

New Hampshire  
State Board of Education  
Minutes of the January 11, 2018 Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:25 a.m. at the State Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, New Hampshire. Drew Cline presided as Chairman.

Members present: Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Drew Cline, Chairman, Helen G. Honorow, and Anne Lane. Bill Duncan was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. Frank Edelblut, Commissioner of Education and Christine Brennan, Deputy Commissioner of Education were also present.

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Kate Cassady led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Doris Hohensee - Nashua, New Hampshire, presented her concerns regarding certification and letters of eligibility required in Ed 507.01. It is her opinion that the term “experienced educator” needs clarification as there have been instances of less qualified candidates being appointed to positions while qualified people with decades of experience and certification have been bypassed. She will re-forward her information to the Board for follow-up.

**AGENDA ITEM IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

A. Green/School Administrative Unit #55 – SB-FY-18-10-007 – This issue before the Board deals with an appeal filed by Ms. Green regarding procedures used by the SAU 55 School Board to establish salaries of school administrative personnel. The Hearing Officer determined in his report that the State Board of Education lacks subject matter jurisdiction over a dispute between SAU Board Members and SAU boards over the setting of salaries. SAU #55 is requesting that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer’s recommendation and dismiss the case with prejudice.

Ms. Green reviewed the history of her case and the difficulties she faced when attempting to obtain information through the “Right to Know” process. She reviewed instances of contracts being processed without review by the SAU 55 School Board, contrary to law, current hiring practices, as well as expenditures of unbudgeted funds and other issues of concern. She explained to the State Board that she is here seeking a hearing on the merits of her complaint and requested that the State Board’s discussion be conducted in a public forum.

Chairman Cline expressed his thoughts that this should be a concern of the State Board because funds provided to school districts are taxpayer funds and the State Board does have jurisdiction in that case.

With regards to the request for a public discussion, the Chairman told Ms. Green it was at the recommendation of the State Board's counsel that discussions be conducted in a nonpublic meeting.

**MOTION:** Helen Honorow made the following motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education move into a nonpublic session.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by roll call vote by board members Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Drew Cline, and Helen Honorow.

**MOTION:** Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education return to public session.

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

**MOTION:** Helen Honorow made the following motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education seal the minutes of the nonpublic session.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by roll call vote by board members Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Drew Cline, and Helen Honorow.

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education under RSA 186:5 has jurisdiction to hear this appeal and remands this back to SAU 55 for a full fact-finding hearing on the issues raised by Ms. Green pertaining to RSA 194-C:5.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by a vote of the Board with Helen Honorow opposed and the Chairman abstaining.

B. Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU), Program Approval Reports – Nicole Heimarck, formerly the New Hampshire Department of Education's Administrator for the Bureau of Educator Preparation, explained to the State Board that the School Superintendent and Early Childhood Special Education programs were new programs for Southern New Hampshire University

(SNHU) and further explained that the new program approval process looks at the inputs and the design elements of the proposed new program(s) as opposed to existing programs.

#### 1. School Superintendent

Ms. Heimarck provided a historical review of the development of the program and the current state of New Hampshire's pool of available superintendents. She noted that an out-of-state, impartial reviewer was contracted to review the program. Ms. Heimarck explained that a partnership has been created between SNHU and the New Hampshire School Administrators Association (NHSAA) using NHSAA's Granite State Leadership Academy to better prepare future superintendents. It was noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being developed formalizing the partnership between SNHU and NHSAA's Granite State Leadership Academy to better clarify responsibilities, including assessment and monitoring requirements and how to best structure the reporting of this data. One of the hallmarks of this partnership is its unique form of mentorship with candidates actively participating in the NHSAA Regional Superintendent meetings; providing them with insight into the daily challenges and responsibilities associated with being a school superintendent. The mentorship program will also provide a broad exposure to different types of schools, different types of school districts as well as different leadership styles.

Ms. Honorow requested clarification on the timing for the MOU to be finalized and thought finalizing it should be a priority and not be left to evolve through the process.

The Chairman asked if the same degree of innovation could be fused into the candidates for the K-12 system.

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education grant initial program approval until January 30, 2021 to Southern New Hampshire's advanced educator preparation program for School Superintendent Ed 614.05, with a Memorandum of Understanding to be completed by April 30, 2018, and the completion of two progress reports submitted no later than September 30, 2018 and September 30, 2019, detailing progress on the institution's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the New Hampshire School Administrators Association (NHSAA) detailing responsibilities and benchmarks for the program's candidate and program assessment systems.

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

## 2. Early Childhood Special Education

Ms. Heimarck introduced Mary Ford from Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) who has recently been hired to examine the existing special education programs as well as work on the development of this new program. A site visit was conducted in December 2016 and the report was used as a springboard to examine the new program. Findings dealt with inconsistencies in bachelors and masters level certificate programs, all of which have been addressed. A content area literacy course was added to undergraduate and graduate programs and as of September 2017, pass rates have increased from 22% to 64%. SNHU is working with six schools in developing a professional development model. Residency candidates will work with up to three clinical practitioners over the nine months of their clinical experience to ensure a broader range of experiences and to ensure quality.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education grant initial program approval until January 30, 2021 to Southern New Hampshire University's initial educator preparation program for Early Childhood Special Education, Ed 612.071 with satisfactory completion of two progress reports submitted no later than September 30, 2018 and 2019 reporting on candidate performance assessed by multiple measures in the area of reading instruction.

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

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

There was no Open Board Discussion.

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

A. Initial Proposal – Special Education Aid (Ed 1128) – Ms. Bridget Brown, Education Consultant for the Department of Education explained to the State Board that this was a request to amend Ed 1128 of the Special Education Rules to strike the term “catastrophic” pursuant to House Bill 517 passed last legislative season.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education approve the Initial Proposal for Ed 1128 and move that a Public Hearing

be held for this rule at the State Board of Education meeting held on March 8, 2018.

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

B. Initial Proposal – Highly Qualified Teacher and Core Academic Subjects (Ed 1102 and Ed 1113) – Due to changes in federal requirements, this proposal is to amend these rules by striking definitions and requirements pertaining to highly qualified teachers and core academic subjects.

MOTION: Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education approve the Initial Proposal for Ed 1102 and Ed 1113 and move that a Public Hearing be held for this rule at the State Board of Education meeting held on March 8, 2018.

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

C. Conditional Approval – General Science (Ed 507.29 and Ed 612.23) – At the Joint Legislative Committee Administrative Rules (JLCAR) hearing conditions were made by JLCAR in order to approve the proposal. The mention of ethics on Page 2 refers to a position statement from the National Association of Science Teachers regarding the responsible use of live animals. This was incorporated by reference and satisfied JLCAR conditions.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, that the State Board of Education approve the Conditional Approval for Ed 507.29 and Ed 612.23 General Science.

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

- D. Adopt – Science Teacher 5-8 (Ed 507.28 and Ed 612.22)
- E. Adopt – Earth & Space Science Teacher (Ed 507.30 and Ed 612.24)
- F. Adopt – Life Science Teacher (Ed 507.31 and Ed 612.25)
- G. Adopt – Chemistry Teacher (Ed 507.32 and Ed 612.26)
- H. Adopt – Physics Teacher (Ed 507.33 and Ed 612.27)
- I. Adopt – Physical Science Teacher (Ed 507.51 and Ed 612.34)

No substantive changes were done. Changes made were editorial in nature.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Kate Cassidy, that the State Board of Education adopt Science Teacher 5-8 Ed 507.28 and Ed 612.22, Earth and Space Science Teacher Ed 507.30 and Ed 612.24, Life Science Teacher Ed 507.31 and Ed 612.25, Chemistry Teacher Ed 507.32 and Ed 612.26, Physics Teacher Ed 507.33 and Ed 612.27 and Physical Science Teacher Ed 507.51 and Ed 612.34.

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

J. Adopt – General Science (Ed 507.29 and Ed 612.23)

This item is now just a straight adoption.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education adopt General Science Ed 507.29, Ed 612.23.

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

K. Re-Adopt with Amendment – Social Studies Teacher (Ed 507.27, Ed 507.54, Ed 612.28 and Ed 612.29) – The change made at the last State Board meeting to add “New Hampshire” and “U.S.” to the verbiage was not allowed by JLCAR as it was more than an editorial change. The changes would require the proposal to go through the full approval process again in order to incorporate these changes.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education withdraw its amendment and adoption of Ed 507.27, Ed 507.54, Ed 612.28 and Ed 612.29 Social Studies Teacher dated December 14, 2017, and adopt Ed 507.27, Ed 507.54, Ed 612.28 and Ed 612.29 Social Studies Teacher dated January 11, 2018.

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

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

A. Academy for Science and Design Charter Renewal – Commissioner Edelblut reported a full review was conducted of the Academy for Science and Design through meetings with students, teachers, administrators, board

members, and parents. It is his opinion that this is one of the highest performing schools in New Hampshire; it was nationally recognized for this performance by being named a Blue-Ribbon School. Commissioner Edelblut fully supports the renewal of their charter for the next five years. There was a discussion regarding granting a five-year renewal as opposed to a six-month renewal pending receipt of a written report. Commissioner Edelblut noted his belief that the statutory requirements had been met by his verbal report to the State Board.

**MOTION:** Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education pursuant to Ed 318.12 and Ed 318.13 authorize the extension of the charter for the Academy for Science and Design for six months.

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

Ms. Lane requested it be part of the record that failure to give approval for a five-year period has no reflection on the performance of the school, but rather to ensure consistency of the process.

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

There was no old business.

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

##### **A. Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2017**

There is a misspelling of Ms. Chagnon's name on Page 4487.

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the State Board of Education approve the Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2017 as amended.

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

Ms. Honorow requested that the Board be kept in the loop with regard to resignations of department employees that work closely with the Board. She wasn't aware of Nicole Heimark's resignation and wanted to recognize the incredible work she has done for the State Board.

#### **AGENDA ITEM X. TABLED ITEMS**

There were no tabled items.

#### **AGENDA ITEM XI. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education recess the public meeting and go into a non-meeting.

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

**AGENDA ITEM XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

MOTION: Kate Cassady made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane to adjourn the meeting.

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



---

Secretary



New Hampshire  
State Board of Education  
January 11, 2018

Sealed Non-Public Meeting Minutes of State Board of Education's Deliberation

Unsealed at the February 8, 2018 State Board of Education Meeting

Members present: Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Drew Cline, Chairman, Helen G. Honorow, and Anne Lane.

**AGENDA ITEM IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

A. Green/School Administrative Unit #55 – SB-FY-18-10-007

There was discussion on the merits of the case and whether or not the claimant clearly stated her case.

Discussion ensued as to whether or not the State Board has authority or jurisdiction over this matter. A discussion was had on whether RSA 186:5 gives the State Board the authority to request SAU 55 to conduct a fact-finding hearing on the issues raised by Ms. Green. Helen Honorow expressed her concerns about making this decision and its bearing on future disputes between school board members. Drew Cline stated that the State Board can decide what cases to hear or not to hear and that this case rises to a different level.

A motion was discussed and it was decided that there be no discussion following the motion regarding the matter by any of the board members.

There was discussion about asking petitioners prior to the start of each special presentation if they want to go first. It was decided moving forward that protocol would be to always have the petitioner(s) go first and not give them an option.