

New Hampshire  
State Board of Education  
Minutes of the November 3, 2016 Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:11 a.m. at the State Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH. Tom Raffio presided as Chairman.

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

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Emma Rous led the pledge of allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following people spoke in support of the board adopting the Next Generation Science Standards:

- Sally Jean, Associate Professor, Analytical Chemistry and Science Education, *Keene State College*
- Judy Silverberg, Ph.D, Coordinator, *New Hampshire Project Learning Tree* and member, *New Hampshire Environmental Educators*
- Todd Allen, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, *Oyster River Cooperative School District*
- Norma Bursaw, Biology Teacher, *Salem High School*
- Erica Foskitt, Science – Department Chair, *Alvirne High School*
- Laura Nickerson, Director, *UNH STEM Teacher's Collaborative*
- Chris Bauer, Professor, *UNH Chemistry Department*
- Leslie McRobie, Director, *New Hampshire Science Teachers' Association*
- Steve Hale, Research Associate, *UNH Lietzel Center*

**AGENDA ITEM IV. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION**

A. Update on Science Standards – Barbara Hopkins, Director of Science Education, provided the board with an updated Science Learning survey graphic showing all but two school districts are already using the Next Generation Science Standards. Barbara handed out a word map that displayed the responses from the 615 survey respondents. Barbara reported that there were close to 200 people that attended the seven public forums and that 75% to 85%

were teachers. Barbara reported on several new themes that emerged from the forums and survey:

- Educators across science, special education, and career/tech centers acknowledge the practice skills and cross-cutting themes as strong skill sets that should be developed K-12. The strong inclusion of these practices invites greater access for students who struggle with low reading levels, English as a second language and students with cognitive disabilities.
- Time to implementation is a major concern by the elementary education teachers. We need to begin focusing on an implementation timeline.
- Textbook developers and science support companies are already producing NGSS-aligned materials and resources that support active science learning K-12.
- The NH PACE schools are also focused on NGSS with their developmental competency and assessment work. NH High Schools have adopted the NH Science Competencies aligned to the NGSS Cross-Cutting Concepts and many districts are continuing that work as a learning progression across the K-8 levels.
- A decision needs to be made because it is holding teachers back and in some cases creating a divide amongst faculty within schools where teachers do not want to invest in making some of the changes because the state has not established NGSS as its direction.

Bill Duncan and Chairman Raffio both thanked Barbara for all her efforts and energy in moving this forward.

B. Board Consideration of Adopting Science Standards – Chairman Raffio made the following Resolution:

Pursuant to RSA 193-E:1, it is the responsibility of the state to adopt academic standards for all grades of the public schools.

The State Board of Education must therefore update its 10 year old science standards to reflect current scientific and pedagogical research. New standards will then be able to guide the development of the new science assessment New Hampshire must develop to replace the NECAP.

NH is part of a New England Consortium for science assessment, and the current test will be retired after this school year. The partner states of Rhode Island and Vermont have already adopted new science standards and Connecticut is in the process of joining them in adopting the **Next Generation Science Standards**, based on the National Research Council's **A Framework**

**for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas.**

The Governor's K-12 STEM Task Force has likewise recommended adoption of the **Next Generation Science Standards**. Department of Education surveys show that 90% of New Hampshire's science teachers are either already using the **Next Generation Science Standards** in their classrooms or are in the process of implementing them; as well as that at least 22 School Administrative Units have adopted the standards.

In addition, the New Hampshire Science Teachers Association has urged the State Board of Education in the strongest terms to adopt the **Next Generation Science Standards**.

Extensive review, and seven public forums, demonstrated strong science teacher support for the adoption of these new science standards. I, therefore, propose the following motion to update New Hampshire's 2006 science standards:

MOTION: Chairman Raffio made the following motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the State Board of Education adopts the performance expectations of the **Next Generation Science Standards** as the academic standards for the New Hampshire College and Career Ready Science Standards. I further move that the State Board of Education begin the rulemaking process as it relates to academic science standards and that the Department of Education commit to supporting school districts in implementing diverse educational approaches to instruction and curriculum tailored to meet student needs; and,

As required by ESSA, the Department of Education shall move forward in developing a new comprehensive science assessment for grades 4, 8 and high school aligned with the New Hampshire College and Career Ready Science Standards.

School districts will maintain and reserve the right to determine the curriculum and access appropriate instructional materials.

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

The board thanked all the supporters, those attending today, and the many people that attended the public forums for their participation and efforts in moving the NGSS forward.

Gregory Odell took this opportunity to speak to the concern that approximately 25% of the students in the North Country do not have adequate internet access to complete schoolwork at home.

Deputy Commissioner Leather responded that the department has put forth a \$2 million capital budget request, matched by federal dollars, to support local districts having internet and broadband access. This initiative is supported by the national group, Education Super Highway.

### **AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

A. Wright Museum of World War II – Dr. Michael Culver, Executive Director spoke to the board and made them aware of all that the museum has to offer as well as its uniqueness as an educational tool. The following are some key points Dr. Culver expressed to the board:

- One of the most important and hardest objectives for history museums and history teachers is making history relevant to contemporary visitors and students.
- Studies show that K-12 grade students who take field trips to museums are twice as likely to visit museums as adults.
- A museum setting is designed to foster diverse ways of learning and that museums greatly enhance the learning process by displaying real objects in thoughtfully created displays and interactive activities.
- Museums are a perfect complement to classroom learning.
- The museum receives no federal or state monies and is a 5013c educational institution.
- The museum is unique in that it does not focus on the battles of World War II; rather it promotes a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of the contributions made by World War II era Americans and the impact on American society.
- Yankee Magazine recently named the museum “Best 20<sup>th</sup> Century History Museum in New England”.
- The museum endeavors to be inclusive and wants to attract a diverse range of visitors and with that in mind has a wide-ranging series of nationally important shows such as, Anne Frank and the Holocaust, a photograph exhibit honoring the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, World War II quilts exhibit, and the wartime Saturday Evening Post covers of Norman Rockwell.
- Next year the museum will be hosting “The American Soldier, from the Civil War to the War in Iraq, a Photo Tribute” photo exhibit. This exhibit has already been seen by over a million people and has been shown at the Gerald Ford and Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Libraries.

- The museum also holds evening educational programs, May through October, that include lectures, films, music, author book signings, one-person plays and more.
- The museum is open to the general public May through October; however, in the winter, February through April the museum is available to student groups and can accommodate as many as 100 students at a time.
- The museum welcomes educators to use the facility for meetings and workshops.

Dr. Culver concluded his presentation by inviting the board members to visit the museum.

Chairman Raffio asked how many schools currently visited the museum. Dr. Culver responded that students from the Berwick Academy in Maine and students from the Plymouth area have visited. The museum has approximately 2000 students visit each year, but would like to triple that number.

Helen Honorow asked if there was any curriculum that the museum could offer teachers. Dr. Culver stated that they have nothing online, but are happy to collaborate with teachers.

Chairman Raffio asked to make a note to explore avenues on how to get the word out to educators about the museum.

Cindy Chagnon asked how they get the word out about the museum to the general public. Dr. Culver responded that it is primarily done by word of mouth; however, they also have a website, brochure, are members of the New Hampshire Heritage Museum Trail Cooperative, which has their own brochure, as well as being listed on the New Hampshire travel and tourism website.

**B. Manchester/Candia School Boards – SB-FY-15-06-011**

**MOTION:** Cindy C. Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the State Board of Education accepts the Hearing Officer's Report and accepts the stipulation of the parties "[Judgment for] Neither Party, no interest; no cost; no further action for the same cause." The State Board concludes this matter without further action.

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

**C. NAEP 2015 Science Result** – Tim Eccleston provided the board with a summary of the most recent NAEP results. He stated that this information is posted on the department's website for anyone interested in viewing the

information in more depth. Tim noted that New Hampshire students are doing well, continue to improve and are top ranking in comparison to other states.

Cindy C. Chagnon asked how the NAEP test was formulated, specifically asking if it includes performance-based questions. Tim responded that it is a complex assessment, but does include scenarios/questions for students to read and then formulate written responses.

Bill Duncan noted that with New Hampshire's emphasis on performance assessments and capabilities through Performance Assessment for Competency Education (PACE) to assess the validity of local performance assessments, New Hampshire has a greater opportunity to expand on the tested topics and publicize the results.

Bill Duncan asked Commissioner Barry about the mathematics results and how the data from NAEP as well as other assessments will be used in the state's mathematics initiative. Commissioner Barry stated that school superintendents have made a deep commitment in making mathematics a number one priority this year in terms of program improvement. Dr. Chip Magee from Bedford is working on a survey that will be sent out to every school in the state asking schools what mathematic programs they are using and what professional development opportunities are being utilized. The department will be looking at overall mathematic performance using data from NAEP and Smarter Balanced. An analysis will be done and a report generated using the survey results in conjunction with the data to meet the statewide goal of improving mathematics performance.

## **AGENDA ITEM VI. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES/RULES**

A. Manifest Educational Hardship – Attorney Diana Fenton reported that more information would be forthcoming at the December meeting after the December public hearing.

### **B. Various Items and Related Bills**

The final proposal 2016-64 (Specialist in Assessment of Intellectual Functioning), containing Ed 507.19 and Ed 614.08 (SAIF) will be brought before the board at the December meeting.

The new deadline for Final Proposal 2016-103 (Reading and Writing Specialist, Certification & Training), containing Ed 507.12 and Ed 614.02 is January 27, 2017.

The new deadline for Final Proposal 2016-108 (Paraeducator I and II, Certification), containing Ed 504.05 and Ed 504.06 is February 3, 2017.

The new deadline for Final Proposal 2016-111 (School Social Worker, Certification & Training), containing Ed 507.14 and Ed 614.07 is February 10, 2017.

The new deadline for Final Proposal 2016-12 (Dance Teacher, Certification & Training), containing Ed 507.49 and Ed 612.32 is February 10, 2017.

The board has been given a copy of The School Restraint and Seclusion Report for School Year 2015-2016 and pursuant to the board's statutory obligation under RSA 126-U:8 a copy must be provided annually to the chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees.

Helen Honorow asked Attorney Fenton if anything other than the report be given to the two committee chairs per the legislation. Attorney Fenton responded that the board's only obligation is to furnish the report annually. The department's obligation is to review the data and take action on items of concern. Commissioner Barry further stated that the department's responsibility, working closely with Division of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is to review the report and take action on any anomalies. Commissioner Barry wanted to emphasize that there is still quite a bit of confusion in the field on the definitions of seclusion and restraint, so the first action the department takes is a site visit to the school to make sure what is being reported is accurate. It's a complex issue and the department is continually offering training to make sure the definitions are understood and incidents are reported accurately. Commissioner Barry reported that there were two school districts where there were serious trends and in both cases the school districts' administration took it very seriously.

**MOTION:** Cindy C. Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, to approve the report as submitted.

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

Attorney Fenton reported that she, staff from the Bureau of Special Education, Attorney Zelin and other stakeholders would be meeting soon to discuss the Special Education rules and specifically those items that exceed the minimum standards.

Helen Honorow asked Attorney Fenton to update the board on the work of the Ethics Task Force committee. Attorney Fenton stated that the committee had met a few weeks ago and that it's a small group and that new members were being added in order to make sure its composition is representative of all stakeholders. Attorney Fenton recently attended a conference on ethics and will be discussing what she took away from the conference with the committee when they meet the following week. The one take away from the conference she noted

was that every state is struggling with this issue and that states should have a code of conduct and a code of ethics.

Commissioner Barry reminded the board that the change in configuration of the Professional Standards Board by including a review process before being placed on the board has greatly helped in raising the bar on people's perception on the importance of these issues.

### C. Discussion on Legislation and Process

There were no discussion items.

## **AGENDA ITEM VII. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND NEW DEPARTMENT BUSINESS**

Commissioner Virginia Barry reported on the following topics:

- Clarified that in New Hampshire we use multiple performance assessments (i.e., NAEP, Smarter Balanced, PACE, etc.) and that over 61% of New Hampshire students are involved in computer based programming. There was an informal study conducted in New Hampshire that concluded there was no statistical difference between students using pencil and paper vs. Smarter Balanced (i.e., computer).

Helen Honorow asked if Commissioner Barry could address some of the concerns brought forth in a few of the NGSS support letters the board received about the inadequacy of the NECAP science assessment and the need for a better assessment.

Commissioner Barry explained that the New England States are working together to revise or use a better science assessment. Commissioner Barry asked Deputy Commissioner Leather, who is involved with this initiative, to update the board. Deputy Commissioner Leather turned the question over to Barbara Hopkins, Director of Science Education, to respond.

Barbara Hopkins told the board that the department has had two conversations with Connecticut, Maine, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont and are currently working on an RFP. The goal is to have a broad RFP completed by the end of November 2016. All the states have agreed upon having a computerized assessment. This group is scheduled to have several phone conversations over the next few weeks.

Deputy Commissioner Leather clarified that every state involved in this initiative has a strong sense of urgency to have a new assessment in place as soon as possible.

Helen Honorow asked that timing of 11<sup>th</sup> grade testing be a consideration of this group.

- The Microsociety Academy Charter School has requested an increase in student enrollment starting in the 2017-2018. Commissioner Barry plans on making a site visit and will bring forth her recommendation to the board at the December meeting.
- Provided an update on the regional ESSA listening tours, which are designed to be non-interactive and an opportunity for the department to listen to stakeholders and get their input/feedback before starting to write the state document. Heather Gage, Director, Division of Educational Improvement, has done a tremendous job in putting this together. These are the three questions being asked at each session:
  1. What school characteristics (academic, climate/culture, special services, etc.) are most important to you to support and grow student learning?
  2. If you moved into a new community, what would you want to know about the quality of the schools and the level of student learning and success? Would you want to be able to see how the schools are doing compared to other schools in the state?
  3. Overall, what do you expect from New Hampshire's education system? How would you like for the NH Department of Education to support that expectation?

The response has been very positive. Parents are very aware of what's going on in their schools and are very interested in new ways of learning. What is interesting is that while these ESSA listening tours are happening we are simultaneously conducting screenings of Ted Dintersmith's film "Most Likely to Succeed" and the dialogue is the same. Parents are saying that they want project-based learning. Deputy Commissioner Leather mentioned that his experience of the screenings has been very positive and has seen an increase in schools inquiring about being involve in the PACE program.

- Commissioner Barry thanked Chairman Raffio for his efforts in connecting the department with former Chief Justice Judge John Broderick's efforts in mental illness awareness. Commissioner Barry was happy to report that she had a very successful meeting with the Judge and let the board know that he has been meeting with school districts throughout the state and recently gave a presentation at the statewide New Hampshire School

Administrative Association (NHSAA) meeting. The department continues to be very involved at looking at socio-emotional mental health issues of children and looks forward to continuing this good work with Judge Broderick. The department is currently working on arranging a meeting between Judge Broderick and US Secretary of Education, John King.

Commissioner Barry stated we should be very proud of our state and its statewide recognition that this is all a part of learning and its commitment to looking at whole children.

Commissioner Barry asked Angela Adams to distribute to the board information on the Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings being held at the department.

- The department will be sponsoring a conference for New Hampshire school nurses focusing on substance abuse issues and how to help families.
- Emma Rous asked Commissioner Barry if she could provide the board with information on the \$1.4 million UNH Teacher Residency for Rural Education (UNH-TRRE) grant that was recently awarded to UNH. Commissioner Barry reported that the focus of the grant was to identify rural schools where a residency student teacher program could be established. Superintendents and school principals were required to submit letters of support identifying a resident student teacher from their district to commit to a minimum of a year to participate in the program. The student teachers would be paid a salary and provided scholarships while in the program. The group will be meeting next week to identify 25 student teachers to be placed in rural schools throughout the state.
- Commissioner Barry reported that she will be giving opening remarks this Saturday, November 5 at the CS4NH launch day held at UNH Manchester. The day focuses on expanding K-12 computer science education with multiple stakeholders in attendance. David Benedetto, Director of STEM Education was instrumental in organizing the event.
- Commissioner Barry mentioned hosting two nation-wide conferences in October. The Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Northeast & Islands Research Roundtable on Social Emotional Learning in Manchester focusing on socio-emotional health and the Innovation Lab Network (ILN) Annual Convening in Nashua. Commissioner Barry asked Deputy Commissioner to report on the ILN Annual Convening.

Deputy Commissioner Paul Leather reported on the following topics:

- Deputy Commissioner Leather stated it was a very positive conference with many leaders in education from around the country in attendance. The conference included tours of six New Hampshire schools which was very positively received. He shared that Commissioner Barry gave a very impressive keynote speech at the conference.

The board asked if Commissioner Barry could share her keynote speech, "The New Hampshire Story", at a future board meeting.

- The Science K-8 Competencies will be presented at the December meeting. A group has been working on these in parallel to the NGSS.
- Conducted a site visit to the Seacoast Charter School in Kingston as part of the PACE project and was very impressed. There are approximately 100 children on the waitlist.

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **A. Minutes of October 13, 2016**

MOTION: Cindy C. Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to approve the Minutes of October 13, 2016.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by vote of the Board with Gary Groleau and Gregory Odell abstaining and with the Chairman voting.

#### **B. Haverhill Cooperative and Benton School Districts Tuition Agreement**

MOTION: Cindy C. Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the State Board of Education approves the contract between the Benton School District and Haverhill School District.

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

#### **C. Lempster and Fall Mountain School Districts Tuition Agreement**

MOTION: Cindy C. Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education approves the

contract between the Lempster School District and Fall Mountain Regional School District.

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

D. Candia School District and Pinkerton Academy Tuition Agreement

MOTION: Cindy C. Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education approves the contract between the Candia School District and Pinkerton Academy.

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

E. Nominations for Nonpublic School Advisory Council (NPSAC)

MOTION: Cindy C. Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education accepts and approves the Commissioner's Nonpublic School Advisory Council's appointments to the Nonpublic School Advisory Council (NPSAC).

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

F. Nominations for Home Education Advisory Council (HEAC)

MOTION: Cindy C. Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the State Board of Education accepts and approves the Commissioner's Nonpublic School Advisory Council's (NPSAC) appointment to the Home Education Advisory Council (HEAC).

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

**AGENDA ITEM X. TABLED ITEMS**

A. Lempster – Fall Mountain Regional School District Tuition Agreement

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, to remove the Lempster – Fall Mountain Regional School Districts tuition agreement from the table.

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

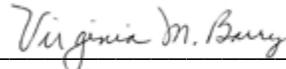
**AGENDA ITEM XI. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

The Board did not go into Nonpublic Session.

**AGENDA ITEM XII. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Cindy C. Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

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



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Secretary