

New Hampshire  
**State Board of Education**  
Department of Education  
Londergan Hall, Room 100F  
101 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
Minutes of July 11, 2019 Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:23 a.m. at the Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH. Drew Cline presided as Chairman.

Members present: Kate Cassady, Drew Cline, Chairman, Sally Griffin, Helen Honorow, Ann Lane, and Phil Nazzaro. Cindy Chagnon was not able to attend due to a prior commitment. Frank Edelblut, Commissioner of Education and Christine Brennan, Deputy Commissioner were also present.

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Sally Griffin led the pledge of allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carolyn Leite, Vice President, National Education Association of New Hampshire (NEA-NH), said she was dismayed when, at the last State Board meeting, during a discussion of Learn Everywhere, the chairman said the State Board should not be dictated by educators when developing policy. She stated that the State Board should welcome input from educators and follow up with them when developing policy and noted that Learn Everywhere did not seek this input.

Also, the State Board should be vocal about the education funding crisis, especially now that the Governor has vetoed the largest funding aid increase in decades. She asked why the State Board isn't fighting for the resources that communities need. The role of the State Board is to provide leadership, support and oversight of the State's education system and should consider that several New Hampshire communities are wondering how they will get funding.

Bonnie Dunham of the Parent Information Center (PIC) announced that Santana Thibedeau will be leaving her position as State Director of Special Education and NHDOE Administrator of Student Support Services. She thanked Ms. Thibedeau for everything she has done over the past 15 years to improve opportunities for children with disabilities, maintain the quality of the special education system and support positive system changes. She noted that under

Ms. Thibedeau's stewardship, outcomes for children with disabilities in New Hampshire have been among the highest in the nation, which may be why she was elected to the Office of President of the National Association of State Directors of Special Education. She thanked Ms. Thibedeau for her time and wished her well in her future endeavors.

#### **AGENDA ITEM IV. NONPUBLIC SCHOOL APPROVAL**

##### **A. Lupine Montessori School**

Emily Robarts, Head of School at Lupine Montessori School, provided an overview of the school, a Montessori-based preschool, toddler program and lower elementary school in Littleton, NH. Currently the school has 13 preschoolers, 5 toddlers and 1 kindergartener enrolled. Next year, they expect to have 5 kindergarteners and a few first graders.

Ms. Helen Honorow asked about the mission statement passage, "we are registered as an independent school through the New Hampshire Department of Education." Ms. Robarts explained that in order to include kindergarten and first and second grade, it must be registered as an independent school instead of a childcare licensed facility.

**MOTION:** Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education accept and approve the Commissioner's Nonpublic School Initial Approval Status Report for Lupine Montessori School for compulsory attendance purposes only.

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

Ms. Ann Lane added a proviso that the school include in all its marketing and other materials that its State approval is for compulsory attendance only.

##### **B. Acton Academy**

Mary MacIntosh, Head of School at Acton Academy, provided an overview of the school, which is the first school in New Hampshire and one of three in New England to adopt an educational model established in Austin, TX. There are currently 136 schools around the world using this model, with approximately 8,000 enrolled students.

Chairman Cline asked about the school's status. Ms. MacIntosh explained that it is part of a network of schools. It shares its name and curriculum with the

primary school in Austin; however, it is a New Hampshire entity that is part of an affiliate network.

Ms. Honorow asked about the range of ages. Ms. MacIntosh said it ranges between ages 5 through 12 because it is a K-6 school and some sixth graders are 12 years old.

Ms. Honorow noted that the advertising materials must state explicitly the school is approved for compulsory attendance purposes only. Commissioner Edelblut assured the State Board that the NHDOE's Office on Nonpublic Schools will communicate this new language requirement to all the nonpublic schools.

Ms. Lane asked if the school holds any accreditation. Ms. MacIntosh noted that it does with the International Association of Learner Driven Schools (IALDS), and New Hampshire Intercollegiate Athletic Association (NHIAA).

**MOTION:** Helen Honorow made the following motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, that the State Board of Education accept and approve the Commissioner's Nonpublic School Initial Approval Status Report for Acton Academy for compulsory attendance purposes only and that all materials issued by the Acton Academy indicate this approval.

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

### C. Summit Christian Academy

Lori Peters, Head of School at Summit Christian Academy, provided an overview of the school's mission and teaching philosophy. So far, 49 students are enrolled and another 40 are interested in enrolling. The school is K-12 but leans more heavily towards high school students.

Chairman Cline asked about the discipline model. Ms. Peters said a lot of schools focus on getting students to conform to a standard without addressing the issues underlying the behavior. Summit will provide behavior standards to students and will also examine what might be causing the bad behavior and work to address those issues as well as the bad behavior at the same time.

**MOTION:** Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, that the State Board of Education accept and approve the Commissioner's Nonpublic School Initial Approval Status Report for Summit Christian for compulsory attendance purposes only and that all materials issued by the Summit Christian Academy indicate this approval.

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

D. Chesterbrook School of Natural Learning

Sarah Surette, Head of School and Founder of Chesterbrook School of Natural Learning, described the mission and activities at her school, a fully licensed outdoor-based education program with 46 students currently enrolled.

Ms. Lane noted that the State Board has no jurisdiction over preschool learning and asked how the curriculum might motivate a child who might be introverted and would not take the initiative to learn. Ms. Surette recounted a story of a student who was introverted in the classroom but suddenly wanted to explore everything once he went outside. His teacher built a curriculum around what he found fascinating and he started to show progress in skills like story writing. By finding his passion, he was able to learn. Most of the time, this passion is found in the outdoors.

Ms. Surette was asked about the school's lack of accreditations to which she responded that once the school receives nonpublic school approval the school will then pursue accreditation options.

Chairman Cline commented on the school's not having a board of directors and though not required for this approval, suggested that a board could provide support and be helpful in matters like finances and oversight. Ms. Surette said she is working on determining who the board would be comprised of and expressed her concern about losing control of the school.

Ms. Honorow asked why the school is not auditing its financials. Ms. Surette said she was not sure what would be required for an audit; however, the school has an accountant and will be hiring an in-house professional to handle all financial matters.

MOTION: Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education accept and approve the Commissioner's Nonpublic School Initial Approval Status Report for the Chesterbrook School of Natural Learning for compulsory attendance purposes only and that all materials issued by the Chesterbrook School of Natural Learning indicate this approval.

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

E. Namaste Montessori School

Susan Demont, Head of School at Namaste Montessori School, introduced Jessica Clark, lead teacher in the elementary program, and requested that the school, which currently has grades 1-3, be expanded to include grades 4-6.

Chairman Cline noted that the materials provided were not sufficient for the State Board to vote and grant program approval for grades 4-6. However, with the materials that were submitted, and knowing the school's grade 1-3 program is already approved, they could vote and grant approval for compulsory attendance today. Chairman Cline invited the school to come back once more substantial materials for the grade 4-6 program were submitted.

Ms. Lane asked if the school has applied for accreditation. Ms. Clark said they are in the process of being accredited by the American Montessori Society and are in the final steps of a two year process. Ms. Lane explained that the school must have the accreditation before they can seek approval for the new grades.

MOTION: Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education accept and approve the Commissioner's Nonpublic School Approval Designation Report to increase the Namaste Montessori School grade span from K-3 to K-6 for compulsory attendance purposes only and that all materials issued by the Namaste Montessori School indicate this approval.

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

F. Nonpublic School Termination Decision

Melissa Valence of the NHDOE, Division of Education Analytics and Resources, Office of Nonpublic Schools, explained that under Ed 401.02 (g) nonpublic school approval is terminated by the State Board when a school reports zero students enrolled for two consecutive years.

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made the following motion, seconded by Sally Griffin, that the State Board of Education accept and approve the Commissioner's Nonpublic School Termination Designation Report.

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

### G. Nonpublic School Approval Designation Report

Ms. Valence requested that six schools that were not prepared to present at the June meeting have their approval applications renewed:

- Heronfield Academy
- Holy Trinity School
- Shalom Christian Academy
- John Paul II Academy
- The Community School
- Waterville Valley Academy

Ms. Honorow reiterated that the schools must be notified that they are approved for compulsory attendance and that their advertising materials reflect this approval.

**MOTION:** Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education accept and approve the Commissioner's Nonpublic School Approval Designation Report for compulsory attendance purposes only and that all materials issued by the schools indicate this approval.

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

Ms. Honorow also asked that the NHDOE reach out to the schools approved last month and notify them of the compulsory attendance approval policy. Chairman Cline stated he will work on a draft with the NHDOE to present to the State Board for review.

## **AGENDA ITEM V. PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, UPDATES**

### A. Home Education Advisory Council (HEAC) Annual Report

Katherine Michelotti, Chair, Home Education Advisory Council, provided an overview of the annual report submitted to the State Board. She noted that the HEAC helped rewrite the rules regarding home schooling, increased communication between school boards with whom there were miscommunications in the past and retrieved their missing meeting minutes. She said new programs and resource centers have been created for homeschoolers and new activities are now available to them.

Ms. Lane asked how HEAC makes itself known to nonpublic schools. Ms. Michelotti said HEAC has attempted to incorporate meeting minutes into related association materials and provides each member with information they can share

with other homeschooling organizations. Some of these nonpublic schools are also represented in HEAC.

Ms. Sally Griffin asked how many homeschoolers are in the state. Ms. Michelotti said that homeschooling is underreported in several school districts, so the number will be higher when announced next year. For now, though, she does not have a number. .

Ms. Griffin asked how homeschooled students receive their diplomas and can they receive them from their local high school. Ms. Michelotti explained that students can request a diploma from their local high school; however, high schools generally do not award them to students who are not enrolled at their school. Homeschoolers can apply online for different accreditation diplomas. When applying to colleges, homeschoolers are asked to provide a portfolio demonstrating proficiencies rather than a diploma, and some colleges have an entirely different application process for homeschoolers.

Ms. Honorow asked to see the new rules HEAC wrote. Chairman Cline said they would be presented to the Board once completed.

Ms. Honorow asked for more detail about HEAC's retrieval of meeting minutes. Ms. Michelotti explained that the already approved minutes were misplaced but were found while she was writing the annual report. She will be amending the report and resending it.

Later in the meeting, Melissa Valence provided follow to the question regarding the number of homeschoolers and noted that there are approximately 4,000-5,000 homeschoolers in New Hampshire, which is roughly 3 percent of the student population.

#### B. Restraint and Seclusion Report for School Year 2017-2018 Update

Richard Sala, attorney for NHDOE, explained that as a result of a Right to Know Request regarding Restraint and Seclusion, the Department became aware that there was a gap in the data collection and reporting from nonpublic schools. The Department took immediate action to collect the data and subsequently created the supplemental Restraint and Seclusion Report for School Year 2017-2018 which is before the State Board today for review and approval. Attorney Sala noted that this data will be included in all future reports submitted pursuant to RSA 126-U:8, II.

Ms. Lane asked for clarification on what is meant when a school did not comply. Attorney Sala said the term refers to any school that did not respond to the request for more information. It can also mean a school that is not complying with program requirements and recommended that the Board reach out to those schools to find out why they did not respond.

Ms. Lane asked what methodology was used by the Department to gather this information. Attorney Sala explained that the Department uses multiple methods to reach out, including an online questionnaire, email and phone calls. If a school does not respond to any of these methods, the Department lists those schools as “Did Not Comply”.

Chairman Cline remarked on some of the schools having high restraint numbers and asked Attorney Sala if any trends were noted. Attorney Sala explained that the Department is collecting raw self-reporting data from the schools so it is difficult to see trends.

Ms. Lane asked if there were any concerns about self-reporting. Attorney Sala said the data is collected in a way that is required by the legislature.

Ms. Lane asked if these incidents occurred in school or outside. Attorney Sala stated that most occur on school grounds, but the statute requires reporting incidents involving special education services both onsite and offsite when the school is the responsible entity.

Ms. Honorow expressed concern about the two schools that did not comply and wanted more detail on what efforts were made to gather the information so the State Board can decide how best to address the noncompliance.

**MOTION:** Phil Nazzaro made the following motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the State Board of Education accepts the supplemental Restraint and Seclusion Report for School Year 2017-2018.

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

#### C. Gate City Charter School for the Arts Charter Approval

Michaelene Koskela, Assistant to the Directors, Gate City Charter School, introduced the following staff and trustees:

- Suzanne Wheeler, Director of Student Services;
- Betty Mulrey, Director of Curriculum and Instruction;
- Jack Balcom, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
- Astrid Alvarado, Director of Operations;
- Jack Collinsworth, Board of Trustees;
- Bill Spinelli, Board of Trustees;
- Sarah Thibeault, Board of Trustees;
- Gene Kasuski, Board of Trustees;



- Sonya Kellen, Board of Trustees;
- Danielle Charest, Board of Trustees

She then presented an update on Gate City, with the following academic highlights:

- Seventh graders were only slightly below the rest of the state.
- English and Language Arts (ELA): Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade underperformed, but 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders performed well.
- Math: There's still a lot of work to do, but the school is addressing it. The deficiency may have been due to students transferring from other schools, plus Title I and special education children that had not been tested before.
- Science: 75 percent of eighth graders showed proficiency. Internet and Wi-Fi issues may have caused problems while students took the test, but the school has switched to a new system.
- Students reached an overall proficiency level of 50 percent. Some areas saw deficits, though. Those areas have been addressed in the school's strategic plan for 2018-2023, which includes:
  - Gaining an in-depth understanding of where kids need to grow and gearing services to those areas;
  - Regular training and performance assessments for teachers and staff;
  - Professional development in math;
  - A new curriculum development program for reading and writing that includes test taking techniques.

When asked why grade 4 students did not test as high as other students, Ms. Koskela said there were some transitions in that classroom, but the class now has a teacher who is doing phenomenal work.

Ms. Honorow asked why transfers would impact Gate City when other schools have the same situation. Ms. Koskela said the school needs to do more proficiency assessments when students first enroll and teach them such things as test taking strategies.

When asked if students take entrance exams, Ms. Koskela said no as is the case with all public schools. Many students enroll with a full portfolio of past work, so the school has a better idea of their proficiency. For those that do not have a full portfolio it is harder to determine their level of proficiency.

Ms. Honorow noted that the State Board had previous concerns about the math program the school was using. Ms. Koskela said Eureka, the program the school used in the past, made it difficult for visual learners to understand the concepts, so the school has switched to Envision.

Other updates include:

- Recent additions to the board include Gene Kasuski, Felicia Doucette, and Jack Balcom.
- Gate City uses several methods to communicate with students, including daily text messages, the website and social media.
  - The school's data management system includes a parent portal where parents can log in and access progress reports and report cards.
  - A phone service is available to notify parents of emergencies and other matters.
- In 2019-2020, enrollment is expected to reach 174, with an extensive wait list.
- The overall fundraising goal this year was \$5,000, but the actual amount raised was \$8,000.
- The school wrote \$10,000 in grants this year and expects to beef up grant writing next year.
- The five-year budget has a capacity of 180 students, but the accounting team left it at 176.

Ms. Koskela thanked the State Board for the help they offered and presented a video of the children at the school. Chairman Cline thanked everyone for their presentation.

Ms. Koskela asked when the school can officially ask for a five-year extension. Chairman Cline replied that the extension was given through to the 2020-2021 school year and recommended returning at the end of the upcoming academic year with another update.

The following parents talked about their experiences at Gate City:

- Ms. Thibeault said her daughter entered first grade not being able to read and finished the year at an advanced second grade level. Her daughter has also learned art concepts and how to read music. Enrolling her daughter in a small school has allowed Ms. Thibeault to get to know the teachers, students and parents. She volunteers her time and says it is wonderful to be part of the school's growth.
- Mr. Balcom said his daughter just graduated from the school and absolutely loved it. She did not participate in activities at her old school, but did at Gate City. He commended the staff and trustees for their work and dedication.

## **AGENDA ITEM VI. COUNCIL FOR TEACHER EDUCATION (CTE) UPDATE**

### **A. Hellenic American University (HAU)**

Michael Seidel, NHDOE, Director of the Division of Educator Support and Higher Education, introduced John Slater, Associate Professor and Director of US Operations for Hellenic American University. Christine Niakarias, Program Director, appeared via Skype.

Mr. Seidel explained that Council for Teacher Education is recommending a one-year extension of HAU's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program from its previously-approved Manchester, NH site to the new location in Nashua, NH primarily to provide more time to conduct an on-site review of the practicum which will be held in Athens, Greece. The entire program would be held in Nashua culminating with the practicum in Athens.

Ms. Honorow asked for details on the review options. Mr. Seidel explained that there are four review options: a national accreditation review; an on-site review with CTE; a review for a currently approved teacher preparation program; or approval for a new program. He noted that a program was reviewed in Athens a year and a half ago with Vasiliki Mavroudis from Northeastern University and she might be interested in participating in another review in Athens.

Ms. Honorow asked if this is a two-part request: one to move the program from Nashua to Manchester, and the other to review the practicum in Greece. Mr. Seidel said this motion was only to extend the ESOL program from Manchester to Nashua.

**MOTION:** Phil Nazzaro made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane; that the State Board of Education grant a one-year extension of Hellenic American University's ESOL program from Manchester, New Hampshire to Nashua, New Hampshire from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020.

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

### **B. Program Review Status Update**

Frank Hoell, outgoing co-chair of CTE, introduced his fellow co-chairs: Kelly Dunn, incoming co-chair, New Hampshire Technical Institute; Suzanne Canali, outgoing co-chair, New Hampshire Institute of Art and Design; and Chris Ward, incoming co-chair, a faculty member at the Upper Valley Educators Institute.

Mr. Hoell explained that CTE works with NHDOE and Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) to set up and run educator preparation program reviews. It can often take up to a year or more to gather the necessary information before a review can take place, and a review can take as long as 30 hours.

Mr. Hoell noted that there are several hurdles that have occurred that are creating issues with the review process.

- The NHDOE losing its key CTE point person in 2017-2018 and it took quite a while to fill the position. The one review performed in 2017-2018 was done by an outside consultant.
- The new CTE point person, Ashlee Stetser, is currently out on leave. He thanked Mr. Seidel and Commissioner Edelblut for stepping in to help provide assistance/support while she is out.
- CTE took over New England College's accreditation review, but was unable to meet the deadlines. Fortunately, the State Board granted an extension of that review.
- In order to expedite the review process, CTE tried to fit a delayed review and re-review into the schedule; forcing four large reviews to be moved to the 2019-2020 schedule and noted the fifth review will be ready for the State Board's August meeting.

Ms. Dunn said reviews for Rivier University, University of New Hampshire (UNH) and New England College (NEC) will take place in the fall, but CTE still needs to find reviewers for those visits. She and Mr. Ward are actively looking for reviewers for NEC and will send their information to Mr. Seidel once recruited.

She stressed the importance for the NHDOE to secure reviewers and train them, but also to provide technical support for the reviews, as there are some questions that only the NHDOE has the authority to answer. She asked the State Board for its understanding. If they cannot find reviewers, CTE may have to ask for an extension. She noted that lack of personnel is a factor. When someone is out, it causes a delay in the review process. CTE is committed to the work, but it is hard to accomplish given the time a review takes.

Ms. Lane asked if the timeframe is appropriate. Ms. Canali said the issue may not be the timeframe, but the process itself. There are rules for how long a process should take, but those rules were enacted before the program expectations changed dramatically.

Mr. Ward said the rules and standards are lagging compared to what is currently in place. He suggested the CTE conduct a study and propose revisions to simplify and clarify the review process so that they are more aligned with CTE's goals regarding outcomes, school partnerships and continuous improvement.

Mr. Ward also said the learning curve is long with the current process because reviewers need to learn the rules for evaluating programs, so training is essential. He suggested incentives to maintain a team of qualified reviewers rather than the ad hoc system currently in place, such as stipends or professional development.

Ms. Dunn said CTE would welcome State Board member joining reviewers during a review, as they might have fun and learn a lot and noted they may have to abstain from voting when a review they observed is presented to the State Board.

Ms. Honorow expressed her concern about the process being so delayed when one person is missing and there is not sufficient backup to continue the process. Ms. Dunn noted that there used to be four people at the NHDOE that supported the reviews and very few reviews required extensions.

The CTE co-chairs emphasized that they are not asking for extensions, but rather to communicate to the State Board what is happening. The September reviews will take place; however, the October review may be delayed and the State Board needs to know why.

Mr. Ward said it has been difficult to find people to participate in the review. At the last CTE meeting, the IHE's were asked to pass along five names to the co-chairs as potential reviewers, but no one volunteered. Potential reviewers are already stretched thin, and there are no mechanisms or incentives in place to engage people in the peer review process. He asked the State Board for assistance in coming up with ideas that would help keep the process going.

Ms. Honorow suggested raising the issue at the next IHE meeting. Ms. Canali said those discussions have already taken place, and CTE has met as a group to brainstorm ideas.

Mr. Ward said CTE has considered training reviewers for a specific period in which they perform reviews: for example, perform three reviews over a three-year period. This would ensure someone is always available.

Ms. Lane asked if requiring a Master's degree is a factor and whether someone with 30-40 years of experience could also qualify. Ms. Canali said the degree matters.

When asked if CTE is looking for out-of-state reviewers, Mr. Ward said it has, but those reviewers could not be reimbursed for the travel required.

Mr. Ward reminded the State Board that Ms. Honorow had previously suggested forming a task force. Ms. Honorow said she would be happy to help with that.

Chairman Cline recalled a conversation with Ms. Dunn about looking at inputs versus outputs. Ms. Dunn remarked that CTE would like to emphasize outcomes more, but the reviewers are always told to look at the standards, which puts less emphasis on outcomes. CTE is having conversations about how deeply that must factor into each program and remarked at a recent meeting how intricate and detailed the rules can be. Chairman Cline added that the list of contact details includes 16 lines that must be filled out. That is the kind of detail that can bog down reviewers.

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII. COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE**

Commissioner Edelblut provided the following updates:

- Staff Changes
  - The following staff have recently left the Department:
    - Santina Thibedeau from Student Support Services has taken a job in the Milford School District.
    - Lori Noordergraaf, also from Student Support Services, is leaving to take a position in a school district as well.
    - Richard Sala has taken a teaching position at the Vermont Law School. The search for his replacement is underway.
    - Kim Runion, who oversaw the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) program, has taken a position with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.
    - Courtney Ritchings from the Bureau of Career Development is now the director at the Portsmouth CTE Center.
  - The following staff have recently joined the Department:
    - Ashlee Stetser had a baby girl a few days ago. Ashlee will be back in September.
    - Michael Seidel's wife just had a baby girl.
    - Eric Frauwirth is the new Administrator for the Bureau of Career Development.
    - Dean Graziano is working on work-based learning and workforce outreach.
    - Karen DuBois came from UNH to work in early childhood education.
- The Department's leadership attended and gave a presentation at the annual June conference for the New Hampshire School Administrators Association (NHSAA). Immediately following the NHSAA conference, the leadership attended and presented at the New Hampshire Association of School Principals' (NHASP) annual event. This association recently hired a new Executive Director; Ms. Bridey Bellemare. Commissioner Edelblut is looking forward to working with her and the organization.

- Another 100 people have been released from Vocational Rehabilitation's (VR) Order of Selection wait list. Commissioner Edelblut is encouraged by the outcome of a new service model that gets the community partners involved early in the process rather than at the end.
- VR's School Transition Services program reassigned coordinators to the schools and as a result, the number of students serviced increased from 395 to 1,500 students in the first year.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Backpack Drive is underway. Anyone wanting to donate a backpack to students can do so by Friday, August 16.
- The Department has made many systematic changes to make it easier for educators to access the resources needed to get re-credentialed, including allowing them to reset passwords, upload documents, and download and print credentials online.
- Educators have provided quite a bit of feedback on the Code of Conduct Code of Conduct and Ethics document. The Department is updating educators, so they better understand expectations.
- This is the first full year the Department has been in federal technical compliance. In 2016, a federal audit showed the Department was not monitoring sub recipients of federal funds as it is required. The Department implemented a process and visited approximately 70 schools to answer questions and provide training to make sure they were in compliance.
- Another episode of *School Days, Lunch Trays and Gourmets* recently aired, and a new episode was just shot highlighting summer food programs.
- The continuing resolution extends the budget for another three months. This means the Department must pay attention to spending and make sure there is no overspending.
- Christine Brennan just returned from a meeting of the National Governors Association where New Hampshire was recognized for the work it has done around student and school safety, including the Governor's school safety task force and the school infrastructure grants.

Commissioner Edelblut said he will be on vacation and will not be in attendance at the August meeting. Deputy Commissioner Brennan will be in attendance.

Ms. Honorow repeated her request that the State Board be included in notifications about departing employees so they too have an opportunity to thank them for their service. Chairman Edelblut said his office will start including the State Board on emails regarding gatherings for departing staff.

## **AGENDA ITEM XII. TABLED ITEMS**

### A. Initial Proposal – Record Retention (Special Education), Ed 1119.01

There is no new information so this item will remain tabled.

## **AGENDA ITEM XIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

### A. Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2019

The Board requested the following changes to the draft minutes:

- Page 4700: Ms. Honorow recalls having said, “The vast majority of comments were opposed to Learn Everywhere.” Her recollection may be from a previous meeting and asked Ms. Adams to look back at the recording/video to check.
- Page 4702: Change “if they are not reasonable, they can be expelled” to “the review can continue without them.”
- Page 4709: change “definition of a good education” to “definition of an adequate education”.

MOTION: Phil Nazzaro made the motion, seconded by Ann Lane, to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2019 meeting as amended.

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

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

Ms. Honorow asked for an update on having John Tobin, who asked at last month’s meeting, about giving a school funding presentation to the State Board. She asked that he be put on next month’s agenda.

Ms. Honorow asked for an update on the technical advisory regarding speech pathology requirements. Steven Appleby, NHDOE, Administrator for the Bureau of Credentialing, explained that since the first advisory caused confusion, a second revised advisory was sent out to better clarify the requirements; however, that advisory also created confusion, so his office is in the process of drafting a third advisory and will send it to the State Board for review prior to it being sent out to the field. The rule states that licensure by NHDOE is not required for speech language pathologists, but it is required for speech language specialists. However, anyone with a speech language pathologist license could be exempt from this requirement. The rule does not require double licensure, but rather one type of license can stand in for the other.



Mr. Nazzaro asked if a clarification in the rule would help. Chairman Cline said it would, and a lot of clarifications will be coming before the State Board over the next 6-9 months. This has been a persistent problem in some of the rules, due to vague wording in credential requirements.

Ms. Honorow asked when the homeschooler rules will be ready for the State Board's review. Chairman Cline said he has not seen a draft yet and that Attorney Sala is working on one. The State Board will see a version as soon as it is available, but probably after Attorney Sala leaves.

When asked if Attorney Sala's position has been filled, Commissioner Edelblut said it has not, but interviews are being scheduled.

Ms. Honorow asked how the nonpublic schools will be notified about the required language regarding compulsory attendance. Commissioner Edelblut said his office will send a letter to the schools that were already approved and notify them they will be receiving advisory information. Ms. Honorow is concerned that some schools say that their programs are approved in advertising materials. Commissioner Edelblut said he wants to fix the confusion, but not in a way that would disrupt learning.

#### **AGENDA ITEM XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, to adjourn the meeting at 2:44 p.m.

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



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Secretary