

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the January 7, 2015 Meeting

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:05 a.m. at the Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH. Tom Raffio presided as Chairman.

Members present: Tom Raffio, Bill Duncan, Cindy C. Chagnon, Gary Groleau, Helen G. Honorow, and Emma Rous. Gregory Odell was unable to be present. Paul K. Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education, was present. Virginia M. Barry, Commissioner of Education, was unable to be present.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Emma Rous led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IV. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Update on Charter Schools – Chairman Raffio said that there is a rulemaking hearing at 11:00 a.m. today on charter schools.

1. Charter School Matrix - Keith Burke reported that he had met with the charter leaders group on Tuesday, January 6th to review the revised Charter School Rules. He informed the leaders that once the rules were approved he would develop a common reporting database that would be completed and updated by the schools as required by the rules. The information in the database would be standardized as much as possible, and would be available for review by the Department. Bill Duncan said he appreciated the work that Keith has done on this matrix.

B. Discussion on Strategic Items – Goals – Heather Gage provided the latest version of the Board's articulated goals. Helen Honorow reported that there should be a retreat to review the goals and determine if the Board wants to make changes or revisions for 2015. Additionally, Cindy Chagnon stated that it would be ideal to include strategies for how the Board will meet the goals set. A retreat will be set up shortly. Chairman Raffio said that some things had been accomplished and is reflective of the Board's work.

Deputy Commissioner Leather said that Commissioner Barry and he update the Board on issues that have arisen and on the priorities of the Department that align with the Board goals and are brought forward to the Board. Helen suggested that there be more data dashboards on the website regarding dropouts and graduate rates and to develop more strategies. Mr. Leather said that the data is available on dropouts and is on the website.

C. Miscellaneous – Chairman Raffio said that Commissioner Barry had responded to the request regarding the blizzard bag process. Kearsarge School District has blizzard bags for snow days and it is working.

Bill Duncan reminded Board members of the January 22nd meeting from 9 to 11 am at Northeast Delta Dental to discuss the Innovation Fund. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide an update on progress in planning the Fund, since it was first described by 2Revolutions at a New Hampshire Coalition for Business and Education meeting some months ago. Bill said that the Commissioner and Deputy had been working with 2Revolutions for a period of time.

Chairman Raffio said that the Business and Education Coalition has been very active. There are a number of initiatives related to STEM.

Mr. Leather said that the Governor's Report on STEM will be out next week and there will be a lot of work for the Department.

Chairman Raffio mentioned that Bonnie Dunham had sent Board members an updated list of pertinent legislation. Deputy Commissioner Leather said he could have sent to Board members weekly legislated updates that the Department produces out if they would like.

AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Middleton School District Plan for Withdrawal from SAU #61 – Dean Eggert, Attorney for the Middleton School District, James O'Shaughnessy, Attorney for the Farmington School Board, and Steven Welford, Superintendent of Schools for SAU #61, were present. On December 8, 2014 the Middleton School District Withdrawal Committee submitted a Plan to Withdraw from SAU #61. RSA 194-C:2, IV (b) requires a planning committee that is recommending withdrawal to submit a plan for withdrawal to the State Board of Education. RSA 194-C:2, VI, (d) requires that "within 60 days, the Board shall review the proposed plan for administrative structure to determine whether or not the proposed plan complies with the requirements of this section and RSA 194-C:4." Pursuant to RSA 194-c:2 (e), "If in the opinion of the State Board, all requirements have been met, it shall forward the plan to the school district clerk

for a vote at a regular or special school district meeting.” A vote to approve the plan sends the plan back to the district where the voters in the Middleton School District will vote on its approval. Each party presented testimony from their letters that were recently submitted to the State Board of Education. Superintendent Welford said he supported Middleton’s withdrawal from SAU #61 as the relationship between the two towns is not working and that the Farmington School Board did not want him involved in the construction of a new school in Middleton. There are two points that Board members are concerned about. They would like to see the actual costs of withdrawal represented in the plan and they are concerned as to the amount of time that will be taken in the next year by the Superintendent in overseeing the construction of the Middleton Elementary School.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education vote to approve the Middleton School District Plan for Withdrawal from SAU #61 for submission to the voters of Middleton because it meets the statutory requirements for a withdrawal plan.

The question shall be in substantially the following form:

“Shall the school district accept the provisions of RSA 194-C providing for the organization of a school administrative unit involving the school district of Middleton in accordance with the provisions of the proposed plan?”

Yes _____ No _____

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

B. Promoting and Assessing Broadband Availability for New Hampshire’s Students - Fay Rubin and Michael Blair from the University of New Hampshire spoke about the New Hampshire Broadband Mapping & Planning Program (NHBMPP). The mission of the five year grant was to work to improve broadband access and use in the state by assessing broadband availability, and by engaging communities and other stakeholders in conducting planning, capacity building, technical assistance, and training initiatives. The initiative mapped broadband availability throughout New Hampshire and identified three groups: unserved, underserved, and served, in the state. It was initially determined that 53% of educational institutions in New Hampshire feel they do not have sufficient connectivity to meet their needs. The group hopes to continue to work with New Hampshire schools, and community anchor institutions, to

continue to map connectivity upload and download speeds in hopes to get a rich picture of the broadband needs in New Hampshire. The NHBMP asked the Board to endorse their work and support their requests to superintendents to participate in speed tests, both in schools and at home, in order to provide data that will support effective planning form broadband expansion in the state.

MOTION: Bill Duncan made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education endorse the New Hampshire Broadband Mapping and Planning Program work and support their requests to superintendents to participate in speed tests, both in schools and at home, in order to provide data that will support effective planning form broadband expansion in the state.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

C. Student/Henniker School Board – SB-FY-14-03-012 – The Parents appealed “39 of the Henniker School Board’s 40 decisions” relative to a complaint of a number of instances of alleged bullying. The Hearing Officer recommends that the matter be dismissed.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer’s Report and adopt the Hearing Officer’s Recommendation.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

D. Public Rulemaking Hearing on Draft Final Proposal for Ed 318, Charter Schools and Ed 319, Open Enrollment Rules – Chairman Raffio opened the hearing at 11:00 a.m. In accordance with RSA 541-A:11,I,(c) public comment is being solicited on a draft final proposed rule in a rulemaking proceeding for which notice first appeared in the Rulemaking Register on September 9, 2014 under Notice Number 2014-136. Mary Mayo provided Comments from the December 16, 2015 State Board meeting and the Charter School Leadership meeting on January 6, 2015. Mary went through Part Ed 318 Chartered Public Schools rules and discussed some changes to the rules. Matt Southerton submitted written testimony as he was unable to attend this meeting. Eileen Liponis presented her testimony from the New Hampshire Public Charter School Association. Chairman Raffio closed the hearing at 12:00 noon.

Chairman Raffio asked Mary to review the process that has to be followed before this rule becomes effective.

Mary Mayo announced her retirement effective March 31st.

AGENDA ITEM VI. NEW DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

There was no New Department Business.

AGENDA ITEM VII. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

There was no Legislative Issues at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Deputy Commissioner Leather reported on the following items:

1. Over the past few weeks there have been several LSRs sent to the Department to prepare fiscal note worksheets. This is a very busy legislative session with bills and hearings being scheduled. Rep. Rick Ladd, Chairman of the House Education Committee, met with Commissioner Barry, Heather Gage, Caitlin Davis and he recently. House Finance has scheduled a meeting on January 22nd. There has been a meeting with Governor Hassan's new Budget Director and the Budget Director has submitted several questions we are in the process of answering. Chairman Raffio said that if you need any of the Board members to testify to let them know.

2. We will have a staff attorney from the Attorney General's Office starting on February 1st. She will be working on the rulemaking process that Mary Mayo has been doing.

3. Monies have been released to the Manchester School District regarding Title I funds. The U.S. Department of Education has sent us a letter with the proper course to take. We have appropriate plans and have signed assurances from all districts.

AGENDA ITEM IX. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM X. CONSENT AGENDAA. Minutes of December 16, 2014 Meeting

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to approve the Minutes of December 16, 2014 Meeting.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

B. Minutes of the Nonpublic Session of the December 16, 2014 Meeting – Teacher/Farmington School Board – SB-FY-14-08-004 – Motion for Rehearing and/or Reconsideration

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, to approve the Minutes of the Nonpublic Session of the December 16, 2014 Meeting – Teacher/Farmington School Board – SB-FY-14-08-004 – Motion for Rehearing and/or Reconsideration and to seal the minutes.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

C. Jaffrey-Rindge Cooperative School District Amendment to Articles of Agreement – The Jaffrey-Rindge Cooperative School Board requests Board approval to place articles on the annual school district warrant to amend the cooperative school district's articles of agreement. RSA 195:18, III, (i) requires that State Board approval be part of the process for amending cooperative school district articles of agreement. The proposed amendment would reconstitute the advisory budget committee to consist of two members from Jaffrey and increase the members from Rindge to two.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education approve the amendment to the articles of agreement adopted by the Jaffrey-Rindge Cooperative School Board.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

D. Career and Technical Education Regional Agreement – Region 17
In order to implement Career and Technical Education in Region 17, the Department with the endorsement of the Board has designated high schools at Salem and Derry (Pinkerton Academy) as Regional Career and Technical Education Centers. Centers at Salem and Pinkerton Academy have been constructed and are operating. This agreement identifies the Salem School District and Pinkerton Academy as Receiving Districts for Region #17 and the Pelham, Timberlane Regional and Windham School Districts as Sending Districts. Thus Salem and Pinkerton Academy will be both Receiving and Sending Districts while Pelham, Timberlane Regional and Windham School Districts will be Sending Districts. Paul Leather introduced Lisa Danley.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the Department with the endorsement of the State Board of Education has designated high schools at Salem and Derry (Pinkerton Academy) as Receiving Districts for Region #17 Regional Career and Technical Education Centers.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

E. Nonpublic School Accreditation Agency Approval and Denial Recommendation Report – A committee was formed to read two applications for becoming accrediting agencies for nonpublic schools in New Hampshire. The committee recommends approval of Seventh-day Adventists' application and denial of AdvancED's application. The Nonpublic School Advisory Council's recommendations were voted on at the December 10, 2014 meeting.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education accept and approve the accreditation for Seventh-day Adventists and deny accreditation of AdvancED.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM XI. TABLED ITEMS

There were no Tabled Items at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XII. NONPUBLIC SESSION

The Board did not go into Nonpublic Session at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Emma Rous, to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 noon.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Virginia M. Barry

Secretary