

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the February 2, 2016 Special Meeting

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Education. Tom Raffio presided as Chairman.

Members present: Tom Raffio, Cindy C. Chagnon, Bill Duncan, Gary Groleau, and Gregory Odell.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Gregory Odell led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Newport School District Withdrawal Plan from SAU #43 – Cindy Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools for SAU #43, met with the Board. At the November State Board meeting, the Board reviewed a plan submitted by the Newport School District Withdrawal Committee to withdraw from SAU #43. The State Board of Education declined to accept the plan due to statutory deficiencies (an insufficient number of people served on the planning committee). On December 17, 2015, the Newport Withdrawal Committee resubmitted its plan for the Board's review. A vote to approve the plan sends the plan back to the district where the voters in the Newport School District will vote on its approval.

The vote for revision allows the planning committee to address any deficiencies and to resubmit the plan to the State Board of Education. At the January meeting the Board reviewed the plan and returned it to the district noting deficiencies. Specifically, the Board determined that there was insufficient notice for the public hearing. On January 7, 2016, Newport resubmitted its plan. Superintendent Gallagher provided a Purchase Order that the public posting for the public hearing had been done. On February 2, 2016, the Board reviewed the resubmitted plan.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the State Board of Education voted to recommend the adoption of the Newport School District Plan for Withdrawal from SAU #43 for submission to the voters of Newport because it meets the statutory requirements for a withdrawal plan.

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

B. Croydon School District Plan for Withdrawal from SAU #43 - Cindy Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools for SAU #43, met with the Board. At the January 7, 2016 meeting the Board reviewed the plan and returned it to the district noting deficiencies. Specifically, the Board determined that there was insufficient notice for the public hearing. Croydon resubmitted its plan.

Superintendent Gallagher provided a Purchase Order that the public posting for the public hearing had been done. On February 2, 2016, the Board reviewed the resubmitted plan.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education voted to recommend the adoption of the Croydon School District Plan for Withdrawal from SAU #43 for submission to the voters of Croydon because it meets the statutory requirements for a withdrawal plan.

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

C. Discussion on Legislation and Process – Bill Duncan said that since there is a quorum this item should be discussed so that the Chairman has a sense of how Board members feel on these different bills and what position the Board should establish. The Chairman needs to communicate with the legislature about these bills and the Board should give the Chairman the authority to follow through.

Senate Bill 320 – relative to non-academic surveys administered by a public school to its students. Cindy Chagnon spoke about the surveys in the Bedford School District.

MOTION: Cindy made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the State Board of Education oppose SB 320.

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

Senate Bill 354 – requiring the commissioner and deputy commissioner of the department of education to be confirmed by a joint session of the general court.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the Board oppose SB 354.

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

Senate Bill 355 – requiring the members of the state board of education to be elected by a joint session of the general court.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the Board oppose SB 355.

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

Senate Bill 1232 – relative to visits to schools by non-academic government or private organizations.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the Board oppose SB 1232.

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

House Bill 1240 – relative to alternatives to the statewide assessment.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the Board support HB 1240.

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

House Bill 1366 – relative to the definition of educational competencies.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the Board oppose HB 1366.

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

House Bill 1371 – establishing a committee to study education savings accounts for families of special needs students.

MOTION: Gary Groleau made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the Board support HB 1371.

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

House Bill 1393- requiring the department of education to report statewide assessment results for school districts receiving certain state aid.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the Board oppose HB 1393.

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

House Bill 1457 – establishing a code of professional ethics for New Hampshire teachers.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the Board support the professional code of conduct section in HB 1457.

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

House Bill 1484 – relative to the election of members of the state board of education.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the Board oppose HB 1484.

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

House Bill 1485 – relative to private rights of action under the pupil safety and violence prevention act.

MOTION: Gary Groleau made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the Board oppose HB 1485.

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

House Bill 1563 – relative to funding for full-day kindergarten pupils. Board members decided to submit written testimony.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the Board support HB 1563 and submit written testimony.

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

Chairman Raffio asked about the charter school position. Bill Duncan said he thought the bill would go forward without the section on Governor and Council approval to be effective in 2017.

Chairman Raffio described the 65/25 initiative, endorsed by the NH Coalition for Business and Education, the Community College System, and other organizations.

MOTION: Bill Duncan made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education express strong support for the 65/25 Initiative.

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

AGENDA ITEM V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

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

Virginia M. Barry

Secretary