cycle. NHTI has one program scheduled for a full program review next year along with six other institutions. The Department suggested a substantive change to align this program with the remaining 10 programs which are set to expire in February. It would streamline all resources, oversight, chairs, etc. into one process without affecting any candidates.

Richard Sala expressed a concern that Ed 600 does not give the Board authority to grant extensions for this purpose. The reasons mentioned in the rule are an institution has experienced significant change in oversight and coordination, financial conditions, or changes in federal requirements. Laura Stoneking responded that Ed 602.12 allows an extension if the Board determines the review to be premature. There have not been any students in the program so there would be no program or candidate assessment to evaluate. This could fall under an unexpected or unpreventable situation. Kelly Dunn, Chair, NHTI Education Department, shared that the standards were new and the program was approved immediately once the standards were made available. It was unexpected that there were no candidates, but it would be a premature approval visit. Right after the program was approved, COVID decreased the number of people enrolling in new programs.

**MOTION:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro that the State Board of Education grant NHTI the extension of Ed 612.33 Computer Science Program approval through February 27, 2025 for the reasons set out in Ed 602.12(g)(4).

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Richard Sala, Phil Nazzaro, and Chair Cline with Ryan Terrell abstaining.

Chair Cline suggested Laura Stoneking work with Amanda Phelps on the wording of the extension criteria. Laura Stoneking shared that CTE was charged with looking at the rules overall and have subcommittees are in place looking at the rules. She will add looking at extension criteria to the group already working on that rule.

## **AGENDA ITEM VII. PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL REPORTS/UPDATES**

### **A. North Country Charter Academy Renewal Extension**

Jane Waterhouse, NHDOE, Charter School Coordinator, shared that North Country Charter Academy requires a three-month extension in order to accommodate the Board's request to move their renewal presentation to the May meeting.

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane that the State Board of Education authorize the extension of North Country Charter Academy charter for three months through July 8, 2021.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Richard Sala, Phil Nazzaro, Ryan Terrell, and Chair Cline.

### **B. Compass Classical Academy (CCA): A Public Charter School 5 Year Renewal**

Jane Waterhouse shared that Compass Classical Academy was requesting a 5-year renewal. Judy Tilton, School Director, stated that CCA created a more competitive compensation package for teachers. They are awaiting a quote for health benefits. Since it is a small school, many insurance companies are not interested and only 4 teachers have expressed interest in obtaining benefits through the school. They expect that better compensation will increase staff retention. The school continually researches companies that provide quality templates for teacher evaluations. The school will implement formal and informal evaluations on personal and professional growth. The school offered several professional development opportunities and asked the staff what other professional development they believe would be beneficial.

The school is forming a marketing committee comprised of members of the school board, parents and community supporters with an emphasis on upper grades. A tutorial has been added to the website to assist parents in accessing the school's online reporting system as well as school board policies and student handbook.

The school holds monthly parent focus group meetings. The board will do an annual self-evaluation as well as commit to two board meetings per year for board training. For the 2021-2022 school year, the school is hiring a full time Title I director and a guidance counselor. A technology support person has been hired to setup a technology program for upper grades. Additional fundraisers have been added. After moving to a new facility, the school will still provide a rigorous, content rich program, teaching core virtues in a better, healthier learning environment. Having the ability to spend time outside will benefit students and staff. The extra space will allow a quality before and after school program.

The school has created a strategic plan and a school accountability plan, which will be combined into one to provide all staff with a clear understanding of goals and objectives and how to achieve them. Students will be assessed at the end of each trimester. The team will meet to review scores and ensure each student is being provided what they need to stay on track. All students will be invited to an all-school summer school to focus on reading and math skills in a summer camp fashion.

Ann Lane asked about assessment when students arrive midyear. Judy Tilton answered that with the implementation of STAR testing it has allowed students to be tested within a week of arriving at the school.

**MOTION:** Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Richard Sala that the State Board of Education authorize the charter renewal for Compass Classical Academy charter public school pursuant to Ed 318.12 and Ed 318.13.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Richard Sala, Phil Nazzaro, and Ryan Terrell with Chair Cline abstaining.

## **AGENDA ITEM VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

### **A. Charter School Rules**

Amanda Phelps, NHDOE, Administrative Rules Coordinator, shared that they have a substantive comment on the initial proposal regarding the waiver provision in the charter school rules; noting it is from the statute. In the amendments to the rules, it received a substantive comment on the wording, "a hardship beyond the control of the applicant or other circumstance." The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) is asking what is defined as a hardship. The amendment lists possible hardships that could be the basis for a waiver request. Amanda consulted with Nate Greene, NHDOE, Administrator, Bureau of Educational Opportunities, and oversees the Office of Charter Schools, and is comfortable with the edits. There has never been a waiver request. The Board had the opportunity to review edits prior to submitting to JLCAR.

**B. Discussion Item - Holocaust and Genocide Education (Ed 306.49)**

Amanda Phelps, NHDOE, Administrative Rules Coordinator, shared that she attended the most recent meeting for the Holocaust and Genocide Commission to show how their recommendation was placed in the rules. Their feedback was positive.

Richard Sala shared that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has a segment on age appropriateness and recommends teaching the holocaust to grade 6 and above. He shared a concern of how the various institutions who will deliver the material are deciding between what is a genocide and how it is articulated to students.

Ann Lane shared the concern of the word “comprehensive” because it is open ended, but this could be clarified in the RSA. Chair Cline shared concerns over the legislative wording being brought down to the teachers and curriculum.

Phil Nazzaro shared the importance of helping students understand the ideas that William Corbett mentioned around what "evil" looks like.

It was noted that the rule allows these standards to be put into an existing class. Chair Cline asked if allowing flexibility will result in some schools teaching it in an English class through one novel and asked if this is something that should be looked at more closely. Richard Sala shared that 17 other states have incorporated genocide into their rules in some form. He suggested that the Board look at how other states' rules are written and use that to guide the New Hampshire rules. Ann Lane shared that looking at rules from different regions could help inform the Board on how the rules are being interpreted across the country. Chair Cline shared that the list of 17 states will be divided up between board members to research their rules.

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

Deputy Commissioner Christine Brennan reported that there were 70 teacher of the year nominations. Through the process, there are 29 teachers who have applied and are going through the application process.

The Region 1 Comprehensive Center is working on a project entitled Reimagining Education. They are looking at the lessons learned during the COVID period.

**AGENDA ITEM X. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSIONS**

There were no comments.



**AGENDA ITEM XI. TABLE ITEMS**

- A. Initial Proposal - School Librarian (Ed 508.06)

No discussion and remains tabled.

**AGENDA ITEM XII. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2021

- B. Tuition Agreement - SAU#102 (Goshen School Difference) & SAU#6 (Claremont and Unity School Districts - Receiving Districts)

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro to accept the consent agenda, meeting minutes March 11, 2021 and Tuition Agreement SAU#102 (Goshen School District) and SAU#6 (Claremont and Unity School Districts - Receiving Districts).

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Richard Sala, Phil Nazzaro, and Ryan Terrell with Chair Cline abstaining.

**AGENDA ITEM XIII. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

There was no nonpublic session.

**AGENDA ITEM XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro to adjourn the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll-call vote by State Board of Education Members Ann Lane, Richard Sala, Phil Nazzaro, Ryan Terrell and Chair Cline.



---

Secretary