

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the May 11, 2017 Meeting

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:30 a.m. at the State Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, New Hampshire. Drew Cline presided as Chairman.

Members present: Kate Cassady, Cindy C. Chagnon, Drew Cline, Bill Duncan, Gary Groleau, Helen G. Honorow, and Ann Lane. Paul K. Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education was also present. Frank Edelblut, Commissioner of Education was not able to attend due to another commitment.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Cline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Cline thanked Tom Raffio and the other Board members for their public service.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people spoke in support of the PACE pilot program currently used in their school.

- Emily Duller, a fourth grade student at Parker Varney Elementary School
- Amy Allen, Principal, Parker Varney Elementary School
- Lisa DeLacey, Reading Supervisor, Parker Varney Elementary School

Doris Hohensee, from the Nashua School Board, welcomed a review of science standards by Commissioner Edelblut. She said that standards at the kindergarten level were too high and asked the Board to retain the expansion of kindergarten.

The following people spoke in support of a review of the science standards by Commissioner Edelblut and in opposition to the use of the Common Core State Standards in the public school system.

- Anne Marie Banfield, Educational Liaison, Cornerstone, Bedford, NH
- Katherine Shea, Parent, Goffstown

Kim Casey, former Exeter Area Cooperative School Board member, emphasized that fundamentals, including the Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards, work well and should not be tampered

with. She spoke against the move to introduce vouchers and increase the power of the Commissioner.

Bonnie Dunham, from Merrimack, applauded the Board's historic and future dedication to improving the public school system.

Megan Tuttle, President of NEA New Hampshire, said that their 17,000 members urged the Board to reconsider the proposed revision of New Hampshire English Language Arts and Mathematic standards.

The following members of Exeter Rises asked the Board to continue to support the public school system and protect it against erosion.

- Meredith Cooley
- Jennifer Brackett Piskovitz
- Linda Morrison
- Maura Fay
- Eileen Flockhart
- Enna Grazier

The following people spoke about the positive results of PACE in their schools.

- Bethany Bernasconi, Dean of Instruction, Amherst Middle School
- Julie Flynn, Principal, Plymouth Elementary School
- Alison Estes-Browne, teacher and parent, Plymouth Elementary School

AGENDA ITEM IV, OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Charter School Dashboard Update – Keith Burke explained that the purpose of the dashboard is to house all charter school information and data in one place and to standardize the reporting process. A meeting with the charter leaders scheduled for May 23, 2017 will focus on the metrics for accountability, which they had been working on since the previous meeting. The charter school dashboard should be fully operational at the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year.

In response to a question from Chairman Cline, Mr. Burke said that both long-term and short-term trends could be shown, as well as goals. Mr. Burke emphasized the importance of accountability. Chairman Cline said that he would like to be able to compare performance, but Mr. Burke explained that direct comparisons might not always be possible. However, it will be possible to see performance compared against metrics and see the threshold values. State tests will be incorporated, but some schools have too small a population to reveal the result publicly. Cindy Chagnon added that since many were

established for at-risk students, it was very difficult to make comparisons with others.

Helen Honorow asked for clarification about self-reporting and weighting. Mr. Burke replied that it was empirical data and that the weighting emphasized specific metrics based on what the schools want emphasized. He added that he and his partner, Jerry Frew, had visited over 100 schools in the last two and a half years and that public education was alive and well in New Hampshire.

B. Performance Assessment of Competency Education (PACE) Evaluation Update - Scott Marion, from the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment (NCIEA), explained that this was a New Hampshire based, non-profit consulting firm, focusing on improving educational assessments and accountability. He provided the Board with a technical manual and reviewed a few key concepts that included:

- The reasons for using performance assessments.
- An introduction to validity.
- PACE is more than assessment system.
- It can transform instruction and improve college and career readiness.
- PACE has to meet specific criteria for success.
- Looked at external reviews of PACE, including HumRRO and Carla Evans' study.
- Emphasized the importance of calibration.

Bill Duncan asked how parents would see the impact in the classroom in a school using PACE. Scott Marion replied that parents see student work coming home and see the improvement in quality. Scott stated that it could also be valuable for parents to see a model piece of work.

In response to a question from Helen Honorow, about how recommendations were followed up, Scott Marion replied that they were considered by the technical leads from NCIEA, Deputy Commissioner Paul Leather and the District leads and are then built into next year's plans. Helen Honorow followed up by referring to page 31 of the Technical Report on aligning to State standards. She asked what the impact would be of changing the standards. Scott Marion replied that the tasks had to be aligned to competencies and the relevant standards. A little change could be tolerated, but major changes to the standards would require significant reworking of the tasks.

C. Standards and Personalization – Val Zanchuk, President of Graphicast and outgoing Chairman of the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire, said that workforce development was a key issue for New Hampshire businesses and readiness for work increasingly required collaboration between business and education. He said that they needed the full commitment of the education community to complete implementation of a competency-based

education system and that an attempt to refine and rewrite educational standards was unnecessary, of marginal value and a poorly-timed diversion. He emphasized that the existing standards are sufficient and will prepare students for career and college success. The BIA has allocated \$600,000 to hire workforce development staff as part of Workforce Accelerator 2025, who will work to develop relations between companies and educational institutions. The BIA will also oversee the 65 By 25 initiative, to ensure that 65% of the State's workforce has post-secondary credentials as part of a New Hampshire workforce action plan based on nationwide workforce needs.

In response to a question from Cindy Chagnon, Mr. Zanchuk confirmed that soft skills were vital in preparing students for work.

Bill Duncan thanked Mr. Zanchuk for the BIA's commitment to education.

D. New Hampshire School Administrators (NHSAA) Standards Review, Assessment and Accountability Concerns – Executive Director, Carl Ladd, expressed the concerns of educational leaders at proposed changes to standards. He said that people who developed the curriculum and who work in the field were concerned about changing English Language Arts and Mathematics standards at this point, when other standards have been untouched for a long time and need attention and revision. He was also concerned about changing the assessment at this stage, when other States have been successful because they have stayed the course with their assessments and standards.

The following representatives of the five New Hampshire school regions spoke in support of the existing standards and against unnecessary and disruptive changes:

- Mark McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent, SAU #26
- Esther Asbell, Assistant Superintendent, SAU 16
- Todd Allen, Assistant Superintendent, Oyster River Cooperative School District
- Kevin Johnson, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, SAU 34
- David Backler, Principal, Gorham Middle School
- Sue Greenlaw, Response to Instruction Coordinator, and Reading/Writing Specialist, Bethlehem Elementary School
- Brendan Minnihan, Superintendent, Laconia School District

Gary Groleau congratulated Superintendent Minnihan on having a student from the CTE program selected as a Presidential Scholar and added that there was a 100% pass rate on the written practical portion of the State LNA test.

Carl Ladd summed up by respectfully asking the Board to move on to other standards and to leave English Language Arts and Mathematics standards alone for now. He said that now is not the time to change what is working really well.

AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. Amendments to the Keene School District's Authorized Regional Enrollment Area (A.R.E.A.) Plans - Rob Malay, Superintendent and Tim Ruehr Business Administrator for SAU 29, introduced themselves. Tim Ruehr explained that Surrey and Sullivan Districts wanted an A.R.E.A. agreement with Keene and that on the advice of their attorney, they did not have a Joint Study Committee because the arrangement with those Districts is well-established. The warrants passed overwhelmingly in Keene, Sullivan and Surry and they now wanted approval from the Board.

Chairman Cline said that the Board had reservations about whether it technically met the letter of the law, but would be satisfied with evidence that all the Districts understood and approved the A.R.E.A. agreement.

Tim Ruehr asked that Board to approve the agreement pending receipt of affidavits from the chiefs of all three Boards and the two Superintendents.

MOTION: Helen Honorow made the following motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the State Board of Education approve Keene's request for the amended A.R.E.A. agreement, subject to receipt of affidavits from the Board Chairs and Superintendents, indicating that each District understands that they are entering into an A.R.E.A. agreement.

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

B. Update on English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Review Plan – Heather Gage, Director, Division of Educational Improvement, welcomed Chairman Cline to the State Board of Education and commented on the huge public interest in the proceedings. She explained that the proposals presented to the Board on English Language Arts and Mathematics standards were only a general overview and starting point for the standards revision process.

Cindy Chagnon said that her views had changed after listening to the testimony earlier that day and reading the research. She was also concerned at the potential waste of time and money.

Helen Honorow agreed that testimony from all over the State showed that things were working well, the school Districts were happy and there was no desire for wholesale change.

Anne Lane thanked Heather Gage for her work. She stated that the Board was obliged to do due diligence on standards and agreed with her fellow Board members. More input was required on what was working and what was not and to refine the standards or adjust as required by the changing world.

Chairman Cline said he would like to hear from voices that have a different point of view.

Kate Cassady emphasized that State educators were involved and happy with the Core Curriculum and to change would be disruptive. All the different districts supported it and would be discouraged by change.

Bill Duncan emphasized how rare it was to see such a consensus among teachers. It would be very demanding for the department to come up with a plan and a real budget when there was a consensus that it was unnecessary.

Heather Gage added that there was currently no Computer Science standard in the State and she asked the Board to think about that in the future.

Helen Honorow said she was not prepared to bless the plan before the Board and hoped that they would wait. She wanted a decision on what would happen.

Drew Cline said that since the Commissioner was not there to explain his vision, that the discussion should be continued at the next meeting.

Bill Duncan said that it would be worth asking the Attorney General's office to clarify who has the statutory authority to review and adopt the standards.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Anne Lane, to invite Heather back with the Commissioner and to ask the Attorney General's office for guidance.

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

C. Update on Assessment RFP - Heather Gage, Director, Division of Educational Improvement, gave an update on current testing prepared by Sandie MacDonald on Smarter Balanced. The Smarter Balanced reporting portal opened on May 1, 2017 allowing Districts to pull down student information.

In response to a question from Cindy Chagnon, Heather Gage confirmed that it was not part of Smarter Balanced to test kindergarten students three times a year, a concern raised by Doris Hohensee from the Nashua School Board earlier during the public comment portion of the meeting.

She said that the State's current assessment contract was up on June 30, 2017. It was necessary to put out an RFP to continue to meet State and Federal requirements. She explained that this is done in conjunction with the State's Department of Information Technology because the testing is computer based. The RFP was posted on March 29, 2017 and two proposals were received by the final date on April 26, 2017. Heather confirmed that they would be rigorously reviewed and a decision would probably be made in mid-July by the Governor and Council.

D. Update on Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – Heather Gage, Director, Division of Education Improvement, invited Scott Marion from the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment (NCIEA) to join her. She said that a draft plan would soon be available. Heather emphasized that the plan only contains what was asked for by the US Department of Education and does not cover everything in the Every Student Succeeds Act or reflect what is being done in the field and throughout the state. The major shift from No Child Left Behind to Every Student Succeeds Act is accountability. Scott Marion explained that the goal was to have a reporting system that reports information to multiple stakeholders and that ESSA requires:

- State goals
- Expanded indicators
- Summative determination
- School identification and support
- Integrated reporting

Heather Gage reminded the Board that September 18, 2017 is the deadline for the second round for States to submit. She urged the Board to spread the document to as many people as possible during the 30-day public review period starting next week.

AGENDA ITEM VI. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES/RULES

A. INITIAL PROPOSAL – Ed 505.05 (a). Alternative 5: Site-Based Certification Plan, Ed 507.52 Educator in Computer and Ed 612.33 Computer Science Education

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the Board adopt Ed 507.52 Computer Science Teacher and Ed 612.33 Computer Science

Education World Languages and hold a public hearing for this rule at its July 13, 2017 meeting.

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

B. SB 191-FN Kindergarten Initiative Development Support Grant Program Discussion

MOTION: Bill Duncan made the following motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the Board expresses support for full adequacy funding.

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

C. Code of Ethics Update – Attorney Diana Fenton provided an update from the taskforce established with a wide variety of stakeholders to develop a code of ethics. She presented the Board with the draft document, which is based on four principles:

- Responsibility to the educational profession and those standards.
- Responsibility to the students.
- Responsibility to the school community.
- Responsibility and ethical use of technology.

She added that this last principle needed more work.

Nicole Heimarck, Administrator, Bureau of Educator Preparation Programs, added that they would be open to any feedback from the Board to take to the May 30, 2017 meeting of the taskforce.

Chairman Cline remarked that it did not bar romantic or sexual relationships with students. Diana Fenton pointed out that page 2 covered some of these issues.

Nicole Heimarck explained that a Code of Ethics was a tool for educators to consider before making choices, whereas a Code of Conduct was enforceable. In answer to a question from Bill Duncan, Attorney Fenton said that they hoped this document was a move towards adopting new legislation, but they recognized that they would now have to move towards creating a Code of Conduct.

Bill Duncan directed members to the video of the July 14, 2016 meeting which contained a lot valuable ideas.

AGENDA ITEM VII. REPORT AND NEW DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

There was no Report and New Department Business at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IX. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Bill Duncan made the following motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the Consent Agenda be handled as an up or down vote, after taking off anything that a member may wish to take off.

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

MOTION: Bill Duncan made the following motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, to remove Bartlett and Jackson School Districts Tuition Agreement and the Minutes of April 6, 2017.

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

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon, made the following motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, that the Board accept the Consent Agenda, with the exception of: A. Minutes of April 6, 2017; and F. Bartlett and Jackson School District Tuition Agreement.

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

A. Minutes of April 6, 2017

Bill Duncan said that he had notified Angela of amendments to page 4392.

Helen Honorow said that she had notified Angela of an amendment to page 4395, Agenda Item 7, second paragraph, Legislative Issues/Rules. She suggested the following, 'Commissioner Edelblut noted that our current rules wouldn't allow Bill Gates to teach computer science in New Hampshire Schools.' The next paragraph would then read, '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.'

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, to approve the Minutes of April 16, 2017 as amended.

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

B. Recommendation for appointment as Director, Division of Higher Education - Commissioner Frank Edelblut was contacted to give his recommendation to the Board by phone. Commissioner Edelblut apologized for his absence. He thanked Ed MacKay for his service in this position and nominated Tom Horgan to replace him. Chairman Cline confirmed that the Board was pleased by this nomination.

C. Pittsburg and Clarksville School Districts Authorized Regional Enrollment Area (A.R.E.A.) Agreement – Accepted under Consent Agenda vote by the Board.

D. Milan School District Authorized Regional Enrollment Area (A.R.E.A.) Withdrawal Plan Vote – Accepted under Consent Agenda vote by the Board.

E. Lisbon and Landaff School Districts Tuition Agreement – Accepted under Consent Agenda vote by the Board.

F. Bartlett and Jackson School District Tuition Agreement

Chairman Cline summarized that there was concern about the Commissioner as the resolution authority.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Bill Duncan, to table the Bartlett and Jackson Tuition Agreement.

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

G. Stratford and Northumberland School Districts 1-Year Extension to Current Tuition Agreement – Accepted under Consent Agenda vote by the Board.

AGENDA ITEM X. TABLED ITEMS

There were no Tabled Items at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XI, NONPUBLIC SESSION

There was no Nonpublic Session at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

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



Secretary