

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Department of Education
Londergan Hall, Room 100F
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Minutes of the Thursday, December 13, 2018 Meeting

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:33 a.m. at the State Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH. Drew Cline presided as Chairman.

Members present: Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Drew Cline, Chairman, Sally Griffin, Helen Honorow, Ann Lane, and Phil Nazzaro. 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

Ken Page, Interim Executive Director of the New Hampshire Association of School Principals (NHASP)

Mr. Page introduced himself and provided an overview of his professional background. He explained that the NHASP is in transition moving from its long-time executive director to a new executive director they hope to have hired by July 1, 2019. During this year of transition, Mr. Page, as interim executive director, will work with the NHASP board to reestablish its goals and priorities, suggest to them revisions to policies, procedures and by-laws, as well as working with them to provide relevant professional development opportunities for the NHASP board and its membership. He extended an open invitation to the members of the State Board to attend these events.

Patrice Benard, Founders Academy Parent

Ms. Benard addressed the State Board with concerns about The Founders Academy and noted that they placed her public testimony from last month's State Board meeting on their website along with her name, address, and email address. She provided a written copy of today's testimony to the State Board.

Moira Ryan, Founders Academy Parent

Ms. Ryan provided the State Board with information regarding her son and asked that the State Board look at the IEP implementation process in the hope of having it shortened as well as review the service provision included in the process between school districts and charter schools.

Robin Corbeil

Ms. Corbeil introduced herself and provided an overview of her professional background as a computer science educator. She voiced her concerns how the changes in credentialing requirements to teach computer science will negatively impact her job as well as other computer science teachers in the State. Ms. Corbeil noted that there are 300+ computer certified science teachers in the New Hampshire and this year that pool of teachers is being divided between those teaching computer science and those helping teachers with technology in the classroom. As a result of these changes, Ms. Corbeil will have to file for Alternative 5 Site-Based Certification, paying \$50 and proving to the State that she is capable of doing a job she has been doing for 15 years.

While Ms. Corbeil fully supports the credentialing changes, she asks that the State look at grandfathering teachers who currently hold computer education certification with district documentation that they have been consecutively teaching 50% or more of computer science in the classroom

AGENDA ITEM IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2018

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to approve the meeting minutes of November 8, 2018, as amended.

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

AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Student/Gate City Charter School for the Arts ~ SB-FY-19-08-001

Speakers were duly sworn by Chairman Cline.

Ms. Barbara Baxter and Ms. Paula Finn spoke to the State Board about bullying incidents at Gate City Charter School for the Arts (GCCSA) involving each of their daughters. Explaining that the school never conducted an investigation into the bullying and both girls were not allowed to reenroll at the determination of the GCCSA's Board of Trustees.

The parents clarified that the girls did not withdraw from the school voluntarily.

Both girls then spoke to the State Board about the bullying they experienced at Gate City Charter School and how they felt they were blamed by teachers and administrators for speaking up, and how it made them feel.

Helen Honorow read from the Hearing Office's report the following, "the director testified that the other reason why the student was not allowed to re-enroll was because of the parent's behavior toward school staff was not positive" and asked Ms. Baxter and Ms. Finn which parent the Hearings Officer is referring to in his report. They responded that it was both.

Ms. Rebecca Frederickson, Director of Operations at Gate City Charter School for the Arts (GCCSA), expressed concern that she was not prepared to re-try the case and thought that they would only be addressing concerns with the process. Chairman Cline explained that they would not be retrying the case, but part of the process is to fill in any gaps that might be in the Hearings Officer's report in order to have a fuller picture before making a decision on the Hearing Officer's recommendation. Ms. Frederickson also noted that she was never notified that the other parties would be speaking today, which is required. Chairman Cline explained that the notice sent to all the parties indicated that each would be given an opportunity to speak.

Ms. Frederickson was sworn in and read her prepared statement, which was submitted to the State Board. She explained that she was not in the Director's position at the time these incidents occurred and that it was GCCSA's understanding was that the issue being brought before the State Board was re-enrollment, not the bullying allegations. Ms. Frederickson noted the report did not mention or note the families' very dramatic, very visual withdrawal from the school and GCCSA staff's statements related to it. When the families noted that they wanted to re-apply, their seats were already taken. Throughout the process, she stated that they have made every effort to be compliant in terms of providing information and following procedures. She acknowledged that the bullying investigation had not taken place and stated she was willing to follow the State's recommendation.

Chairman Cline asked for clarification on the re-enrollment. Ms. Frederickson explained that the class was full and the spots had been taken. She also explained that in addition to looking at the enrollment numbers she also took into consideration school culture and climate expectations. Chairman Cline asked Ms. Frederickson to elaborate on what is meant by school culture and climate expectations and noted in the report that there is a letter that cited truancy issues as the reason they were not allowed to re-enroll. He asked if there were other things factored into the decision to not re-enroll. Ms. Frederickson commented

that a lot of teachers were frightened by the parents and noted that there were a lot of issues with the families last year that were not properly documented.

Chairman Cline noted that the letter to not re-enroll only cites truancy and noted there is a huge gap between that and issues with parent behavior.

Cindy Chagnon asked if the school received a formal letter withdrawing the students from the school. Ms. Frederickson responded that the school had not received any such letter.

Kate Cassady asked if the school had a written policy or criteria on truancy and absences. Ms. Frederickson responded that there was not a written policy in place at the time and noted that they have one in place now.

Cindy Chagnon noted that the anti-bullying laws require a response within 48 hours. There is a fairly rigorous process that must be followed, and it is not pre-determined by a headmaster or board as to whether they think it happened. Ms. Frederickson explained that she was not the director at that time and was not sure why the process was not followed. She commented that when the parents requested the investigation, the director shared the emails and offered to begin the investigation. The parents asked him to recuse himself, and he passed that responsibility on to the school's board and their recommendation was based on that testimony. It was at the end of the school year and it took a couple of weeks for the school board to be able to hear the issues. Ms. Chagnon pointed out that the truancy was mainly during that two-week process, if she understood the timing right. Ms. Frederickson did not have a report about the situation when she became director, but there was an email that outlined the related events. That was the only information she had.

Chairman Cline asked for clarification on the recusal and when the Frederickson's knew about their daughter being part of the complaint. Ms. Frederickson explained that they were not aware of their daughter being involved with the bullying and that the issue before the school board at the time was regarding enrollment and not bullying and did not think they needed to recuse themselves. Ms. Frederickson mentioned that she obtained a copy of the police report and her daughter's name was not in the report.

Chairman Cline noted that the reason for the absences was bullying, and the cited reason for not re-enrolling was the absences making them clearly related.

Cindy Chagnon cited the Hearing Officer's report indicating that, "No evidence was provided that anyone performed any type of investigation regarding allegations in June or any prior allegations. The school did not make a formal determination if bullying actually occurred....". Ms. Frederickson agreed that an investigation did not happen and would like for one to take place.

Chairman Cline cited a letter from August to the parents in which it was stated that the appeal in regards to bullying would not be heard, as it was already addressed in the hearing in June. He noted that this was astonishing when there was no investigation to even determine if there was bullying.

Kate Cassady asked when Ms. Frederickson had started as director. Ms. Frederickson stated that she started in July.

It was agreed, after board discussion, that school staff be included in the investigation into the allegations of bullying.

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer's report and adopt the Hearing Officer's recommendations, thereby overturning Gate City Charter School's decision on re-enrollment and assigning an independent investigator to review the allegations of bullying.

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

B. Student/Hudson School District ~ SB-FY-19-11-005

Parent requested that this agenda item be withdrawn.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, that the State Board of Education accepts the motion to withdraw the request for dispute resolution from the parent.

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

A. Three Month Charter School updates

1. Capital City

Stephanie Alicea, Head of School, provided an update on Capital City Charter School. They currently have 32 students and provide school-based, in-service learning for sixth through eighth grade. There are approximately 11 seventh-graders and 18 eighth-graders. They are growing each year and adding a grade. Ms. Alicea shared photographs with the State Board, and shared some students' stories.

Ms. Alicea noted that there is additional space for classrooms at their current location. She also responded to a question raised about the sustainability of the school in that their projected enrollment the first year was 75 students.

2. Kreiva Academy

Michelle Mathieu, Director of Culture and Curriculum provided an update on Kreiva Academy and provided the State Board with printouts. Kreiva opened in a newly renovated building in downtown Manchester and have grown to 100 students, 3 administrators, 1 curriculum director, 9 teachers, 4 paras, 1 guidance counselor and 1 soon-to-be custodian. Ms. Mathieu noted that 80% of their students are from the Manchester area, 20% are students of color, and almost 30% qualify for special education. Kreiva is a project-based learning school, and next to none of the students enrolled come from that type of school environment. The staff and students are learning the approach together. Another challenge has been bringing students together who are not accustomed to a community-based collaborative environment. Creating its own culture has been an ongoing process for Kreiva Academy.

A question was raised regarding the Academy's restorative justice program. Ms. Mathieu's explained that restorative justice started in the legal system, and the essential theory behind it is instead of having a list of rules and consequences the students are looked at as being in a community with relationships. If a student makes an unfortunate choice, they look at what relationships were damaged in that choice, as well as the natural consequences. It brings students to a point of confidence and seeing eye-to-eye with their community and what is going on around them. Students are beginning to understand the concept of looking at the whole picture before making a judgment about ramifications or consequences. The State Board would like Ms. Bayer to return later to address the board and speak more about restorative justice and the results they have seen.

Ms. Mathieu provided an update on Kreiva's curriculum and alternative style classrooms.

In the original application, the projected enrollment was 144 students. Ms. Mathieu commented that they have adjusted their projections to make sure they are staying in line with the budget and with student needs. They are currently budgeting off of 80 students, which is their break even. There is room for growth, and next year they are proposing to grow with two more classrooms, which would put them between 135 and 145 students.

3. Windham Academy

Melinda Labo, School Director reported that Windham Academy opened in September and is a full-day kindergarten, first, second and third-grade school. It

is a STEM school with a strong foundation in reading and math. The teachers are all trained and certified and bring their knowledge from a variety of areas.

Two young gentlemen shared their experiences as third graders at Windham Academy with the State Board.

Ms. Labo updated the State Board on the specials that they include: art, let's play music, YMCA, mindfulness and movement, and appreciation of reading.

There are 17 students in each kindergarten class, and the teachers from different grades share and collaborate to help individual students and keep pace with their learning.

There are 70 additional students that are pre-registered, 45 of which are for the full-day kindergarten. They will have to use a lottery system for enrollment selection because they will not have seats for everyone that applies. Ms. Labo noted there are only two students who have confirmed they will not be returning and this is because they are moving from the area. The families with them truly want to stay.

Sally Griffin asked if they have bullying instances, and if so, how they deal with them. Ms. Labo reported that they follow a no-tolerance bullying policy; however, they have not had any instances of bullying. She mentioned that she has a lunch with the older students to talk with them about being role models for the younger students.

Ms. Labo praised the young gentlemen that spoke earlier to the State Board and noted that they are great role models for the younger students. The State Board thanked the young men for the wonderful job they did speaking today.

AGENDA ITEM VI. REPORTS, NEW BUSINESS and/or DEPARTMENT UPDATE

A. Charter Renewal Extension Requests

Jane Waterhouse, NHDOE, Charter School Administrator reported to the State Board that the charter school renewal process is not happening as quickly as she had hoped. She outlined the review process and noted that there just is not enough time to meet the deadlines she previously had set and were approved by the State Board. Ms. Waterhouse also mentioned that finding/hiring reviewers has been difficult. It was suggested to consider looking outside of New Hampshire for educators with public school experience and at other New Hampshire charter schools not up for renewal to obtain charter school experienced reviewers.

Ms. Waterhouse hopes to have caught up with all the renewals by or before the State Board's March meeting and is requesting renewal extensions based on the table below.

Charter School	Original Charter Approval Date	Original Expiration Date	SBOE Extension Approval Date	Extension Expiration Date	New Extension Requested	Anticipated SBOE Renewal Dates
Next	8/23/13	8/23/18	5/10/18	11/10/18	3 months	1/14/19
Founders	7/18/13	7/18/18	5/10/18	11/10/18	3 months	2/14/18
Mountain Village	7/18/13	7/18/18	6/13/18	12/13/18	3 month	1/14/19
Gate City	7/18/13	7/18/18	6/13/18	12/13/18	3 months	2/14/19
Granite State	8/19/13	8/18/18	7/11/18	1/11/19	3 months	3/14/19

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made a motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education authorize the extension of charter renewal requests for Next Charter School, Founders Academy Charter School, Mountain Village Charter School, Gate City Charter School for the Arts, and Granite State Arts Academy.

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

B. Virtual Learning Academy (VLACS) Charter Renewal

Jane Waterhouse, NHDOE, Charter School Administrator introduced herself as well as Steve Kossakowski, VLACS CEO. Ms. Waterhouse presented the charter renewal request for VLACS and noted that the site visit was very well organized, and the three reviewers unanimously recommended renewal.

She then went on to note that the school has continuously demonstrated its ability to deliver a quality education and engagement with its stakeholders. VLACS has a high level of academic achievement and over the years has refined and developed their competency-based customized learning experience program. The school has ably demonstrated a strong balance sheet and sound financial management and has a fund-raising plan that ensures its ability to meet financial goals. They have increased student enrollment while growing academically with sound practices of research and evidence-based practices and curricula.

The evaluation team felt that VLACS is setting trends for the future of education not only in New Hampshire but nationally and internationally.

Mr. Kossakowski noted that the VLACS' technology department is getting ready to launch a new system that will better support work-based learning in grades 9 through 12.

There was discussion about the security of student data and information. It was noted that VLACS operates from the perspective that it is never truly safe. They recently hired a contractor who works with banks to evaluate VLACS' data security and as a result they updated as well as changed some of their protocols.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made a motion, seconded by Ann Lane, pursuant to Ed 318.12 and Ed 318.13 that the State Board of Education, authorize the extension of the charter of Virtual Learning Academy.

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

C. New Hampshire School Building Authority's (NHSBA)
Recommendation of Prioritized School District Proposals in Descending Rank
Order

Gregory Hill, Chair, NHSBA introduced himself and presented to the State Board the NHSBA's recommendation of Prioritized School District Proposals in Descending Rank Order. He mentioned that Woodsville High School went to Court yesterday to request that they be granted the ability to have a special community district meeting to see if the community would allow for additional funding to go to a different project entirely. That community meeting will be held this Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Edelblut explained that this is a continuous process with multiple check-ins along the way before it is submitted to the legislature.

Mr. Hill reviewed the State guarantee option, and he felt additional discussion would need to take place between the Authority and the State Board regarding how to educate communities.

The State Board agreed that more time was needed to review the materials.

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made a motion, seconded by Ann Lane, to table this agenda item until next month.

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

D. Nonpublic School Approval for Thrive Program

Susan McLaughlin-Beltz, Executive Director at the Neurodevelopmental Institute of New Hampshire (NHNI) introduced herself and Thrive special education teacher, Andrew Kyriakoutsakos to the State Board. Ms. McLaughlin-Beltz explained that NHNI is an eight-bed residential treatment facility for children from birth to 21 years old. The program is designed for children who have experienced trauma and have been pulled from their homes due to abuse and/or neglect. They come to the agency for a 60-day assessment and treatment and noted that some placements are court ordered. The request for nonpublic school approval is to allow the school-aged children that are at NHNI to receive education because the local school district refuses to take these children into their schools.

Chairman Cline asked if Ms. McLaughlin-Beltz could explain to the State Board how a school district can refuse to take in these students. She explained a situation with a particular student, where the student resided in another school district before residing at NHNI in Manchester. Manchester asserted that it was the sending school district's responsibility and not theirs, even though the student was living in Manchester at NHNI. She acknowledged that there are children who cannot be maintained in the public schools, and NHNI wants to be able to provide education for these children with Thrive.

There was discussion about students with IEPs and court ordered placement at NHNI and the special education services nonpublic schools are allowed to offer. Commissioner Edelblut clarified that today's approval of Thrive as a nonpublic school does not include special education approval and noted that without special education approval the sending school district is responsible for providing special education services for court ordered placement of children with IEPs. Ms. McLaughlin-Beltz noted that they will be pursuing special education approval after Thrive is approved as a nonpublic school.

In response to a question about staff turnover, Ms. McLaughlin-Beltz noted that it was not an issue and explained that the internship program they offer involves quite a lot of training.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made a motion, seconded by Ann Lane, for the State Board of Education to approve the Thrive Educational Program as a non-public school for one year.

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

11 E. School Bullying Report for School Year 2017-2018 per RSA 193-F:6,

Attorney Diana Fenton and Stephen Berwick from the Department's Governance Unit presented 2017-2018 school year bullying report to the State Board. Attorney Fenton explained that the report had been submitted to the legislature and was before the State Board today as information only and was happy to answer any questions the State Board might have about the report.

Cindy Chagnon asked if charter schools are included in the report to which Stephen Berwick responded affirmatively.

Phil Nazzaro asked how these numbers compared to the previous year. Mr. Berwick noted that the number of incidents had decreased, but did note that cyber bullying continues to remain prominent. Mr. Nazzaro asked if there are any trends (i.e., increases, decreases, shifting from age groups, etc.) to which Mr. Berwick did not have an answer, explaining that the report follows the law which does not include analysis of the data. Commissioner Edelblut stated that the Department would be happy to put a chart together and was asked if the data could go back 10 years.

Sally Griffin asked how long the "Jesse Lewis Choose Love" program has been in the New Hampshire schools and asked about its effectiveness. Commissioner Edelblut explained that it was brand new and with the support of the Governor was implemented this fall.

Chairman Cline asked if "reported incident" could be defined. Attorney Fenton understands it to be that an incident has been "reported" to school administration. Chairman Cline noted that many bullying incidents go unreported and undocumented and wondered if at the state level if something could be done to coach/train and encourage students to come forward.

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made a motion, seconded by Ann Lane, for the State Board of Education to accept the School Bullying Report for School Year 2017-2018 per RSA 193-F:6, II

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

F. Council of Teacher Education Recommendations/Updates

Michael Seidel, Director, Division of Educator Support and Higher Education for the NHDOE introduced himself, as well as Mary Earick, Director, Holmes Center for School Partnerships and Educator Preparation; Brian Walker, Coordinator of Clinical Experiences and School Partnerships for Plymouth State

University; Mary Ford, Interim Dean, School of Education at Southern New Hampshire University.

Mr. Seidel provided the State Board with an overview of the review processes for both Plymouth State University's educator preparation program reviews bulleted below.

- Recommendation for a two-year conditional approval of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) reviewed Plymouth State University (PSU) Professional Educator Preparation Programs (15)
- Recommendation for a two-year conditional approval of the Council of Teacher Education (CTE) and Department of Education (DOE) reviewed PSU Professional Educator Preparation Programs (5)

Helen Honorow asked if the recommendation from the CTE is for conditional approval because unlike CAEP the State does not have a nomenclature for probationary status. Mr. Seidel responded that this is correct and that the State's status options are approval, conditional approval, or non-approval.

Helen Honorow expressed concern about transparency. She asked if the information regarding the outcome of the reviews had gone out to students, and/or parents, or anyone who needs the information regarding the probationary status. Mary Earick, Director, Holmes Center for School Partnerships and Educator Preparation introduced herself and noted that she had started in this position last December shortly after the CAEP visit. Ms. Earick made the following three clarifications:

1. PSU won their appeal because there were inaccuracies in the report. In October 2019, CAEP will be making a targeted visit to PSU to remove all stipulations. Probationary status is for two years, CAEP is waiving one year because the outcome of the appeals process clearly communicated to CAEP that there were missteps in their process.
2. In the second memo that was submitted as part of the State Board's meeting packet, on Page 2, the memo makes the statement that PSU did not discuss the stipulations made by CAEP to the State reviewers, and explained that was because in March, when the State did their visit, PSU was not in danger of revocation. Revocation was not on the table until April when the national CAEP board added additional stipulations that PSU never saw and then revoked its licensure. PSU's appeal addressed the inaccuracy of the addition of stipulations after the site visit. The national CAEP panel found that their site visit team was given evidence to meet the standards, noted it in the report, but

didn't tell PSU to upload it to an online bank. The CAEP site visit team took the documents with them.

3. During the appeal it was also noted that PSU had a plan and was putting a data collection system in place in response to CAEP's 2013 requirement. This was part of the information that was taken by the CAEP site team but not submitted in their report.

It was clarified that PSU currently holds a probationary status with CAEP. Ms. Honorow asked what was currently posted to the website regarding this status. Ms. Earick stated that PSU is waiting to be provided by CAEP language to post to the website and anticipate receiving that language this month. Ms. Honorow asked what was posted now and communicated to faculty, staff, students and parents about PSU's probationary status with CAEP.

Chairman Cline noted that PSU had a statement/press release issued on June 12, 2018 stating that PSU is reevaluating national accreditation of its educator preparation programs and asked where PSU is in this process. Ms. Earick stated that in March 2019 PSU will be undergoing a full site visit from the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP). AAQEP is a new national accreditation organization that focuses on innovation and multiple measures. PSU is pursuing this accreditation in addition to CAEP.

Chairman Cline asked why PSU is waiting for CAEP for language to post to their website. Ms. Earick explained that PSU wants to make sure what is posted about CAEP's accreditation is correct.

Ms. Earick was urged to contact CAEP immediately for this language so this information can be posted and made clear to anyone reading it that PSU's CAEP accreditation is a probationary status. Ms. Earick agreed to follow up with CAEP as well as send a status update to students. She agreed that the status update will be going out next week and will send the information to Ms. Adams to distribute to the State Board.

The following motion includes the Council of Teacher Education's (CTE) recommendation for the 15 CAEP-reviewed PSU Professional Educator Preparation Programs and the 5 CTE- and DOE-reviewed PSU Professional Educator Preparation Programs.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made a motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, for the State Board of Education to grant conditional program approval for two years through May 31, 2020, for the following Professional Educator Preparation Programs at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire: early childhood education, elementary

education, K8, K6, English language arts for grade 5-12, English for speakers of other languages, general special education, health education, mathematics, educational technology integrator, physical education, social studies for grades 5-12, special education administrator, school principal, school superintendent, school psychologist, library media specialist, visual arts, mathematics 5-8, music education, school counselor, and curriculum administrator.

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

- Recommendation for approval of Upper Valley Educators Institute's (UVEI) progress report on its Bachelor of Arts in Visual Art

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made a motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education grant full program approval through August 2022 for the following Professional Educator Preparation Program at Upper Valley Educator's Institute (UVEI) in Lebanon, New Hampshire: Bachelor of Arts in Visual Art.

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

G. Rules Update

Chairman Cline thanked Anne Wallace, Professional Standards Board (PSB), Chair and Amanda Phelps, NHDOE, Administrative Rules Coordinator for all their hard work in providing a comprehensive list of all administrative rules being drafted or amended by Department staff or the PSB.

The rules were then summarized and reviewed for the State Board.

AGENDA ITEM VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

A. Initial Proposal - Learn Everywhere Program for Alternative Programs for High School Graduation Credit (Ed 1400)

Commissioner Edelblut introduced this initial proposal by telling a story about students having fun working late in the evening frantically building a robot and realized that these students would still be faced with homework when they arrived home and realized that the learning taking place building the robot would not count towards anything.

He then spoke about a rhetorical question Elliot Washor poses in his book, *Leaving to Learn: How Out-of-School Learning Increases Student Engagement and Reduces Dropout Rates* ~ “What if there were ways to provide and give credit for learning wherever or whenever it occurred?”

The commissioner spoke about reviewing the Ed 306 rules adopted by the State Board in 2005 that state “*we should harness all available community resources, including but not limited to: organizations, businesses, talented individuals, natural resources and technology to engage each student in achieving the necessary skills and knowledge that they need to move forward...*”. This program is crafted around this idea and is an aspiration to make it a reality. This rule/program will allow a broader section of students to achieve those opportunities. Students engaged in their own learning and education have better outcomes.

Commissioner Edelblut emphasized that this is an initial proposal that is now open to additional input. He noted that in crafting the proposal, input from many stakeholders and industry experts were gathered from within New Hampshire as well as the country.

Commissioner Edelblut explained that the program would utilize existing processes and would follow a similar application process as that of charter schools. It would unbundle to the education process by credentialing programs, not just schools. Cindy Chagnon voiced concern that some of the smaller organizations might have difficulty getting through the approval process. Commissioner Edelblut hoped that the feedback gathered over the next 60 days of getting this initial proposal out would help iron out and answer some of these questions.

Cindy Chagnon asked how this program will affect educational learning opportunities (ELOs). Commissioner Edelblut explained that this program will make it easier for ELO coordinators because it will create multiple paths for their students to pursue.

Helen Honorow thanked Commissioner Edelblut for meeting with each of the board members and giving them a “heads up” about this initial proposal. After reading more of the proposal she was unable to see how this program would help reduce the equity gap because it would be people who would have to purchase these services. She is very concerned about the State Board being a licensing agency. Ms. Honorow also looked at the Met School and it is an extraordinary program, but at the heart of their program are certified teachers that are never outside of the process. She’s concerned about staffing capacity and wondered why we wouldn’t focus on helping school districts develop ELOs where you still have an educator involved.

Commissioner Edelblut responded that these were great points and questions and that is the value of the rulemaking process where changes or modifications can be made as we gather input from a broader range of stakeholders.

Commissioner Edelblut noted that the State Board in 2011 authorized a consulting firm to do a formal study of ELOs emphasizing the importance and value of creating opportunities to gain learning outside of school. That report emphasized the urgency of the need. This need has yet to be delivered and he questioned whether it is because of the report or the structure that currently exists and perhaps a program such as this would help realize this need by soliciting a broader constituency of stakeholders to really help support public education so that all our children can get those opportunities that we have aspired to for many, many years.

Chairman Cline noted that there are many at risk youth programs, such as soccer leagues, which once approved, would provide opportunities for children from low income families to receive Physical Education (PE) credit as just one example. He also mentioned the same for martial arts, auto mechanic classes, boys and girls clubs, etc. He envisions many organizations, such as the Manchester Police Athletic League, that already offer free at-risk youth programs might be interested in credentialing their programs. He sees this as a way to address the equity gap and create opportunities that would otherwise not be available for high school credit.

Ann Lane noted that time is a limited resource and sees this program as a way to give value to children's time.

MOTION: Ann Lane made a motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, for the State Board of Education to approve the initial proposal for Ed 1400 relative to the Learn Everywhere Program and hold a public hearing for the rule on February 14, 2019.

VOTE: The motion was approved by a 4 to 1 vote of the Board with the Chairman voting.

B. Initial Proposal - School Year (Ed 306.18)

Amy Clark, NHDOE, Administrator, School Safety and Facility Management Bureau spoke to the State Board and noted that this rule often frustrates or puts an additional burden on schools when there are a lot of snow days. She explained that the rule as it currently exists does not allow schools to graduate seniors more than five days before the rest of the grades. If a school has more than five snow days, graduations have to be moved, which puts an added burden on the schools, venues and families. This rule corrects that issue.

MOTION: Ann Lane made a motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, for the State Board of Education to approve the initial proposal for ED 306.18

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

AGENDA ITEM VIII. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

There was no open board discussion.

AGENDA ITEM IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discuss program assurance letter language from St. Anselm College, University of New Hampshire and Granite State College to the State Board for last month's approved requests for their professional educator preparation program approval extensions.

There was discussion and the following language is what should be used in the assurance letters to the State Board, "We assure the State Board of Education that our Professional Educator Preparation Programs adhere to the New Hampshire State regulations..."

AGENDA ITEM X. TABLED ITEMS

There were no tabled items.

AGENDA ITEM XI. NONPUBLIC SESSION

The Board went in to a non-meeting to consult with their attorney.

There was no nonpublic session.

AGENDA ITEM XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

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



Secretary