

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the April 22, 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 Gregory Odell. Emma Rous 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. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Teague, Attorney for the Hill School District, asked if the Tuition Agreement between the Hill School District and the Newfound School District and the Hill School District withdrawal from the AREA with the Franklin School District could be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on now. The request was granted.

Lori Landry, Superintendent of Schools, for SAU #60 (Fall Mountain Regional School District), also asked if the Tuition Agreement between the Lempster School District and the Fall Mountain Regional School District could be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on now. The request was granted.

Bonnie Dunham said that she appreciated the support for the budget and there will be another chance with the Senate.

AGENDA ITEM IV. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Follow-Up from March 4 Retreat:

- Goals
- Teacher Effectiveness
- Suspension/Expulsion/Climate
- Protocol/Process-Teacher Layoffs

These items will be discussed at the Board Retreat on July 24, 2015.

- Set Date for July Retreat – July 24, 2015

B. Miscellaneous – Chairman Raffio said that the North Country Charter Academy graduation will be June 8, 2015 at 4 p.m. at the Mountain View Grand Resort in Whitefield and would like some Board members to attend if possible. Chairman Raffio said there is a STEM Middle School event at the Alton Central School on June 4th from 5 – 8 p.m., and again would enjoy Board of Education representation.

Chairman Raffio said that he would be sending a letter to Mayor Gatsas that he and Commissioner Barry would be attending the Manchester School Board meeting on May 4th to discuss improving communications, and clarifying testing requirements.

Gregory Odell said he would be attending the NH Association for Middle Level Education and NE League of Middle Schools Scholar Leader Dinner on May 28th at the Center of New Hampshire. Commissioner Barry will also be attending.

AGENDA ITEM V. UNITY

Tim Carney from the Department and Chip Baldwin, Principal, Unity Elementary School, met with Board members. Mr. Baldwin said the punch list items are 95% complete. The heating and ventilation issues are also being worked on. They have changed mechanical contractors to a local company and things are progressing along nicely. A waiver was granted to Unity on classroom size. Mr. Baldwin invited Board members to come and see the school. Chairman Raffio said that the Board would like to have a State Board meeting there in the Fall.

Tim Carney reported on the waivers that have been granted to Stevens High School in Claremont. Mr. Carney also reported on the spreadsheet he prepared that summarizes the schools that received waivers for the school year 2014-2015.

AGENDA ITEM VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Breakthrough Manchester at The Derryfield School – Commissioner Barry said this program has been providing services for twenty-four years. Becky Berk, Executive Director of Breakthrough Manchester, spoke to the Board about this program. The dual missions of Breakthrough Manchester are to launch promising Manchester middle school students, particularly those with limited opportunities, on the path to college while inspiring high school and college students to pursue careers in education. All services are provided tuition-free to students and families, and are funded by foundations, businesses, and individuals who believe in the mission of Breakthrough. A partnership between the Manchester community and The Derryfield School, Breakthrough Manchester was founded in 1991 as “Summerbridge Manchester.” Now in its 23rd year, it has supported the academic success of over 930 Manchester students and recruited, trained, and challenged over 800 college and high school students from across the city and country to pursue careers in education.

B. Senate Youth Program – Lori Temple said that in 1962 the United States Senate passed a resolution creating the United States Senate Youth Program. This is a national initiative to provide a yearly opportunity for talented young people with demonstrated interest in public service to deepen their interest and understanding of America’s political processes and encourage their commitment to political leadership. In New Hampshire each high school principal may nominate one eligible student. Any high school junior or senior is eligible for the program provided he or she has not previously been a delegate to the program, and is current serving in an elected capacity in any student government, civic or educational organizations. The 2015 delegates are Devin McMahon, Pinkerton Academy, Derry and Jessie Osgood, John Stark Regional High School, Weare. Each student spoke of their experiences in Washington.

C. NH Science Teachers Association – The Need for New College and Career Ready Science Standards – Heather Brunelle, Ross Lurgio Middle School; Sally Jean, Keene State College; and Scott Semmens, Hopkinton High School, presented a power point on this topic. They discussed the three dimensions of the Next Generation Science Standards, Disciplinary Core ideas, and other areas. They said that New Hampshire educators provided input to the process. Some elementary science teachers will require training. The Association did a survey of all New Hampshire Science Teachers and 86% of the teachers recommend adoption.

D. Public Hearing – ED 506.09 School Nurse – Chairman Raffio opened the hearing at 11:00 a.m. The proposed rule contains requirements on certification for individuals seeking positions as school nurses. This rule will require a person to be a registered nurse at a bachelor's degree or higher and have three years' current experience in pediatric nursing or other related nursing areas. Commissioner Barry said she has been meeting on a regular basis with the New Hampshire School Nurses' Association. Nancy Wells from the New Hampshire School Nurses' Association testified and gave some background information regarding school nurse certification. School nursing is recognized as a complex nursing specialty with a wide scope of practice demanding specific skills and a broad knowledge in both the health and education disciplines. Rep. Barbara French, who is also a nurse, spoke of her concerns regarding school nurses and the school health consultant that the Department had several years ago. In the 1970's the Department had a nursing consultant but does not have one now due to budget cuts. Nancy introduced Harriet Davenport and Martha Judson. Commissioner Barry said the Association has met with Superintendents of Schools and the NH Association of School Principals. Chairman Raffio closed the hearing at noontime.

E. Next Generation Science Standards

Reimaging Science Education – Bethany Bernasconi, Director of Science and Engineering, Windham School District and former NH Teacher of the Year, and Amy Covey, a first grade teacher in Windham, met with the Board. The Windham School District is in year three of aligning K-12 Science Curriculum, Instruction, an Assessment to the Next Generation Science Standards. In January 2014, the Windham School Board unanimously adopted WSD's first ever K-12 Science Curriculum and the 2014-2015 school year began full implementation in classrooms. The success we have achieved thus far has been in large part due to the partnership between teachers and administrators. Time for professional development, collaboration in teams and across grade levels, support of new instructional methods, and support of "failing forward" have all been critical to this endeavor. The standards are the scaffolding upon which we are building challenging content and skills to prepare students to think creatively, build scientific literacy, apply knowledge to novel problems, and to be college and career ready for jobs we haven't yet imagined. As we work to delve deeper into the standards and this work, sustaining the energy and development will be crucial. Furthermore, balancing the framework of the Next Generation Science Standards with the NECAP assessment will also need to be continuously examined.

Peter McLaren from the Rhode Island Department of Education – Will be attending the May 20th Board meeting.

Sample Lesson – Scott Marion presented a power point regarding assessments and the Next Generation Science Standards. Scott said the districts need to employ a system of assessments and it needs to start from the classrooms. They should design rich, multi-part tasks and provide extensive support to educators. In the power point there were examples of sample lessons.

Deputy Commissioner Leather said the Technical Advisory Committee looked at design of the accountability system for performance assessment for depth of learning. The advice would be stronger if based on the same competencies. The State currently has model competencies for graduation, but not for grades K-12. We do recommend we develop model competencies, K-12. Chairman Raffio suggested they be developed for the May or June Board meeting. Chairman Raffio asked if the Department had the resources to do that. Mr. Leather said that the implementing districts and four districts will draw on their work. Mr. Leather said the districts will choose to work with the state and the National Center for Assessment to develop the state model competencies.

F. Update on PACE – Paul Leather and Scott Marion updated the Board on PACE. The NH Performance Assessment for Competency Education (PACE) Pilot power point was included in the packet. In the Spring of 2014 the Department invited all districts to join a pilot effort. The pilot is designed to create an accountability system that will better support districts that are implementing competency education. The four districts piloting the assessment this year are Sanborn Regional, Rochester, Epping, and Souhegan. Pittsfield, Seacoast Charter, and Monroe are interested in participating next year. In the Summer of 2016 the Department will submit results to the U.S. Department of Education. Mr. Leather mentioned the Overview Moving from Good to Great in New Hampshire that summarizes the Departments PACE program approved by the U.S. Department of Education on March 1, 2015. They also discussed the Technical Advisory Committee recommendation that New Hampshire consider developing model content competencies, K-12, to strengthen the performance assessments. They agreed to bring this recommendation to a future Board meeting.

G. Approval of Professional Educator Preparation Programs – New England College – Virginia Clifford from the Department and Dr. Debra Nitschke-Shaw, Associate Dean of Education, New England College, were present. On April 24, 2014 a site visit was held to ensure that substantive changes in the School Principal program continued to meet all certification standards. At the November 2014 State Board meeting, the Board granted the School Principal program approval through August 2016, believing that new leadership standards were about to be released. Because a new version of the ISSLC Education Leadership Standards is not yet available, New England College submitted a request for an extension of the approval. The Council for Teacher Education made the recommendation based on the request.

MOTION: Bill Duncan made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the State Board of Education grant an extension for the School Principal (Ed 614.04) professional educator preparation program at New England College through August 31, 2018, to coincide with the expiration date of the College's other programs.

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

H. Invest Presentation – Beth Needham from the Eaton & Berube Insurance Agency met with the Board. InVEST is a 501 non-profit educational trust dedicated to improving insurance literacy in students and attracting new talent to the industry. It is founded by the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America. It is supported by over 100 insurance companies and other organizations. InVEST started in 1970 in California to improve insurance knowledge of graduating high school seniors. It has now developed into a career training program to bring more young people into the insurance industry. Schools can choose to incorporate InVEST into current curriculum or teach InVEST as a stand alone class.

I. Hopkinton Entrepreneurship Series A Town-School District Collaboration – Steven Chamberlin, Superintendent of Schools for SAU #66 Hopkinton, Evan Ruderman, a student at Hopkinton High School, Danielle Meserve, School to Career Counselor, and Hopkinton School Board Chair Dave Luneau, met with the Board. The Hopkinton School District has been putting on a series of events regarding entrepreneurship. Evan participated in E-Series and competed in a local version of the Shark Tank. He is continuing his research and expanding his business of marketing his watches. He received credit through an extended learning opportunity. He has an online store and Facebook storefront. Evan has met with retailers and his watches are now on several online markets. He utilized this experience to support his college application process.

AGENDA ITEM VII. NEW DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Deputy Commissioner Leather mentioned to Board members the one-day convening for local and state policymakers and educators to learn how a competency-based approach to instruction, learning and assessment supports the goal of college and career readiness, and how the new NH PACE Pilot program is serving as a First-In-The-Nation Accountability Strategy that supports locally managed assessments. The convening will take place on Monday, May 11th at the Grappone Center in Concord. Gene Wilhoit, former Executive Director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, will be a presenter.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

A. Objection from JLCAR – Adopted Rule – Ed 318, Charter Schools, and Ed 319 Open Enrollment Schools – A vote is needed by the Board to adopt the objection response for Ed 318, Charter Schools, and Ed 319, Open Enrollment Schools. The Department has made changes to the final proposal in response to comments from JLCAR and public testimony. The changes for the Board to still consider in adopting the objection response proposal include the following:

- On page 8, Ed 318.08(g) adding the phrase: “by the sponsoring entity” to the first sentence.
- On page 17, Ed 318.16 adding “(a)” and “(b)” which reads, “If the information required for the annual report has been previously submitted, the document in which it was submitted shall be attached or the manner in which it was submitted shall be referenced, in the annual report.” And renumbering the requirements for annual reports.

The Objection Response will be submitted to the JLCAR for its review. If approved by JLCAR, the Board may then adopt the final rule at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the State Board of Education adopt the Objection Response for Ed 318, Charter Schools, and Ed 319, Open Enrollment Schools.

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

Commissioner Barry and Deputy Commissioner Leather met with Keith Burke regarding the charter school metrics. The model dashboard will be an online system pulled from the annual reports submitted by the charter schools. Keith Burke will attend the June meeting to discuss the metrics in depth.

B. Various Common Core and Related Bills – Chairman Raffio spoke about the progress report he emailed to Board members regarding the Summary of Bills for the State Board of Education. As noted in the Summary there has been lots of activities and some accomplishments at the State House. Chairman Raffio thanked Bill Duncan for his help in developing testimony, this progress report and the Op Ed pieces on testing and common core. Chairman Raffio said that he hopes Governor Hassan vetoes SB 101. Bill Duncan said he had worked closely with the Governor.

Chairman Raffio asked if the letter of support had been prepared urging that cuts not be made to wait list funds. Commissioner Barry reported that after discussion with staff members the letter was not necessary at this time.

Bill Duncan said that Chairman Raffio had met with Tom Rath, Steve Duprey, Mark Joyce, Scott McGilvray (NEA), and Alan Reisch to discuss support of public education.

AGENDA ITEM IX. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Barry thanked Board members for their active participation at school events and legislative hearings and said it did not go unnoticed.

Commissioner Barry reported on the following items:

1. There is a NH Educators' Summer Summit scheduled for August 5-7, 2015 at Keene State College. Several of the topics are Early Childhood Leadership, Data Literacy, Competency Based Education, Community Engagement, STEAM Leadership and Co-teaching Leadership. We will send the information to Board members.
2. Commissioner Barry said the Supreme Court Justices thanked the Department for helping to sponsor the Constitution Day Essay Contest. Great participation this year.

3. Commissioner Barry attended the 3rd Annual Fire and Life Safety Calendar event at the NH Fire Academy and spoke to the children and their families congratulating them and talking to them about the importance of education. They received 379 posters from throughout the state.
4. The Granite State Arts Academy is running into financial difficulty and may have to close earlier than they had planned. The Commissioner has asked Tim Carney to review their time and how much more is needed to complete the school year. Commissioner Barry said she has received some very positive letters regarding this Academy.
5. There is a meeting scheduled for May 28th with the IHEs at Southern New Hampshire University.
6. The Commissioner has been meeting on a quarterly basis with the Manchester School District on Innovation Zone Update. The Commissioner distributed copies of the report to Board members.

Deputy Commissioner Leather said he and the Commissioner had attended the Newton-Kingston Taxpayers Association meeting on April 20th and discussed issues related to education.

Chairman Raffio said that Education Day/NH Scholars Day is June 3 at the Fisher Cats game at 11:30 a.m.

Bill Duncan said that Senator Little is concerned about enrollment decline and competition among school districts for the remaining students. He suggested to Senator Little that he bring some education leadership to a State Board meeting for a discussion of the issue.

Chairman Raffio said that the business community is in favor of common core.

Helen Honorow said that she is the Board representative to the CEDAR grant committee and they recently met at St. Anselm's College. It was discussed that the national organization could provide ways to assist all educators with students with disabilities to help address concerns.

AGENDA ITEM X. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XI. CONSENT AGENDAA. Minutes of March 25, 2015 Meeting

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, to approve the Minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by a 5 -0 vote of the Board present, with Gregory Odell abstaining, and with the Chairman voting.

B. Approval of Charter School Amendment Student Enrollment Increase – The Birches Academy of Academics & Art – A vote is needed by the Board to approve a charter amendment for an increase in student enrollment. The proposed amendment increases the number of students, for the 2015-16 school year, from 216 to 225. This will complete the growth plan outlined in the charter with a K-8 school with 225 students. The Birches Academy is currently serving students in grades 1-8.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education authorizes The Birches Academy of Academics & Art's charter amendment to increase enrollment to 225 students for the 2015-16 school year.

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

C. Tuition Agreement – Hill School District/Newfound School District – Attorney John Teague spoke to the Board on this item. Hill does not maintain a public middle or high school. The Newfound Area School District does maintain a middle and high school that is approved by the State Board of Education and is willing to accept Hill students on a tuition basis. Approval of this contract will permit middle and high school students who reside in the Hill School District to receive a public education in the Newfound Area School District at Hill's expense. It will also make Newfound Area School District's high school the high school maintained by the Hill School District, as set forth in RSA 194:22.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education voted to approve the Tuition Contract between the Hill School District and the Newfound Area School District.

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

D. Hill School District Withdrawal from AREA with Franklin School District – Attorney John Teague spoke to the Board on this item. A vote by the Board to find that a majority of the voters in the district voted in favor of the AREA Withdrawal Plan, which would permit Hill (the sending district) to withdraw from the AREA agreement with Franklin. RSA 195-A:14, VII requires the Board to review the evidence submitted by the clerk of the school district (a certified copy of the warrant, certificate of posting, evidence of publication and minutes of the annual meeting). If the proper documentation submitted supports that a majority of the voters present and voting have voted in favor of the withdrawal plan, it shall be conclusive evidence of the withdrawal of the district and the continuation of the AREA or the dissolution of a two-district AREA. If the Board finds that a majority of voters present and voting have voted in favor of the withdrawal, the AREA agreement will be terminated.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the State Board of Education voted to find that a majority of the voters present and voting have voted in favor of the withdrawal plan and that this is conclusive evidence of the withdrawal of the district and the dissolution of the two-district AREA in the matter of the Hill School District withdrawal from the AREA with the Franklin School District.

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

E. Tuition Agreement – Lempster School District/Fall Mountain Regional School District – A vote is needed to approve the Tuition Agreement between the Lempster School District and the Fall Mountain Regional School District for the school year beginning July 1, 2015. Lempster does not maintain a public high school. The Fall Mountain Regional School District does maintain a high school that is approved by the Board and is willing to accept Lempster students on a tuition basis. Approval of this agreement will permit high school students, who reside in the Lempster School District, to receive a public education at the Fall Mountain Regional High School at Lempster's expense for the school year beginning July 1, 2015 for one year. It will also make Fall Mountain Regional High School the high school maintained by the Lempster School District, set forth in RSA 194:22.

MOTION: Helen Honorow made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education approve the Tuition Agreement between the Lempster School District and the Fall Mountain Regional School District for the school year beginning July 1, 2015 for one year.

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

AGENDA ITEM XII. TABLED ITEMS

A. Amendment to Lebanon Grantham Plainfield AREA Agreement

AGENDA ITEM XIII. NONPUBLIC SESSION

The Board did not go into Nonpublic Session.

AGENDA ITEM XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

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

Virginia M. Barry

Secretary