

New Hampshire  
State Board of Education  
Minutes of the April 6, 2017 Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:03 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**

Cindy Chagnon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following people spoke in support of the Performance Assessment of Competency Education (PACE) pilot program currently used in their school districts.

- Ellen Hume-Howard, Director of Curriculum, Sanborn Regional School District
- Michael Turmelle, Assistant Principal, Sanborn Regional High School
- Deb Bamforth, Principal DJ Bakke Elementary School, Sanborn School District
- Lori Thiebeau, Parent, Sanborn School District
- Pam Wickes, Parent, Concord School District
- Donna Palley, Assistant Superintendent, Concord School District

Ms. Bonnie Dunham encouraged the Board to oppose Senate Bill 193 and take a position that any school participating must have policies prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability and provide opportunities for all children. The Chairman Raffio noted an email received from Ms. Dunham expressing appreciation for the Board's patience with the number of speakers for public comment during previous hearings.

Ms. Doris Hohensee from Nashua presented her concerns with and provided the Board with documentation regarding kindergarten requirements and inconsistencies and language discrepancies between RSA 189:25 and the Department of Education's website information referencing Senate Bill 530. She also asked that the Board appoint a public school parent or charter school parent

rather than a Home Education Advisory Council (HEAC) member to the assessment committee since home schooling has no requirement for assessments.

Commissioner Edelblut will review the website information.

Ms. Ann Marie Banfield from Cornerstone expressed her concerns and questions regarding the PACE program especially with concerns regarding assessments that may fall under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) guidelines. She will provide further documentation for the Board to review.

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

A. Performance Assessment of Competency Education (PACE) Evaluation Update - Carla Evans, doctoral student from the University of New Hampshire provided a general overview of her dissertation investigating the effects of the PACE pilot program over the 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 school years focusing on 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. The study design included student background and demographic characteristics of 22,000 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in New Hampshire. PACE wasn't in place for part of the first year and there were positive effects in the second year of the pilot and appears there were positive effects of the PACE program in the second year for students with IEPs. The findings provide preliminary evidence that the PACE pilot program is having a positive effect on 8<sup>th</sup> grade student achievement outcomes in math beginning in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

Bill Duncan complimented Ms. Evans on the technical precision and clarity of her research work.

Chairman Raffio reminded everyone that PACE is a standing item on the agenda and Carla will be back with more results.

B. Number of School Hours Requirement for High School Seniors (Ed 306.18) – Amy Clark, Administrator, Bureau of School Safety & Facility Management, reported that no school-day waiver requests have been received but two waivers have been issued for high schools moving out their graduation date more than 5 days. She also noted in both waiver requests, high school seniors are still meeting all the equivalent hours. Chairman Raffio reminded the board that the number of hours listed in the statute is something to be addressed on a long-term basis.

When asked about a public information section being added to the website Commissioner Edelblut responded that an update for the website has been requested through the budgeting process.

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

A. Introduction of United States Senate Youth Program New Hampshire Delegate – Lori Kincaid, Public Information Officer for the Department of Education reviewed the program and introduced two high school students who represented New Hampshire at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual United States Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C. March 4-11, 2017. Ms. Marion Lovett of Stevens High School in Claremont was not able to attend today and Ms. Kincaid presented her letter of gratitude to the Board. Mr. Dennis Ruprecht from Woodville High School introduced himself and shared his comments and observations of his experience.

John Breda, History Teacher and State Executive Student Council Director for the New Hampshire Association of Student Councils provided an overview of the selection process for junior and senior students. He announced the State Student Council will be hosting, for the first time, the National Association of Student Councils National Conference in New Hampshire that will include 45 different states and countries.

B. Granite United Way, bringing Refugee, Immigrants and Neighbors Gently into Tomorrow (B.R.I.N.G.I.T.) Program at Hillside, Parkside, Southside and McLaughlin Middle Schools in Manchester – Brendan McCafferty, Forest Ransdell, Jenn Gillis, and William Krantz

Mr. Brandon McCafferty introduced himself and the other principals from the middle schools in Manchester invited by Chairman Raffio to discuss their success in providing programs with little financial resources. Mr. McCafferty presented information for the B.R.I.N.G.I.T. program that services 500 to 600 students per year and is available free of charge for district students grades 4 through 12. There are homework rooms with volunteers consisting of teachers, community members, and local college students. They work with the Boys and Girls Club, Southern New Hampshire Services, and United Way. They seek creative and collaborative solutions to money issues and have a lot of in-kind value and partnerships with community outreach. There are many success stories in the 11 years of this program. Leaders of the program have worked long and hard to engage and collaborate with the parents, who are important to the success of the program. They strive to continually look for new programs and opportunities such as the food pantry hosted by Parkside and the donation of laundry equipment as ways to provide some of the basic needs for these students.

Cindy Chagnon suggested tapping the volunteer resources of area high schools requiring community service from their students.

In response to Helen Honorow's question about how to keep this interesting for students, Ms. Gillis explained students have the ideas and the four

middle school principals begin the thought processes to explore ways to make them happen.

Chairman Raffio asked what the State Board of Education could do to assist. Mr. McCafferty stated the need for help to make people aware of the program and all the good things and examples it brings to the lives of these students. The program also needs to be systemic and sustainable. Ms. Gillis reminded the board that some school districts have only one middle school and this could be an opportunity to share, talk, and learn from each other across the state, highlighting the good, and taking the good to the next level.

Chairman Raffio suggested inviting Board members to attend some of the activities to learn and dig deeper into the program which could be a step toward the idea sharing and beyond. He thanked everyone for their leadership, collaboration, and participation today.

C. RFP 2017-073 DOE New Hampshire Statewide Assessments Overview – Commissioner Edelblut explained this contract is before the Board because the current contract expires soon and he reviewed details of the RFP to allow aggregate interim types of assessments to create composite scores that can then be reported to the federal government. Other aspects include looking at the ability to machine score writing scores and looking for an assessment tool to allow us to provide timely and easily understood as well as accessible feedback to educators and parents.

Ann Lane inquired about the original cost of the Smarter Balanced assessment. Sandie MacDonald, Administrator, Bureau of Instructional Support and Student Assessment responded that last year the cost was \$2.542 million and confirmed that this was a yearly cost. The not-to-exceed \$3 million cost associated with the RFP is also a yearly cost.

Cindy Chagnon and Helen Honorow both expressed their concerns about ending up with uncertainty and confusion from the field without opportunities to gather feedback.

Ann Lane asked about the waiver process with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in respect to the use of interim types of assessments. Commissioner Edelblut deferred the question to Heather Gage, Director, Division of Educational Improvement, who stated that ESSA allows for interim types of assessments and not just one summative assessment and the department would not need to apply for a waiver; however, would need to be consistent across the state. Heather Gage further stated that she is not aware of any other state using interim assessments.

Cindy Chagnon expressed her concern about the loss of longitudinal data to assist with making curriculum decisions based on the data. Commissioner

Edelblut concurred with Cindy Chagnon, that longitudinal data is an important consideration, and noted that we currently do not have that with Smarter Balanced. Commissioner Edelblut hopes that longitudinal information will be looked at as proposals are received from the RFP.

Ann Lane noted that it might behoove the department and the board to first implement a new assessment and then change the standards. She noted that for an educator they are distinctively different and to consider doing both at the same time might be overwhelming to educators.

Bill Duncan feels a sole source contract should be done keeping the current vendor in place while the standards review process is ongoing. He has provided Commissioner Edelblut with a memo outlining his concerns.

D. NHDOE Updated Process Map for Reviewing Academic Standards and Timeline for English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Revision – The department combined the internal draft revision with the work done by Cindy Chagnon and Bill Duncan presented last month and Heather Gage, Director, Division of Educational Improvement, reviewed edits and highlights and timelines of the proposal.

Cindy Chagnon stated the Board went through an extensive review process for the science standards and feels the proposed timeline on the draft document muddies the process by saying a year later they have to start again.

Commissioner Edelblut explained his reasoning for this change, mentioning Fordham University's review of each U.S. state science standards giving New Hampshire a "C" grade. The commissioner did say he didn't know if Fordham's review was done prior to the Board's adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards or shortly thereafter, but ultimately the goal is to make sure we aim for a good high standard.

Bill Duncan stated that Fordham's view of the standards is a 1950's view of science teaching. This is not a criterion for New Hampshire. And it is not respected as a reviewer of the science standards. The Board's STEM taskforce studied and spent years working with the state's science teachers to collectively arrive at the decision to adopt the Next Generation Science Standards. The standards are not the department's responsibility. These are the Board's standards. Bill Duncan proposed that the Board make a very clear statement that we are not going to re-review the science standards.

Helen Honorow discussed an article in the *Nashua Telegraph* reporting the State Board of Education was considering revising science standards which led to a motion by the Nashua School Board to put off science curriculum development and purchase of textbooks. This Board did not talk about changing

the science standards at its last meeting. The science standards are not whimsical or subject to the political winds of change. She questioned how a draft of the *Academic Standards Revision Cycle* document got sent out before the Board received it. There are general concerns about this document. She felt another revision of the science standards would be irresponsible. Ninety percent of the districts are using Next Generation Science Standards.

Cindy Chagnon agreed and noted this would create chaos and a lot of work.

Gary Groleau stated he has never been more certain of any work done in the past than the science standards and to send any message that the Board is backing up or not fulfilling that responsibility is more than problematic.

Chairman Raffio entertained a motion that the science standards are complete and should be pulled out of this plan.

**MOTION:** Bill Duncan moved and Cindy Chagnon seconded, that the State Board of Education states clearly and with no ambiguity that having just spent two years of intensive review, monthly presentations, and public forums reviewing the New Hampshire College and Career Ready Science Standards, and on November 3, 2016 adopted the Next Generation Science Standards as our New Hampshire College and Career Ready Science Standards, the Board will not adopt or revise science standards until April 2024 with a start date of April 2022.

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

Bill Duncan suggested it be researched to what extent packets prepared for the Board are made available to the public.

Commissioner Edelblut clarified that this is a framework for input. Chairman Raffio added this is a standard template process for any standards review and not much input may be needed because this worked well for the science standards review process.

Cindy Chagnon suggested changes in wording for clarification of expectations.

Bill Duncan asked for clarification on the process, specifically if there would be upfront feedback from parents and teachers of the current standards or would the review team be starting from scratch in building a standard. Commissioner Edelblut stated that there would be a thorough review with upfront

feedback from stakeholders, which would then be referenced against highly rated international standards as well as highly rated states that have gone through a similar review process and the combination of these would be synthesized into a New Hampshire standard.

Bill Duncan stated the standards review framework is good for the department to be working on and asked for the English Language Art and Math standards review proposal be presented using the framework, providing a timeline, budget, and other pertinent details at the May 11, 2017 meeting.

Chairman Raffio expressed his discomfort with unrealistic timelines and given the realities of staffing at the department, suggested Commissioner Edelblut and his team return in May with a resource analysis, a prioritized list of standards for review with workable and realistic deadlines. Commissioner Edelblut concurred.

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

Commissioner Edelblut explained the process for handling rules prior to their expiration and meeting with the Professional Standards Board to assure rules comply with the law and are consistent with policy.

Commissioner Edelblut noted that our current rules wouldn't allow Bill Gates to teach computer science in New Hampshire schools.

Helen Honorow would like for Commissioner Edelblut to make it clear to the Professional Standards Board that this Board has been committed to a higher education focus on content knowledge in all higher education programs.

A. INITIAL PROPOSAL – Ed 507.23 School Speech-Language Specialist and Ed 614.09 Speech-Language Specialist Program – Attorney Diana Fenton noted the rule has expired and is being updated to reflect current standards and practices.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education approve the Initial Proposal for Ed 507.23 School Speech Language Specialist and Ed 614.09 Speech Language Specialist Program and hold a public hearing on this rule on June 8, 2017.

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

B. INITIAL PROPOSAL - Ed 405.01 Non-Public School Program Approval - Attorney Diana Fenton noted the rule is still current and minor changes and areas to be clarified have been highlighted for the board.

**MOTION:** Kate Cassady made the following motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon that the State Board of Education approve the Initial Proposal to readopt with amendment Ed 405.01 Nonpublic School Program Approval and hold a public hearing on this rule on June 8, 2017.

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

C. INITIAL PROPOSAL - Ed 507.24 English Language Arts Teacher for Grades 5-12, Ed 507.241 English Language Arts Teacher for Grades 5-8, Ed 612.05 English Language Arts for Grades 5-12 and Ed 612.051 English Language Arts for Grades 5-8 – Attorney Diana Fenton stated this is set to expire in August of 2017 and work has begun on revisions.

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the Board approve the Initial Proposal to readopt Ed 507.24 English Language Arts Teacher for Grades 5-12, Ed 507.241 English Language Arts Teacher for Grades 5-8, Ed 612.05 English Language Arts for Grades 5-12 and Ed 612.051, English Language Arts for Grades 5-8 and hold a public hearing on this rule on June 8, 2017.

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

Ann Lane expressed her concern that critical, technical writing, and comprehension seems to be missing.

D. INITIAL PROPOSAL - Ed 507.27 - Social Studies Teacher for Grades 5-12, Ed 507.271 Social Studies Teacher for Grades 5-8, Ed 612.28 Social Studies for Grades 5-12, and Ed 612.29 Social Studies for Grades 5-8

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the Board approve the Initial Proposal to readopt Ed 507.27 - Social Studies Teacher for Grades 5-12, Ed 507.271 Social Studies Teacher for Grades 5-8, Ed 612.28 Social Studies for Grades 5-12, and Ed 612.29 Social Studies for Grades 5-8 and hold a public hearing on this rule on June 8, 2017.

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



E. INITIAL PROPOSAL - Ed 306.12 School Health Services, Ed 504.07 School Nurse Certificate, Ed 505.03(d)(1)b. and (e)(7) Alternative 3: Demonstrated Competencies and Equivalent Experiences, Ed 505.04(a)(1), (d)(2)d., (d)(3)b.2., Alternative 4: Individualized Professional Development Plan (Restricted), Ed 505.05(a), (d) and (e)(1) Alternative 5: Site-Based Certification Plan, Ed 508.06 Fees and Ed 512.07 School Nurse - Attorney Diana Fenton explained the rules adopted in response to statutory change that occurred last year, RSA 200:29, for school nurse certification. Other rules within packet are for pathways for certification.

**MOTION:** Kate Cassady made the following motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education approve the Initial Proposal for Ed 306.12 School Health Services, Ed 504.07 School Nurse Certificate, Ed 505.03(d)(1)b. and (e)(7) Alternative 3: Demonstrated Competencies and Equivalent Experiences, Ed 505.04(a)(1), (d)(2)d., (d)(3)b.2., Alternative 4: Individualized Professional Development Plan (Restricted), Ed 505.05(a), (d) and (e)(1) Alternative 5: Site-Based Certification Plan, Ed 508.06 Fees and Ed 512.07 School Nurse and hold a public hearing on this rule on June 8, 2017.

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

F. Interim Rule – Ed 1400 Career and Technical Education – Attorney Diana Fenton explained the 1400s group expires in April and this interim rule will hold current rules in place while updates are being processed.

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the Board approve the Interim Rule Ed 1400 Career and Technical Education.

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

G. SB 193 Voucher Bill Discussion - Chairman Raffio introduced the subject discussion and whether or not the Board wants to take a position on this legislation. Bill Duncan has provided a supplemental email outlining his position and feels it is important for the Board to take a position. Chairman Raffio opened the floor to discussion.

Helen Honorow stated her agreement and feels it's very important given the Board's role in respect to public education that the Board take a position on this.

Ann Lane stated she wasn't sure this particular bill is the solution but it's important to think about how we educate and accommodate our students and how we get there.

Helen Honorow and Cindy Chagnon expressed their concerns regarding the negative financial impact the bill would have on public education.

**MOTION:** Bill Duncan made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the Board authorize the Chairman to send a letter of opposition SB 193 to the Education Committee that will include concerns about costs.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by a 6-1 vote with Ann Lane voting no.

H. HB 103 Parental Notification Discussion - It is the consensus of the Board to take no action on this item.

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

Commissioner Frank Edelblut provided updates on his visits with schools and educators. He also expressed his disappointment with the Board's position on SB 193.

Chairman Raffio added that Commissioner Edelblut attended the Business and Education Coalition meeting and gave a nice talk.

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

Chairman Raffio added a reminder to have dialogue regarding the paraeducators at a later date.

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

#### A. Minutes of March 23, 2017.

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, to approve the Minutes of March 23, 2017 as presented.

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

Chairman Raffio reminded everyone to get back to Angela on 2017 meeting dates.

**AGENDA ITEM X. TABLED ITEM**A. Initial Proposal – Approval of Nonpublic Schools, Ed 400

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane that the Board remove Ed 405.01 Non-Public School Program Approval rules from the table.

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

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

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the Board remove Ed 507.23 School Speech Language Specialist and Ed 614.09 Speech Language Specialist Program be from the table.

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

**AGENDA ITEM XI. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Chairman Raffio requested a short nonpublic session.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau to adjourn to nonpublic session.

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

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow to adjourn the nonpublic session.

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

**AGENDA ITEM XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

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



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Secretary