

New Hampshire  
State Board of Education  
Minutes of the March 25, 2015 Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:00 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. Virginia M. Barry, Commissioner of Education, and Paul K. Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education, were present.

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Cindy Chagnon led the pledge of allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM III. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Rep. Rick Ladd, Chairman of the House Education Committee, met with Board members. Rep. Ladd discussed an endorsement of the NH DOE Flexibility Waiver Request approved by a vote of 4-0 by the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee for School Improvement and Assessment that he distributed to Board members. Rep. Ladd also discussed HB 323 as amended relative to the administration of the statewide assessment program.

**AGENDA ITEM IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peter Martin from Exquisite Productions said that he has been filming Unity from day one. He has added to his filming as the quality has not been there. Peter said that under the right-to-know law that Board retreat items should be getting in front of the public.

Doris Hohensee from Nashua said she wanted to place on the record her objections to the action taken by the Board at its March 4, 2015 meeting. Ms. Hohensee expressed concern regarding the waiver, legislative engagement and the Next Generation Science Standards. She also felt that the state graduation competencies should be removed from the waiver proposal.

Ann Marie Banfield from Cornerstone expressed her concern regarding the waiver application, common core, Next General Science Standards, and PACE.

Alan Howe spoke regarding the Tuition Contract Between the Goshen and Newport School Districts. Mr. Howe said that both the Goshen and Newport communities have voted with substantial support to adopt the ten year tuition contract between the two districts. The Newport voters approved the contract by a vote of 598-92. Goshen approved the contract by a vote of 78-39.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, to take from the table the Tuition Contract Between Goshen and Newport School Districts.

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

MOTION: Cindy made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education approve the Tuition Contract Between the Goshen School District and the Newport School District for the school year beginning July 1, 2015 for ten years ending June 30, 2025.

VOTE: This was done by a roll call vote: - Emma Rous – Yes; Gary Groleau – Yes; Cindy Chagnon – Yes; Tom Raffio – Yes; Bill Duncan – Yes; Helen Honorow – Yes.

Bonnie Dunham expressed concern regarding funding of special education within school budgets. She feels there is a lot of misinformation being provided to the public. She is very concerned about HB 1 and 2 that proposed funding cuts to HHS will jeopardize funding for educating people with disabilities.

#### **AGENDA ITEM V. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION**

##### A. Follow-Up from March 4 Retreat:

- Goals
- Teacher Effectiveness
- Suspensions/Expulsions/Climate
- Science Standards
- PACE
- Protocol/Process-Teacher Layoffs
- Set Date for Another Retreat – Chairman Raffio suggested setting another Retreat for July.

B. Winter Snow Days-Days/Hours Exceptions – Chairman Raffio said the decisions made by Commissioner Barry are on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Barry reported that the Department had received about five requests. She will be meeting with the Superintendents at the NHSAA monthly meeting to discuss this. Emergency Management will be discussing structural damage to the schools at this meeting. Commissioner Barry will have a report for the May meeting regarding this. They do allow for hours that are equal to days. Blizzard Bags are on line and must be approved by the school board and cannot exceed five years in each district.

C. Miscellaneous

ESEA Flexibility Waiver – Heather Gage said she had distributed an Overview of NH's ESEA Flexibility Waiver Renewal Request to Board members. On March 31, 2015, New Hampshire will submit a renewal waiver application to the U.S. Department of Education requesting that the state be granted continued flexibility with regard to certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the federal education law.

Commissioner Barry discussed the SAT College Board being part of the waiver. The discussion has been going on for over a year with Superintendents and Legislators. There will be College Board training for teachers and the districts toward assuming additional costs for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade assessment. The Londonderry School District has been involved for several years with 9<sup>th</sup> grade assessment. We could have Nate Greenberg present at a future board meeting on the Londonderry model program if members would like him to.

Chairman Raffio said that every school district had an opportunity to engage in PACE. Deputy Commissioner Leather said that the PACE pilot is limited to four districts this year with four additional districts next year. If the pilot shows success it will be opened up to other districts and that if schools are interested they will need to let the Department know. The current four implementing districts are working with the Center for Assessment and the Center for Collaborative Education. The assessment will be given in the spring and is aligned to the state model graduation competencies in English Language Arts, Math, and Science.

MOTION: Helen Honorow made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Department of Education go forward with submitting on March 31, 2015 a renewal ESEA waiver application to the U.S. Department of Education.

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

Chairman Raffio said that the charter school rules had been taken off the original agenda as an objection has been raised by JLCAR. It will be on the April 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda.

Commissioner Barry said the Department will be presenting a process for Next Generation Science Standards. The mention in the waiver will be removed from the waiver proposal.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI. UNITY**

Timothy Carney from the Department and Middleton McGoodwin, Superintendent of Schools for SAU #6 which includes Unity, met with Board members. The issues of concern are the heating failure, roof leak, the lawsuit against the original architect and the remaining building punch list items. Superintendent McGoodwin distributed the Unity Elementary School Construction Progress Report and discussed the issues noted above. Superintendent McGoodwin will attend the next State Board meeting scheduled for April 22.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

A. Applying Science Standards in the Field – Barbara Hopkins, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for SAU #21 Hampton, met with the Board and presented a power point on Next Generation Science Standards. The New Hampshire Science Frameworks focused on the discipline areas first, then inquiry. The Next Generation Science Standards are deliberately tied to advancing specific disciplinary areas through inquiry and engineering practices and emphasize relevance, evidence, critical thinking and problem solving in alignment with good teaching. Next Generation Science Standards directly align with the high order thinking skills of our New Hampshire College and Career Ready Standards. Ms. Hopkins shared that in many schools today, Science Education has taken a back seat to Literacy and Math. She believes that elementary teachers have little science training and there is little opportunity for science teaching workshops. All grade levels of science teachers tend to have weak backgrounds in engineering and inquiry-based teaching strategies. These standards should help New Hampshire educators to include math in curriculum and instruction.

MOTION: Bill Duncan made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, to empower the Department of Education to design a process and to develop standards aligning with Next Generation Science Standards.

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

Commissioner Barry said that on May 28<sup>th</sup> at SNHU there will be a meeting of the IHEs and perhaps Barbara Hopkins could give an overview of the Next Generation Science Standards.

B. Adding the Arts to New Hampshire's Quality Performance Assessment and Competency-Based Education System – Paul Leather said Mariane Gfroerer was unable to be present. Marcia McCaffrey from the Department and Karen Ladd, Arts Teacher from the Sanborn Regional School District, were present and spoke to this item and presented a power point. Since 2005, the Minimum Standards for School Approval have required student demonstration of mastery of course level competencies at the High School level. Subsequently, with the 2014 revision of Ed 306, competency-based education will be K-12. State model competencies in the arts have been developed to assist schools and districts in the development of their own locally-based district and or graduation competencies and for the purpose of developing locally administered performance assessment tasks in the arts. Approval of this request is consistent with the graduation and competency assessment requirements in Ed 306.27, as well as previous approvals of competencies for English Language Arts, Math, and Science.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education approve the Arts Model Competencies as a model for statewide use by the public schools K-12 consistent with the Minimum Standards.

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

C. Teacher of the Year – Lori Temple said that the Commissioner of the Department of Education selects one exceptionally skilled and dedicated teacher to serve as a leader and ambassador for all the excellent teachers in our State. The Teacher of the Year Program does not attempt to single out any individual as the best teacher in New Hampshire, but rather to honor one teacher who represents all the excellent teachers in our State. Mrs. Temple introduced one of the finalists in the program Tina Mulleavay, a Social Studies teacher at Manchester High School West; and the New Hampshire Teacher of The Year Elizabeth Lichtenberg, a Gifted and Talented/Enrichment Coordinator and fourth grade teacher at Alton Central School. Both teachers spoke of their involvement with their classes and that they are honored to be selected. Finalists unable to attend were: Patricia Edson, a Kindergarten teacher at Carpenter Elementary School, Wolfeboro; Matthew Liebenow, a Physical Education teacher at Pine

Tree School, Center Conway; and Kirsten Weren, a Mathematics teacher at Hollis Brookline Middle School.

D. Student/Candia School Board – SB-FY15-02-010 – Settled – The parents appealed the school board decision regarding Manifest Educational Hardship. The parties have reached an agreement and are withdrawing their request for hearing. As a result, the matter is resolved. The parties did not attend this meeting.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, 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.

E. Student/Gorham School Board – SB-FY-15-09-002 – The issue to be determined by the Board is whether the student should be allowed to matriculate at the Jefferson Elementary School Kindergarten rather than the student's home school Gorham Elementary School Kindergarten.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, 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.

F. Petition for Declaratory Judgment – The Petitioner filed a Petition for Declaratory Ruling on behalf of his custodial sons, seeking relief from Ed. 704.02 Admission to Testing. The Petitioner seeks the State Board's authorization to waive the age requirement for participation in the High School Equivalency Test and thus allow his twelve year old sons to take the test.

MOTION: Emma Rous made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education deny the Petitioner's Request for a Declaratory Ruling. The rule, from which the Petitioner seeks relief, is derived from RSA:186.61 Establishment of Adult High School Education Programs. The Petitioner's children are twelve years old and do not meet the requirements of RSA 186:61, which applies to Adults. The New Hampshire State Board of Education therefore denies the Petitioner's request.

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

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII. NEW DEPARTMENT BUSINESS**

A. Amendment to Lebanon Grantham Plainfield AREA Agreement – Board members agreed to table this item for further information.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, to table the Amendment to Lebanon Grantham Plainfield AREA Agreement for further information.

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

### **AGENDA ITEM IX. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

A. Initial Proposal – Ed 507.16 and Ed 612.21, Physical Education and Ed 506.04, Principal, and Ed 506.08, Associate Principal – A vote is needed by the Board to enter the rulemaking process to adopt the Initial Proposal for the above. The physical education rules are being updated to reflect current standards and practices and being readopted with amendments because they have expired. The principal and associate principal certification rules are being amended with one requirement because it was removed in a previous rulemaking by a Scribner's error. If the Board adopts the Initial proposal, the Department will enter the rulemaking process by filing it with the JLCAR, along with a request for a fiscal impact statement. The Board will hold a public hearing at its May meeting. This information will be published in the Rulemaking Register next month.

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the State Board of Education adopt the Initial Proposal for Ed 507.16 and Ed 612.21, Physical Education and Ed 506.04, Principal and Ed 506.08, Associate Principal and that the Board will hold a public hearing on this rulemaking filing for May 20, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

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

B. Various Common Core and Related Bills – Chairman Raffio said that Rep. Ladd met with the Board this morning to discuss legislative issues. Chairman Raffio said the Board is supportive of the Commissioner’s Team relative to the many bills opposing standards and assessments. He thanked Bill Duncan for being able to be at the State House and attend many legislative hearings.

Helen Honorow asked if we as a Board would consider adding our support in the form of a letter urging that cuts not be made to wait list funds. We work very hard to be sure that special needs students receive the free appropriate public education to which they are entitled, but if they transition out of public education, and there are no funds for the wait list, so much is lost for those students. We have a connection to those students and funding for their continued education is crucial to their becoming productive citizens.

Bill Duncan discussed several legislative bills, such as SB 101, and HB 276. He thought that SB 101 will probably pass the House. SB 276 is in the Senate Education Committee and they may consider amendments. He also discussed HB 223. Board members authorized Bill Duncan to represent the Board at legislative hearings.

Commissioner Barry said that she would work with Santina about drafting a letter to Governor Hassan regarding the cuts proposed for special education. The cat aid went down to the low 70’s.

**MOTION:** Bill Duncan made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the Board authorize the Chairman to write a letter to Governor Hasson regarding proposed cuts for special education.

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



Deputy Commissioner Leather said that Chairman Ladd's reference to adequacy includes a 40% stabilization line with 46 million which will be an immediate impact of funding of schools. Mr. Leather said they have cut all but one of the new position requests.

#### **AGENDA ITEM X. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Barry said that the reauthorization of Title I will most likely take place. There are currently 87 title programs and they will be collapsed into a smaller number of titles.

Bill Duncan said that the green sheet explaining Smarter Balanced Assessment to parents and others has been distributed and explains what assessment is all about. It is sponsored by the New Hampshire Coalition for Business and Education.

Paul Leather said that the handout "Moving From Good To Great in New Hampshire" is an overview summarizing the Department's Performance Assessment of Competency Education (PACE). New Hampshire was just awarded permission from the USDE to pilot an accountability system designed to support deeper learning for students and powerful organization change for schools and districts. This was distributed at the CCSSO Legislative Conference.

Bill Duncan said that the handout "A Big Win for New Hampshire Students" explains the NH College and Career Ready Standards in English language arts and math to ensure students were learning these critical skills. This information has been sent to Superintendents of Schools.

Chairman Raffio said that early learning is supported by business people.

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

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM XII. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### A. Minutes of February 18, 2015 Meeting

MINUTES: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, to approve the Minutes of February 18, 2015.

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

B. Minutes of February 19, 2015 Public Hearing

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, to approve the Minutes of the February 19, 2015 Public Hearing.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by a 4 – 0 vote with Emma Rous and Helen Honorow abstaining.

C. Notes from March 4, 2015 Board Retreat

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, to approve the Notes from the March 4, 2015 Board Retreat.

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

D. Home Education Advisory Council Nomination – Catholics United for Home Education wishes to nominate Jennifer Pereira to serve as the designated representative for Catholics United for Home Education.

MOTION: Gary Groleau made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education approve the nomination of Jennifer Pereira to serve on the Home Education Advisory Council for a term from 2014 to 2017.

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

The Department is requesting the Board approve the re-classification of Christine Mukai from Catholics United for Home Education to NH Homeschooling Coalition. Mrs. Mukai is a member of both groups.

MOTION: Gary Groleau made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education approve the re-classification of Christine Mukai to serve on the Home Education Advisory Council for a term from 2013 to 2016.

E. Regional Agreement for Career and Technical Education – Region 11 - A vote is needed by the Board to approve the Career and Technical Education Regional Agreement with CTE Region 11 (Concord, Bow, Hillsboro-Deering, Hopkinton, John Stark, Kearsarge Regional, Merrimack Valley, Pembroke, and Pittsfield School Districts). Agreements between CTE receiving districts, their sending districts, and the Department document the relationship with regard to Regional Career and Technical Education. Agreements include the roles and responsibilities of receiving and sending districts, as well as the Department's role with regard to the state constructed CTE centers. Approval formalizes the regional arrangement for Region 11 for the delivery of career and technical education between the parties for a period of fifteen years from the date of State Board of Education approval.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the State Board of Education approve the regional career and technical education agreement for CTE Region 11 (Concord, Bow, Hillsboro-Deering, Hopkinton, John Stark, Kearsarge Regional, Merrimack Valley, Pembroke, and Pittsfield School Districts) as presented.

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

### **AGENDA ITEM XIII. TABLED ITEMS**

A. Tuition Contract Between Goshen and Newport School Districts  
This item was removed from the Table and approved.

### **AGENDA ITEM XIV. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

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

### **AGENDA ITEM XV. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

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

*Virginia M. Barry*

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Secretary