

New Hampshire  
State Board of Education  
Minutes of the March 23, 2017 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 State Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, New Hampshire. Tom Raffio presided as Chairman.

Members present: Kate Cassady, Cindy C. Chagnon, Bill Duncan, Gary Groleau, Helen G. Honorow, Ann Lane, and Tom Raffio, Chairman. Frank Edelblut, Commissioner of Education and Paul K. Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education were also present.

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ann Lane led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Raffio led a moment of silence for Scott McGilvray, State Senator and President of NEA, who passed earlier this week.

**AGENDA ITEM III. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONER AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut and new Board of Education members Ann Lane and Kate Cassady were welcomed by the Board.

**AGENDA ITEM IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following people spoke in opposition to the use of the Common Core Curriculum in the public school system.

- Aida Cerundolo – Parent, Greenland
- Ava O'Brien – Student
- Amy O'Brien – Parent
- Leonard Schwab – Math Tutor, Greenland
- Doris Hohensee - Parent and School Board Member, Nashua
- Tammy Gray – Parent, Loudon
- Jen Mercer – Parent, Loudon

Bonnie Dunham from Merrimack expressed her thanks to the Department for all of their work on the special education rules and process, and also for their involvement to help transform House Bill 620, protecting the integrity of the rule

making process, and ensuring that rules continue to reflect New Hampshire values.

Chairman Raffio clarified that testing currently conducted has nothing to do with the Common Core Curriculum and thanked everyone for their comments.

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

A. Introduction of New Hampshire Teacher of the Year and Finalists - Lori Kincaid, Public Information Officer for the Department of Education provided an overview of the selection process. There were 18 nominees this year that will be honored on April 13, 2017. Introduced to the Board were:

- Tate Aldrich – 2017 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year, Laconia High School, English.
- Elizabeth Alexakos – Clark Wilkins School, Amherst, 1st Grade.
- Nicole Cranny – Pinkerton Academy, Derry, English.
- Jill Pennington – Campbell High School, Litchfield, Performing Arts.

B. Charter School Dashboard Update – Keith Burke explained the purpose of the dashboard is to make information readily available to the Board and help the charter schools gather information for ease of reporting. We have been able to find methodologies to gather administrative documents, insurance, mission statements, goals, teacher certifications, and most of those are now live. Our next step is to refine and define metrics to determine performance criteria to be posted on the dashboard. A May 23rd meeting has been scheduled with charter leaders. There have been seven more charter reviews this spring and we are working with charter leaders on development the development of metrics. The process is expected to be running by the beginning next academic year.

Helen Honorow asked for verification on how the metrics relate to the stated missions of the Charter. Mr. Burke listed the numerous metrics such as goals/missions, academic and organizational aspects, as well as scales being used and how the metrics are further broken down into components for measurement. In response to Chairman Raffio's question about double data entry, Mr. Burke explained he has been working with Scott Mantie removing duplications. There is a system for automatic updates which will minimize double reporting.

C. Number of School Hours Requirement – Due to the high number of snow days this year many schools are close to not meeting the required number of days of school per RSA 189:1 Days of School. The law requires school districts to make waiver applications directly to the State Board, the Commissioner is requesting that the State Board grant him authorization to hear

and approve such waiver requests to reduce an unreasonable burden on the school districts.

Amy Clark, Administrator, Bureau of School Safety & Facility Management Bureau, added that only inquiries have been made to date.

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education authorizes Commissioner Edelblut, based on criteria outlined and his best judgment, to grant exemption requests.

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

Chairman Raffio noted for a future Board meeting that this statute should be discussed relative to the days or hours requirements and asked Amy Clark to review with the Board an issue that has come up for the high school senior graduation date.

State law regulation Ed 306.18 states high school seniors have to go no less than five days less than everybody else. Because of the possible extension of the school year due to snow days the graduation date may occur after the end of the school year. If that happens with a five day limit they are still within the requirements of 306.18(c), but in the case of more than five days, how do they graduate students without violating the rule? Chairman Raffio requested that a proposal for solutions be brought to the next meeting.

Chairman Raffio reported on his observations during a visit he made to **Hillside Middle School** in Manchester. The Principal, Brendan McCafferty, has been before the Board previously to present his after school program. Chairman Raffio would like the Board's permission to invite him back to present the creative ways he has developed to help work with limited resources.

Chairman Raffio is still working with Justice Broderick's **Change Direction Program** and thanked the Department for supporting Justice Broderick's efforts with the program.

Chairman Raffio reported that the **New Hampshire Coalition for Business and Education (NHCBE)** continues to meet and the Commissioner has been invited to the next meeting.

Chairman Raffio acknowledged after hearing earlier comments that the Board does favor **local control** but the positive results reported seem to be inconsistent throughout all schools. A balance is trying to be created between local control and the role of the Board.

Cindy Chagnon reported she was part of the selection committee for the **Christa McAuliffe Sabbatical awards** and what a positive process this was for New Hampshire. Chairman Raffio thanked her for her work and involvement with this project and the **Teacher of the Year program**.

Cindy Chagnon reported that Bedford High School would be holding a **Regional U.S. FIRST Robotics Competition** this weekend with the winners moving onto national competition.

## **AGENDA ITEM VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

A. Performance Assessment of Competency Education (PACE) Evaluation Report - Sunny Becker of Human Resources Research Organization provided an overview of the Summary Report presented to the Board of the Performance Assessment of Competency Education (PACE). PACE has three levels, districts are tiered one, two, and three. This evaluation will focus on Tier One fully implemented districts. Much of the focus was on commonly developed tasks. When the common tasks have been in operation for a year, they will be entered into a task bank to be used by all districts. The evaluation was a formative evaluation that began in April 2016 and finished last month. There are three versions of the report showing detailed findings on each claim for Theory of Action and key evaluation findings include: participant buy-in, cross-district high level collaboration, ongoing monitoring, and additional training and support.

Differences have been seen across districts with respect to the implementation of PACE as small districts have more challenges. Continuous process improvement has included identification of a curriculum coordinator to help with task development, identification of 30 content leads, and identification of buddy districts. Time away from the classroom is of concern to teachers and in response, PACE leadership has scheduled some Task Development meetings on Saturdays. PACE is a dramatic shift from other curriculums and progress toward the goals are being seen. Future challenges could include sustainability and scalability of the system across the state.

Ms. Susan Lyons of National Center for The Improvement of Educational Assessment introduced herself to the Board and explained they are a nonprofit based in New Hampshire that works in 35 states helping them think about how to develop accountability and assessment systems. The PACE theory of action is trying to figure out how to conduct assessment and accountability to reflect what's happening in the classroom. Topics discussed included:

- How the PACE program was conceived to work.
- PACE achievement trends and preliminary results from the first couple of years.
- How success and early findings are evaluated.

- Highlights from recommendations and what is being done to make sure improvement continues.
- High school math is problem for the state and we want to maintain a laser focus in this area.
- Review of HumRRO report recommendation and the Center's responses.

Deputy Commissioner Paul Leather extended a welcome the new Board members and provided context for this project and processes performed to bring the pilot program forward to this point. The core team leading PACE is made up of leaders from each implementing district and reviews are done on a monthly basis.

Commissioner Edelblut added his comments and concerns and stated he feels a personal fiduciary responsibility to ensure students are getting information they need. He cautioned about shifting into a cheerleading mentality with broad statements found in the report and wanted to emphasize realistic and thoughtful reflection through the progression of this program.

Cindy Chagnon expressed concerns about expanding carefully so that schools with limited budgets don't get lost in the process and Helen Honorow asked for clarification on the scrutiny of local tasks and whether they meet standards. Ms. Lyons explained the common tasks are rigorously reviewed and are models to be used for the development of local tasks. The local tasks have more variability in quality because it's a capacity building exercise and not going to happen overnight. Reviews are underway, providing feedback to districts as we go. Next year feedback can be delivered to districts in a systemic way.

Ann Lane expressed concern about districts in the future receiving the same level of support as the districts included in this process. Ms. Lyons explained all of these areas are being reviewed and reminded the Board about the Task Bank that has been developed for eventual use system wide. Deputy Commissioner Paul Leather added that although Tiers 2 and 3 weren't discussed today, support to those districts is starting and districts have been involved in that process for two years prior to even thinking about starting Tier One. Support to districts continues in preparation for the changes.

Chairman Raffio suggested keeping this as a standing agenda item through the progression of this program as there may be something the Board can do in statute to apply more resources if needed for expansion.

B. Proposal for Reviewing the English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Standards and Assessment - Bill Duncan and Cindy Chagnon were directed by the Board to review and bring forward ideas for a standards review and assessment similar to that done for the Science Standards. Bill Duncan reviewed results of their findings and recommendations. The first stage would be a detailed survey that would be sent out to all stakeholders that could include

Superintendent's Association, Principals Association, NEA, AFT, and making sure it is high profile to increase participation. The second stage would be compilation and presentation of feedback.

Commissioner Edelblut stated there is a parallel internal revision process in draft form that could be combined with work done by Cindy Chagnon and Bill Duncan. They will work to synthesize both reports and bring something back to board that pulls them together.

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

The first two items were moved to earlier in the agenda to allow Attorney Diana Fenton time to have them processed through the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rule (JLCAR) and returned to the Board for final adoption.

### **A. CONDITIONAL APPROVAL – Ed 1100 Education of Children with Disabilities**

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the Board approve the conditional approval response for Ed 1100 Education of Children with Disabilities.

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

### **B. CONDITIONAL APPROVAL – Ed 507.49 Dance Educator and Ed 612.32 Dance Education Program**

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Bill Duncan that the Board approve the conditional approval response for Ed 507.49 Dance Educator and Ed 612.32 Dance Education Program.

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

### **C. ADOPTION – Ed 507.37 World Language Teacher and Ed 612.14 World Languages**

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the Board adopt Ed 507.37 World Language Teacher and Ed 612.14 World Languages.

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

D. ADOPTION - Ed 507.14 School Social Worker and Ed 614.07 School Social Worker Program

MOTION: Kate Cassady made the following motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the Board adopt Ed 507.14 School Social Worker and Ed 614.07 School Social Worker Program

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

E. ADOPTION - Ed 507.12 and Ed 614.02 Reading and Writing Specialist

MOTION: Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the Board adopt Ed 507.12 and Ed 614.02 Reading and Writing Specialist

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

F. ADOPTION - Ed 504.05 Paraeducator II and Ed 504.06 Paraeducator I  
Attorney Diana Fenton noted JLCAR did express concerns regarding requirements for Paraeducator II, and in addition, the rules have been expired for a period of time during which the Department continued to provide certifications.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the Board adopt Ed 504.05 Paraeducator II and Ed 504.06 Paraeducator I.

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

Ann Lane inquired if the Board could add the recommendation that individuals also possess a certificate in childhood or adolescent development and behavior. She feels that could serve as a gesture that the Board sees that rule as important. Attorney Fenton explained the first step toward that change would be to share the concerns with the Credentialing Bureau and the Professional Standard Board. She will share the concerns with Ginny Clifford in Credentialing and report back at the next meeting. Helen Honorow urged caution in making major changes for paraprofessionals as they are not a one size fits all in terms of what they do, and disagrees with paras being required to have different levels of certification.

G. ADOPTION - Ed 1100 Education of Children with Disabilities – Attorney Diana Fenton stated that everyone involved deserves to be recognized for all the hard work, efforts, and collaboration throughout this process, and especially to the number of parents who came to public hearings. Bridget Brown was also acknowledged for her work in documenting, listening, and keeping things on task.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the Board approve Ed 1100 Education of Children with Disabilities.

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

H. ADOPTION - Ed 507.49 Dance Educator and Ed 612.32 Dance Education Program – Attorney Diana Fenton informed the Board feedback was received from attorneys at the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) requesting the language be more concise. It is now ready to be adopted with the incorporated changes.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane that the Board approve Ed 507.49 Dance Educator and Ed 612.32 Dance Education Program.

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

I. Manifest Hardship Process Discussion - The final proposal for Ed 320, Manifest Educational Hardship, was approved by the State Board on February 14, 2017, and was scheduled to be heard at the March 17, 2017, JLCAR hearing. Commissioner Edelblut has identified concerns regarding the content of the rule and has requested an opportunity to address his concerns with the Board. The Department has received permission to postpone the JLCAR hearing until the April 14, 2017 hearing.

Commissioner Edelblut expressed his findings to the Board and highlighted his concerns regarding clarifications he feels are necessary in order to achieve fidelity with the law and his concern about defending this to JLCAR without changes. There are currently two bills before legislature dealing specifically with this. He feels there is no urgency to get this passed before the end of the school year and would prefer to wait for the results of the legislative process.

Bill Duncan and Helen Honorow expressed their displeasure with the way this was handled at the last minute for this meeting with no prior information



provided. Commissioner Edelblut responded that this will all be handled in advance going forward.

Chairman Raffio noted that he was comfortable with waiting for the legislative process and clarified should a hardship request come before the Board the current statute would apply.

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the following motion; seconded, and amended by Bill Duncan, that the Board withdraw Ed 320 from the April 14, 2017 JLCAR agenda and have the Department re-initiate the rulemaking process after the conclusion of the current legislative process.

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

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

Commissioner Frank Edelblut reported he has been enjoying his time visiting schools, meeting teachers, principals, superintendents, attending many events, hearing from parents, and students and is extending invitations to legislators and councilors in the school districts he is visiting letting them know the Department is here and available.

Deputy Commissioner Paul Leather added it has been a pleasure having the new Commissioner onboard. He also wanted the Board to be aware of conversations and meetings being held with superintendents regarding a rise in occurrences of educator misconduct and lack of timely reporting from districts.

Cindy Chagnon inquired about who will resolve discussion about towns that moved elections. Deputy Commissioner Leather responded it is his understanding there is a bill currently in legislature to allow results to stand and another option would be special elections, but noted this is outside his area of specialty.

### **AGENDA ITEM IX. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business at this meeting

### **AGENDA ITEM X. CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **A. Minutes of February 14, 2017.**

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, to approve the Minutes of February 14, 2017 as presented.

VOTE: The motion was approved by vote of the Board with Ann Lane and Kate Cassady abstaining.

B. Granite State Arts Academy (GSAA) Charter School Request for an increase in Student Enrollment Starting in the 2017-2018 School Year - Chairman Raffio explained this is a routine process and a vote is needed by the State Board of Education to approve a charter amendment for an increase in enrollment from 160 to 180 students starting in the 2017-2018 school year and to eliminate the current charter language, "maximum of 40 pupils per grade." Commissioner Edelblut provided his letter of support to the Board.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education authorize the Granite State Arts Academy charter amendment to increase the total enrollment by 20 students for a maximum enrollment of 180 students starting in the 2017-2018 school year and to eliminate the charter language, "maximum of 40 pupils per grade."

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

#### **AGENDA ITEM XI. TABLED ITEMS**

Attorney Diana Fenton noted these are still under the Governor's moratorium and she provided a copy of the letter and report sent to the Governor's office in response to the moratorium. It is anticipated that these tabled rules will be before the Board for consideration in April.

A. Initial Proposal – Approval of Nonpublic Schools, Ed 400

B. Initial Proposal – Speech Language Specialist, Ed 507.23 and Ed 614.09

#### **AGENDA ITEM XII. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

There was not a Nonpublic session at this meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Raffio reminded everyone to confirm their contact information and return to Angela. He also wanted the following added to the agenda for next month:

- Keith Burke to provide more detail on the charter dashboard
- More information on number of school days and hour requirements
- Brendan McCafferty from Hillside Elementary

- Add PACE as a standing agenda item
- ELA and math standards process if ready.
- Ann Lane's point regarding Paraeducator requirements

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Bill Duncan to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

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



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Secretary