

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Department of Education
Londergan Hall, Room 100F
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301
Minutes of the January 10, 2019 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, NH. Drew Cline presided as Chairman.

Members present: Kate Cassady, Cindy C. Chagnon, Drew Cline, Helen G. Honorow, Ann Lane and Phil Nazzaro. Sally Griffin was unable to attend due to another commitment. Christine Brennan, 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

Kate Cassady led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael and Susan Lawton, Manchester, NH

Mr. Lawton read a letter from him and his wife, and submitted it into the public record. The Lawton's expressed strong support for The Founders Academy Public Charter School (TFA). They also provided written commentary from other parents not in attendance, requesting they be entered into the public record.

Bonnie Dunham, Merrimack, NH

Ms. Dunham was impressed with the New Hampshire Career Academy's preparing students to enter directly into a career. She requested the implementation team include constituents involved with children with disabilities, such as representatives from The Parent Information Center, New Hampshire Association of Special Education Administrations, and Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Chairman clarified that the New Hampshire Career Academy has not yet come before the State Board for approval and it is still early in the process.

Eric Hubbard, Londonderry, NH

Mr. Hubbard spoke in support of The Founders Academy Public Charter School (TFA), stating any items he brought to TFA's attention were remedied. His daughter (a junior) and son (6th grader) enjoy attending TFA and not being able to continue to attend would be a mistake.

Moira Ryan, New Hampshire Autism Advocates

As an advocate for disabled children, Ms. Ryan supports opportunities for children with disabilities. She noted that schools are required to have written policies on restraints, but restraints require the approval of a medical doctor to prevent harm to children. She feels one cannot go through a 3-hour training and be proficient in restraints. Schools have the option of a no-restraint policy, so she requested the State Board review this. Ms. Ryan noted that she will be providing today's testimony in writing.

Adam McWhirter, Merrimack, NH

Mr. McWhirter thanked the board members for their service and spoke in support of the renewal of The Founders Academy Public Charter School's (TFA) charter. He noted that he had also sent the State Board an email which he will submit again today. Mr. McWhirter has two children, one who has been attending TFA since it opened in 2014, and the second is planning to attend next year. He noted that his daughter is thriving at TFA, enjoying classes and staying engaged due to the caring teachers at TFA. He and his wife look forward to the time when his children will have graduated from TFA.

Tom Huot, Manchester, NH

Mr. Huot is the parent of two 8th grade students attending The Founders Academy Public Charter School (TFA). He stated that comments made by a parent at the State Board's November meeting in no way reflect the experiences or opinions of his family or most parents he knows at the school. He is not aware of any family leaving TFA because it did not follow its charter, and feels many have chosen TFA due to parent recommendation. He did note that there are parents that left TFA and took to social media creating the perception that TFA administrators/teachers do not address concerns. His family has experienced the opposite; TFA instills leadership in students, particularly seen with the President of the Student Senate, as well as seniors having been accepted to colleges or the military. He submitted written statements for the public record from parents unable to attend.

Jennifer Nelson, Amherst, NH

Ms. Nelson spoke in support of The Founders Academy Public Charter School (TFA) and requested that her email to the State Board be entered into the public record. At TFA, her son is happy and thriving academically, socially, and emotionally, and is especially doing well in English and History. A problem they had previously was resolved satisfactorily. She is dismayed that a few parents, still choosing to send their students to TFA, are causing chaos for the other 300-plus students.

Noelle Taku , Merrimack, NH

Ms. Taku noted that she and other parents emailed the State Board their support of The Founders Academy Public Charter School (TFA) last week. Her experience, along with other parents she has spoken to, contradicts testimony by Patrice Benard at the State Board's November 8, 2018 meeting. Ms. Taku's two children, who chose to attend TFA, love the school and are involved with clubs and activities. She read from a letter written by her son indicating that TFA's high standards push him to do his best. She is a member of the PTA and volunteers at the school and disagrees that TFA mismanages funding. She noted that Ms. Benard posted to Facebook the salaries of TFA teachers and questioned her motives. Ms. Taku requested that the TFA charter be renewed.

Bevin Anderson, Nashua, NH

Ms. Bevin thanked the board members for their service. As a parent, she is advocating for the renewal of The Founders Academy Public Charter School's (TFA) charter. Her daughter is thriving at the school; taking classes well above her grade level. She has served as a substitute teacher and has seen first-hand the dedication of the staff, including quick responses to problems. TFA administrators rise to the challenge despite budgetary constraints. She also submitted an email from her husband in support of the TFA charter renewal to submit for the public record.

Elizabeth Sanville, Manchester, NH

Ms. Sanville read from a letter in support of The Founders Academy Public Charter School (TFA) written by her daughter, who is thriving at TFA. In the letter her daughter states that at her previous school no one noticed her above-level math ability because she barely did homework, often did not attend, and still got good grades. At TFA she has to show up and do the work, and can do extra work if she is not being challenged enough or get help from teachers at another time if struggling. At TFA, her children get individual attention and teachers develop a personal relationship with students and families. Her daughter made National Honor Society and won a college scholarship; her sophomore daughter is ready for college classes due to being challenged at TFA;

and she wishes for her other children to attend TFA. She became the current President of PTSA to work with the TFA administration to make the school the best charter school in Manchester.

Jill Cote, Manchester, NH

Ms. Cote submitted her written testimony for the public record in support of The Founders Academy Public Charter School (TFA). She added that the teachers really helped her children when they were struggling. Her son went from writing a paragraph for an assignment to completing an entire research paper without her help, while her daughter is getting A's. She requests that TFA's charter be renewed.

Annabelle Cote, Manchester, NH

Ms. Cote is a student at The Founders Academy Public Charter School (TFA) and has received the support she has needed from teachers at TFA, which has really benefited her. The TFA community is respectful and mindful of students' desires to learn and get as much as they can out of each school day.

Callen Cote, The Founders Academy Student

Mr. Cote is a student at The Founders Academy Public Charter School (TFA) and receives quick responses from teachers when he needs help. His writing has improved due to teachers helping him even as late as 9 or 10 p.m. TFA's teachers help students individually if needed because they want them to learn.

Patrice Benard, Manchester, NH

Ms. Benard received an email from the Chairman at The Founders Academy Public Charter School (TFA) that was sent to parents showing the letter revoking the first and second order and the TFA appeal. She noted that first speaker, Mrs. Lawton, serves on the TFA Board. Ms. Benard brought a 9-page list of material violations. She thinks she was lied about in the appeal and wants a copy of it. She noted that she had reached out to State Board members, not knowing it was against the rules, and apologized for doing so. She speaks for herself and people she has talked to, stating that of the 100 families that started at TFA only 30 are left. The charter requires parental involvement, but at the last TFA Board meeting, they voted on everything first and heard public comment after, which indicated to her that they do not want to hear parent comment. She thanked the board members for their report and taking care of taxpayer's money. She still seeks a remedial plan.

Lisa Dean, Stratham, NH

Ms. Dean has two daughters attending the Cooperative Middle School, which is a part of SAU 16. She is speaking to bring awareness to the suicide of an SAU 16 8th grader on December 20, 2018 and feels something needs to be done. After the suicide, John Broderick responded to her and will be presenting to the community, as well as the Governor, Commissioner, State Senator and State Representatives. She urged everyone to attend and support the community. Parents need more education on this subject. She read some statistics from Mr. Broderick on mental illness and depression. There have been more than a couple of suicides in SAU 16 over the last 6 years. She will make sure the State Board is provided information on Judge Broderick's upcoming presentation in Exeter, NH.

AGENDA ITEM IV. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made a motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, to approve the minutes of December 13, 2018, as amended.

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

AGENDA ITEM V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Code of Conduct Requirement (Ed 505.08 and Ed 610.01)

The Public Hearing opened at 9:30 AM and closed at 10:00 AM with no public commentary.

AGENDA ITEM VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Student/Rye School Board - SB-FY-18-02-011

The parents of the student chose to have the hearing held in non-public session.

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon to move into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(c).

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll call vote at 10:45 AM by State Board of Education members, Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Drew Cline, Phil Nazzaro and Helen Honorow.

MOTION: Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer's Report and deny the Hearing Officer's Recommendation thereby overturning the Rye School Board's decision on re-assignment due to Manifest Educational Hardship.

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

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro to leave non-public session and return to public session.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll call vote at 12:45 PM by State Board of Education members, Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Drew Cline, Phil Nazzaro and Helen Honorow.

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane that the State Board of Education seal the minutes of the non-public session.

VOTE: The motion was approved by roll call vote by State Board of Education members, Ann Lane, Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Drew Cline, Phil Nazzaro and Helen Honorow.

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

A. Mountain Village Charter School (MVCS) Charter Renewal

The following MVCS Board of Trustees were in attendance, Rebecca Faulkner Hegarty, David Goldstein, Frank McClain, and Jamie Hannon, as well as Head of School, Katy Gautsch.

Ms. Jane Waterhouse, NHDOE, Charter School Administrator, noted that that MVCS's charter expired on July 18, 2018, and is currently on its 2nd renewal extension. She then presented the review team's findings and concluded with the review team's recommendation to renew MVCS's charter.

Discussion ensued amongst members of the State Board, Katy Gautsch, MVCS's Head of School and MVCS's Board of Trustees on the review team's three areas of concern.

1. Low math scores.

2. Limited qualitative/quantitative data to identify strengths and weaknesses in the program.
3. Lack of a technology in the program.

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 authorizes the renewal of the charter of *Mountain Village Charter School* with a report to the State Board that will include an update on their use of technology in the program in one year.

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

B. Next Charter School (NCS) Charter Renewal

Mr. Joe Crawford, NCS Director introduced Kim Crowley, NCS Capstone Coordinator and Justin Krieger, an NCS student. Mr. Joe Crawford, School Director, noted that NCS's charter expired on August 23, 2018, and is currently on its second extension.

Ms. Jane Waterhouse, NHDOE, Charter School Administrator, presented the review team's findings and concluded with the review team's recommendation to renew NCS's charter.

The State Board asked for clarification on the graduation rate as stated in the report. Mr. Crawford explained that NCS students have individual learning plans and are not grouped by grade level. Students are only awarded credits when they meet all the state competencies so they may not graduate in exactly 4 years. This accounts for the 44% rate, which reflects a 4-year graduation rate. Mr. Crawford also noted that students are designated as being in 11th grade when their Capstone is approved.

It was asked if NCS was exceeding the state minimum coursework required for graduation. Mr. Crawford stated that NCS follows the state minimum of 20 credits, 6 consisting of electives. He noted that most NCS students graduate with more than 20 credits. NCS uses 3 elective credits for their field-based internship program, 2 elective credits for public exhibitions of work hosted by the school, and 1 elective credit for social engagement.

Mr. Crawford addressed the concern raised that 43% of NCS students have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and noted that this increases to 50% if you include students with 504 plans. He explained the history of the school and that they were originally approached by the Derry school district to start a small program that would meet the needs of a specific set of students that were falling through the cracks or got lost in a larger environment. As a result NCS tends to

attract students disengaged with the traditional system. Mr. Crawford felt size matters when modeling appropriate social interactions and creating student buy-in and explained that they learned early on that by creating smaller, personal spaces for students and dealing with discipline issues on the front end creates positive outcomes. He noted that violence and drug use are not problems at NCS. Ms. Crowley added that the staff meets with student families every 20-25 days, so there is a strong connection with the advisor and the student/family.

Mr. Krieger, a student at NCS shared his experiences at the school with the State Board. He described struggling in 7th and 8th grade because the traditional school he was attending was so linear in their curriculum. NCS's program allows him to take his time. He was even able to go back and retake some basic courses in order to better understand advanced concepts.

MOTION: Ann Lane made a motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, pursuant to Ed 318.12 and Ed 318.13, that the State Board of Education authorizes the renewal of the charter of *Next Charter School*.

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

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

Amy Clark, NHDOE Administrator, School Safety and Facility Management Bureau, clarified and provided historical information on the NHSBA selection process.

She noted that this year the NHSBA received 20 applications. NHSBA rates the projects and submits their ranking to the State Board for approval. Projects are rated by square footage of renovated space, size of the school, building aid rate, cost, and aid amount. She explained that once a school applies for aid, they cannot propose a bond to their local district, so proposals ready to start in March say "subject to receiving building aid."

Chairman Cline noted that the rule not allowing the funding of retro projects is punishing schools because they cannot move forward with the moratorium in place.

Representative Rick Ladd, author of the bill, spoke to the State Board and explained that the intent of the bill was that if the first 3 projects take \$9 million and \$1 million is leftover, the 4th on the list can take the \$1 or hold off and get more the following year.

It was noted that the ranking system only took into consideration the project a school applied for and did not take into account any increases. Some modifications are allowed; however, the NHSBA determines what a substantial modification is versus a regular one.

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made a motion, seconded by Ann Lane, to approve NHSBA Recommendation of Prioritized School District Proposal in Descending Rank Order.

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

D. State Guarantee Process

Greg Hill, NHSBA Chair explained another type of state aid is the state guarantee process, which goes through the Governor's Executive Council and has a \$95 million cap. If the state financial position is rated higher than the municipal bond bank, the local community could be borrowing less money by using the state rating, rather than municipal bonding. If a request for building aid were to be rejected, there is still the option to go through the state guarantee process. He did note that there have only been 2 applications over the last 10 years.

E. Council for Teacher Education Recommendations/Updates

1. Update from 20 December Council for Teacher Education (CTE) Meeting

Ashlee Stetser, NHDOE, Administrator, Bureau of Educator Preparation and Higher Education updated the State Board regarding confusion over background check requirements for students enrolled in educator preparation programs having a NH-only background check and for students placed into SAUs as a volunteer or designated volunteer. She noted that the rule that governs background checks is RSA 189.13A. Ms. Stetser is working with NHDOE Attorney Diana Fenton and the Department of Safety to provide a technical advisory.

She was asked the reason for two background check requirements (*NH-only and national*) upon entering an educator preparation program in NH. Ms. Stetser explained that colleges cannot conduct national background checks for the FBI.

2. Rivier University's First Priority Progress Report.

Ms. Stetser introduced Dr. Diane Monico, Associate Professor and Director for Education Programs and Practicum Experiences, who was present to answer questions. In December 2017, Rivier University was granted a 2-year conditional approval to expire December 2019. The State Board voted to have Rivier submit two priority progress reports, the first in September 2018 and the second in March 2019. The first progress report satisfied all the CTE and Board requirements. The second progress report will be presented at the State Board's April 2019 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

A. Discuss/Review - Draft Computer Science (CS) Minimum Standards (Ed 306.44)

Nate Green, NHDOE Administrator, Office of Academics and Professional Learning explained that a committee within Office of Academics and Professional Learning working with the Professional Standards Board (PSB) created the draft in response to House Bill 1674, which added Computer Science (CS) to minimum adequate education in New Hampshire. The State Board was provided in their meeting packets a draft proposal as well as comments from public forum sessions, many of which also include teacher certification, which is not reflected in Ed 306.44. Robin Cobeil, a CS teacher's public comment testimony about the minimum standards from a previous State Board meeting are also included. Mr. Greene noted that some comments indicate the feeling that CS should not be a requirement. Legislation only requires that CS classes be offered as an option.

It was suggested that on page B1A, "foster an inclusive computing culture that incorporates personal, ethical, social, economic, and cultural contexts when considering the needs of diverse users of computational products," be simplified to "foster an inclusive computer culture." That section takes into account encouraging women and underserved populations in STEM. The Board agreed with changing the language to be more clear-cut.

Mr. Greene noted that NH schools, especially middle schools, are implementing CS programs. Kindergarten is not included in the draft, but the elementary school level is included. For additional clarification, "computational thinking" in the draft is the design process of taking a large problem and learning how to break it into small, manageable steps. It was suggest that the definition be added to the draft. It was also suggested that a definition be included for "develop and use abstractions to manage complexity."

B. Initial Proposal - Technology & Engineering Teacher (Ed 507.05)

The proposal for Technology & Engineering Teacher does not expire until August 2019, so it was tabled to the February meeting.

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made a motion, seconded by Ann Lane, to table the Technology & Engineering Teacher proposal to the February 2019 meeting.

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

C. Initial Proposal - Custodian of Records (Ed 502.03)

Steve Appleby, NHDOE Administrator, Bureau of Credentialing & Closed School Transcripts, explained that this proposal is from the Professional Standards Board (PSB) to change/update the Custodian of Records rule. One change to the rule includes a time limit on how long records are kept, as well as how long a record be kept if an educator's credentials are revoked or denied for any reason. Mr. Appleby noted that currently there are approximately 65,000 pre-digital archived records, going back about 100 years being stored in the basement of the NHDOE. This proposal would allow purging of deceased educator records. Active records will be scanned and prioritized.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made a motion, seconded by Kate Cassady, to approve the initial proposal for Ed 502.03 relative to Custodian of Records and hold a public hearing for these rules on March 14, 2019.

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

The Chairman suggested to Mr. Appleby that the records might be of interest to state archivists or historical researchers.

AGENDA ITEM IX. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Helen Honorow asked if Plymouth State University had followed up or provided an update on communications regarding their educator preparation programs. Commissioner Edelblut will reach out to them for an update.

Ann Lane suggested having Kelly Untiet from the NHDOE's Office of Student Wellness give a similar presentation to the one she gave on January 7, 2019 on Social Emotional Learning to the State Board.

Angela Adams will provide the board with information on Judge Broderick's Change Direction Campaign community forum next week in Exeter. It would be worthwhile to attend his presentation.

AGENDA ITEM X. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

AGENDA ITEM XI. TABLED ITEMS

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made a motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, to remove this agenda item from the table.

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

AGENDA ITEM XII. NONPUBLIC SESSION

There was no nonpublic session.

AGENDA ITEM XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Helen Honorow made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

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



Secretary