

**NH Department of Education  
Division of Educator Support and Higher Education  
Public Higher Education Task Force**

**December 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

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**Frank Edelblut**  
Commissioner

**Christine Brennan**  
Deputy Commissioner

**STATE OF NEW  
HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
Division of Educator Support and Higher  
Education  
Higher Education Commission  
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A meeting of the Public Higher Education Task Force was held on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 8:00am at 25 Hall Street, Concord, NH, 03301. The following members present:

Stephen Appleby, Chair  
Senator James Gray  
George Hansel  
Representative Rick Ladd  
Richard Lavers  
Butch Locke  
Representative David Luneau  
Cathy Provencher  
Mark Rubinstein  
Edwin Smith

The following members were not present:

M. Jacqueline Eastwood  
Jennifer MacDonald

Nick Toumpas

1. Chair Stephen Appleby called the meeting to order at 8:02am. A quorum was present.
2. Review of Statutory Changes to Quorum – 91-A. A motion was made by George Hansel to adopt the statutory changes. The motion was seconded by Edwin “Smokey” Smith, and passed unanimously.
3. Executive Order 2023-06 was reviewed by the Task Force.
4. A briefing on the current state of USNH was provided by Cathy Provencher.
5. Chair Stephen Appleby provided a brief overview of the information and resources on the Public Higher Education Task Force web page.
6. Meeting dates were reviewed and confirmed for 2024.
7. A briefing on the current state of CCSNH was provided by Mark Rubinstein.
8. Discussion of approaches to the work and logistics.
9. Review of NH Statement of Financial Interests – RSA 15-A. All Task Force members are to submit the form, or 16-B if applicable.
10. Meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm.