Colebrook School Board Meeting Agenda						
Date	9/17/2024					
Time		6:00 pm				
Location		Colebrook Library				
Chairpers		Tim Stevens				
		rd Members	Principal	SAU Members		
Tim Steve		Cayenne Amey	Kim Wheelock	Dana Hilliard		
David Bro		Julie Brunault	Assistant Principal	Chris Paquette		
Rhonda Ly	/	Nate Lebel				
Robert Mu	urphy					
Item			Subject			
1.	Roll Call	and Pledge of Alleg	giance:			
2.	Agenda	Adjustments:				
3.	Hearing	of the Public: Motio	n to open and end hearing of th	he public (15 minutes)		
4.	Special F	Report:				
5.	-	of the Minutes:				
	Colebroo	ok School Board Me	eting Minutes of September 3	<u>3, 2024</u>		
6.	Principa	I Report – Kim Whe	elock			
	-	rincipal Update				
	• R	unning Club for Mide	dle School & High School			
	• <u>R</u>	ibbon Cutting Cere	mony (PTO) & Teacher/Stud	lent Scrimmage		
7.	Superint	endent's Report: D	ana Hilliard			
	-	eptember Superintend				
			to the max or set amount of	the fund balance		
9.	Unfinish	ed Business:				
	• <u>A</u>	pproval of Policy Ik	<u> KF – High School Graduation</u>	1		
10.		equirements				
	• T	our of the CAES new	kitchen space and tech building	ng		
11.	New Bus	iness:				
	NHSBA Resolution Votes					
12.	Information:					
13.	Hearing of the Public: Motion to open and end hearing of the public (15 minutes)					
14.	Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II (c) & RSA 91-A:3, II (i)					
15.	Meetings					
	 Colebrook School Board meeting October 1, 2024, Colebrook Academy and Elementary School Library 					
16.	Adjournment					

Colebrook Public Hearing & School Board Meeting Minutes

Date 9/3/2024	
Time 6:00 pm – Public Hearing/School Board Meeting Directly Follows	
Location	Colebrook Academy & Elementary School library
Chairperson	Tim Stevens

Attendance Attendance Legend: P - Present E - Excused A- Absent R - Remotely

	Members		Principal		SAU Members
Р	Cayenne Amey	Р	Kim Wheelock	Р	Bridget Cross
Р	Julie Brunault		Asst. Principal	Р	Dana Hilliard
Е	Tim Stevens	Е	Stephanie Cameron	Р	Chris Paquette
	P E	P Julie Brunault E Tim Stevens	P Julie Brunault E Tim Stevens	PJulie BrunaultAsst. PrincipalETim StevensEStephanie Cameron	P Julie Brunault Asst. Principal P E Tim Stevens E Stephanie Cameron P Image: Comparison of the stephanie of the stephanie cameron Image: Comparison of the stephanie cameron Image: Compari

Minutes

Item	Subject	Action
	 Public Hearing – To accept and expend unanticipated grant funds for the 2024/2025 school year. Bridget reviewed the list of grants for CAES and what they are used for. J. Brunault/C. Amey: Motion to close the public hearing at 6:10 pm 	VOTE: Motion Carries
1.	Roll Call : The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman David Brooks at 6:04 pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance	
2.	Agenda Adjustments: Non-Public RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Public Bids for Propane and Oil	
3.	Hearing of the Public: Open 15-minute public session at 6:11 pm End 15-minute public session at 6:12 pm.	
4.	Special Report – None	
5.	Reading of the Minutes: <u>R. Lyons/J. Brunault</u> Motion to accept the Colebrook School Board Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2024, with adjustments Superintendent Hilliard joins the meeting at 6:13 pm	VOTE: Motion Carries

6.	Principal Report – Kim Wheelock	
	 Principal Wheelock is looking for a vote to decrease the CAES standard diploma from 27 credits to 24 credits. Also, explained the Colebrook Academic Honors Diploma which would require 29 credits. David Brooks discussed the required math classes and would like to see a finance class that teaches how to balance a checkbook, teaches about student loans and interest rates for seniors. Mrs. Wheelock discussed that there is a personal finance class that is taught. Mrs. Wheelock will get a description of the personal finance class to the board. Another suggestion would be a current events class and geography class, that would be mandatory. These are good suggestions that can be discussed and could be changed. R. Lvons/C. Amey: Motion to approve the three-tiered approach to the Colebrook Graduation Diplomas as presented by Mrs. Wheelock Policy IKF will need to go back to the local policy board to accept the changes of the graduation diplomas. This board will need to form a local policy committee which should have 3 to 4 members. The committee will be Robert Murphy, Rhonda Lyons, Julie Brunault and David Brooks. Robert will be the chair of this committee. Local policies will have their own drop-down box for Colebrook on the policy page. September Principal Report - Friday there will be a barb-cue at Colebrook School. All Board members are invited to attend. 	VOTE: Motion Carries
7.	Superintendent Report: September Superintendent Report – September Superintendent Report – We did roll out the new cell phone policy to students. They were not happy with the new policy. The students have come forward regarding this policy and will be putting together a presentation for the board which will be put on the agenda to present to the board. Dana was very happy with the way the student body has handled this and how they will be coming forward to discuss this. Fall sports are up and running. Please come out and support our teams. The goal setting meeting has been set for October 3 rd at 4:30 pm in Columbia. Please RSVP with Billie. David asked if someone from the student body would be coming to the board meetings to give updates. Kim is working on getting this up and going again.	

8.	Business Administrator's Report – Bridget Cross	
0.	Business Auministrator s Report - Bridget Closs	
	C. Amey/J. Brunault: Motion to approve and expend the grand funds for the 2024/2025 school year	VOTE : Motion Carries
	J. Brunault/C. Amey: Motion to approve the quote and purchase the recommended Culinary Kitchen Appliances (refrigerator \$899, stove \$739 and dishwasher \$899 plus \$80 installation) from Poulin's Appliances paid for by Feed	VOTE: Motion Carries
	America Grant for \$2,626.00 J. Brunault/C. Amey: Motion to approve the quote from Wicked Clean Windows Plus for cleaning the windows for \$675.00 R. Lyons/J. Brunault: Motion to approve the quote from Plodzik & Sanderson for the auditing services for the next 3 years at \$16,065 for FY26, \$16,545 FY 27	VOTE: Motion Carries VOTE: Motion Carries
	and \$17,040 for FY 28. <u>C. Amev/J. Brunault</u> : Motion to approve the quote from Nathan Nugent for pressure washing the SAU Building for \$700 <u>C. Amev/J. Brunault</u> : Motion to approve the quote from Rodrigue Gravel for the gravel at the tech building for \$642 <u>R. Lyons/J. Brunault</u> : Motion to approve the heating oil bid and the propane bid from CN Brown for \$2.869 for transport truck and \$2.939 for pedal truck and	VOTE: Motion Carries VOTE: Motion Carries VOTE: Motion Carries
	\$2.169 for the propane for the school building, tech and SAU building. R. Lyons/C. Amey: Motion to approve the bid from Yeti Yard Man for the snowplow, sanding and snow relocation bid for \$22,950.00 for the 24/25 season.	VOTE: Motion Carries
	David asked about a \$32,000 invoice to DS Security Solutions and what this was for? Bridget explained this was for the security cameras and access control. This is the remaining balance as the job is now complete.	
9.	Unfinished Business	
10.	New Business – Tabled the tour of the new CAES kitchen space and tech building to the next meeting.	
11.	Information –	
12.	Hearing of the Public: At 7:01 pm opened the public discussion for the next 29 minutes. Christine asked what is the scope of the work for the tech building driveway? Are they excavating or just bringing gravel. Bridget stated that they will bring an excavator and ³ / ₄ inch gravel and some hand labor. Theresa discussed that she really liked the new diploma structure and how the 29-credit diploma gives students something to work hard for. She also mentioned how good it is to allow the students to come forward and make a presentation to the board regarding the new cell phone policy and let them present their case to be able to use cell phones at lunch. Also, wanted to know if the public could join the tour of the kitchen space. Kathi pointed out that there is an area that does not have any camera coverage. Kim stated that they are aware of this issue and are working on correcting it. Dana talked about doing upgrades to continue to make this building safer. Kathi also brought up the vaping machines in the bathrooms. These machines are too	

	small for that area, so they are not working correctly. Kim stated that this has been brought up before and discussions have taken place about getting bigger machines that would work better in that space. Chris stated he would be able to reach out and see what type of machines other schools are using that work and look into getting those machines. Richard asked why the school district would be paying for the gravel at the tech building as opposed to the owner. David stated it would be more feasible for the district to make the improvements than to end up in litigation over it. Bridget was asked how many walkie talkies have been purchased? She stated that they have not been received yet but 45 were quoted to purchase. Forty-five provides every classroom with a walkie talkie C. Amey/J. Brunaul t: Motion to close the public session at 7:14 pm	VOTE: Motion Carries
13	Non-Public Session- <u>C. Amey/J. Brunault:</u> Motion to go into Non-Public 91-A:3, II (c) at 7:15 pm J. Brunalt/C. Amey: Motion to come out of non-public session7:19 pm	
13.	 Meetings: Colebrook School Board Meeting Tuesday, September 17, 2024, CAES Library at 6:00 pm 	
14.	Adjournment: C. Amey/J. Brunault: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm.	VOTE : Motion Carries

Respectfully Submitted, Billie Paquette

Colebrook Academy & Elementary School

27 Dumont Street Colebrook, New Hampshire 03576 (603) 237-4801 or (603) 237-4270 School Website: www.csd.sau7.org



September 2, 2024

Dana Hilliard SAU 7 Superintendent 1 Academy Street Colebrook, NH 03576

Dear Mr. Hilliard:

Per SAU 7 policy FF: Naming of District Buildings and Facilities and Dedication of Areas, the naming of school buildings or facilities or dedication of building/facility spaces is the ultimate responsibility of the School Board, however, Individuals or groups are to submit a written naming or dedication proposal to the Superintendent.

I would like to make a recommendation to name the new outdoor basketball court, "Call Court." This is also the recommendation of the Colebrook PTO members who obtained the grant to build the court.

According to #6 of the **GUIDELINES FOR DEDICATION OF A BUILDING OR FACILITY AREA**: Dedication of spaces or areas in a building or facility may be made using the same criteria for naming of buildings or facilities but may also recognize the outstanding service of a living school district employee, school district official, volunteer or community leader.

The Call family have dedicated many years of their time to Colebrook youth as outlined below:

Duane Call	Nancy Call	Ryan Call	Kristen Call	Emalie Call
19 years Varsity	16 years Booster	9 years Varsity	10 years	3 years 8u
Boys soccer	Club member	Boys Soccer coach	Elementary Girls	baseball coach
coach			basketball coach	
	13 years Youth	7 years Junior		1 years 3/4
19 years Varsity	basketball coach	High Boys	10 years Junior	basketball coach
Boys basketball		basketball coach	High Girls	
coach	11 years Bambino		basketball coach	1 year
	League (coach and	4 years Varsity		Elementary girls
16 years Varsity	board member)	Boys Basketball	10 years Varsity	basketball
Girls basketball		coach	Girls basketball	
coach			coach	

 12 years Bambino league coach and board member 6 years youth soccer/basketball coach 1 year girls soccer coach Original booster club member 	8 years Little League softball when it started for girls in 1979 Many years of AAU coaching	 3 years Bambino League coach 2 years Junior High soccer coach 2 years Varsity Softball coach 	 10 years AAU Girls Basketball coach 6 years Junior High soccer coach 	
club member Initiated the 3/4th boys and girls soccer and basketball programs				

In conclusion, Policy FF states that "The naming of a building or facility, or the designation of an area of a building or facility, is an extraordinary and rare event," and given the years of dedicated commitment to the youth of Colebrook, the Call family should be recognized for their outstanding service.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Wheelock, Principal

Enclosure: PTO letter of support

FROM Michelle Strasburger, PTO Co-Chair

The Colebrook PTO is thrilled to propose naming the new basketball court "Call Court" to honor the exceptional Call family. This extraordinary family has consistently devoted their time and energy to enriching the lives of our children. Their unwavering dedication to the school, community, and, most importantly, our children, has fostered an environment where Colebrook kids can flourish in sports, team building, and structured activities.

Whether inside the school walls, out on the field, or within the broader community, the Call family exemplifies outstanding stewardship. They tirelessly dedicate countless hours to coaching and assisting at sporting events, no matter the sport or competition level. One can always find a member of the Call family actively contributing to the game, embodying the spirit of involvement and passion.

Colebrook sports serve as a vital cornerstone, uniting our community. The vision for this new basketball court is to create a space where both children and community members can come together to play, grow, and bond. Naming the court "Call Court" would be a perfect tribute to a family that has continually fostered a sense of togetherness and community spirit through their relentless support and dedication. The Call family's legacy of giving makes this an incredibly fitting and meaningful gesture for our school and town.

Naming of District Buildings and Facilities and Dedication of Areas

Category: O

A. PURPOSE AND GENERAL POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to establish a process and guidelines for the naming of School District school buildings or facilities, and dedication of areas of buildings or facilities.

The naming of a building or facility, or the designation of an area of a building or facility, is an extraordinary and rare event falling within the authority of the School Board as the District's governing body. The Board should not consider such actions lightly nor base them on recent notable events.

For purposes of this policy, "buildings and(or) facilities" shall mean and include every school, school district building, [stadium], athletic field, playground, or other real estate owned or leased by the District, or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the School Board.

"Area of buildings or facilities" refers to identifiable spaces/core areas within a building or facility, including but not limited to such spaces as media centers, gymnasiums, auditoriums, hallways, wings, etc.

The Board retains the authority in its sole discretion to name, rename or change, in whole or in part, the name of any building or facility, or the designated name of any area of a building or facility. Such naming, renaming, or changing may be considered at any time the Board so chooses, including, without limitation, naming proposals recommended prior to construction, when construction is in progress, or after being acquired, by the district.

B. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR NAMING OF BUILDINGS OR FACILITIES OR FOR DEDICATION OF SPACES.

1. The naming of school buildings or facilities or dedication of building/facility spaces is the ultimate responsibility of the School Board. Individuals or groups may submit a written naming or dedication proposal to the Superintendent. Naming or dedication proposals should include any information relating to the guidelines below, along with any other information the person/group making the proposal deems appropriate to enable the Board to make an informed decision.

- 2. The Superintendent will place the proposal on a Board meeting agenda, with his/her recommendation as to how to proceed.
- 3. If the Board determines that further study is required, or if the naming/dedication is at the Board's own initiative, the Board may establish a committee or may delegate to the Superintendent the responsibility of evaluating the proposal, or for determining a process for naming a specific building or facility or dedicating an area of a building or facility.
- 4. Whether included in an original proposal or not, the Board will consider required fiscal or personnel resources that might be associated with the naming/renaming or dedication.
- 5. Before making any final decision regarding naming/renaming or dedication, the Board shall solicit input from the students and staff of the particular building or facility as well as from the public at large.
- 6. The final decision to name/rename a building or facility, or to dedicate/re-dedicate any building or facility area shall made by the Board by way of formal resolution, which may simply be an approval of a written proposal or recommendation.

7. GUIDELINES FOR NAMING OF BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

The School Board recognizes that the official names of district buildings and facilities are vital to the district's public image and must stand the test of time. Accordingly, when selecting names for facilities, the Board will emphasize effective public communication and the honor and integrity that the name will reflect upon the building or facility.

A name for building or facility shall be that of:

- 1. The community, location, road or street where the public school building is located;
- 2. A significant and distinguishable landmark or geographical feature which will identify the school's location;
- 3. An educational practice, concept or aspiration;
- 4. A deceased person who made significant contributions to the nation, the State of New Hampshire, the District or the town in which the school building/facility is located taking into account the following criteria:
 - 1. Outstanding and exceptional support of and service to or on behalf of public school students or schools;
 - 2. Outstanding citizenship and character;
 - 3. General service to the community;
 - 4. Superior ethical standards; and/or
 - 5. Philanthropic or financial contributions made by the person to the school district.
- 5. The mascot of a District school.

6. GUIDELINES FOR DEDICATION OF A BUILDING OR FACILITY AREA

Dedication of spaces or areas in a building or facility may be made using the same criteria for naming of buildings or facilities but may also recognize the outstanding service of a living school district employee, school district official, volunteer or community leader.

Legal References:

SAU #7 Policy Committee: Recommended for Adoption – May 25, 2022/June 1, 2022 SAU #7 Board Adopted: August 11, 2022

2024 NHSBA Delegate Assembly Saturday October 19, 2024 10:30am Grappone Conference Center

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

13. Submitted by the Hanover & Dresden School Boards

Proposed Resolution:

Whereas all children deserve to be safe in New Hampshire schools; and

Whereas public education strives to encourage tolerance, acceptance, inquiry, and curiosity; and

Whereas all children deserve the opportunity to participate in school based extracurricular activities, including sports teams; and

Whereas several school districts in New Hampshire have already adopted inclusive transgender student policies; and

Whereas the state of New Hampshire has previously enacted anti-discrimination laws in 2018 protecting transgender people from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations and schools;

Therefore be it resolved that the NHSBA supports and advocates for statewide legislation and local school board policy that affirms the rights of all students to participate in education including school sponsored curricular and co-curricular activities, free of discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

Rationale:

The rights of public school students are currently at risk because of some of the legislation under consideration in Concord, and this resolution is both critical and timely.

NHSBA Response:

The NHSBA Board of Directors believes that this Proposed Resolution is similar to Resolution VI:F, which was adopted in 2021. VI:F currently reads:

VI:F• NHSBA supports equity and inclusion in all aspects of education. NHSBA supports adherence to all anti-discrimination laws, rules and statutes ensuring that no student is excluded or discriminated against on the basis of sex, gender identity, race, religious creed, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, national origin, economic status, familial status, sexual orientation, health condition, or native language. (January 2021)

Alternative Resolution Recommended by NHSBA Board of Directors:

VI:F• NHSBA supports equity and inclusion in all aspects of education, *including curricular programs, extra-curricular programs and co-curricular programs*. NHSBA supports adherence to all anti-discrimination laws, rules and statutes ensuring that no student is excluded or discriminated against on the basis of sex, gender identity, race, religious creed, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, national origin, economic status, familial status, sexual orientation, health condition, or native language. (January 2021)

<u>NHSBA Rationale:</u> NHSBA Resolution VI:F already speaks to NHSBA's support for equity, inclusion and anti-discrimination laws. This Resolution also includes all classes protected under state law. The NHSBA Board of Directors believes the Alternative Resolution reaches the stated goal of the proposed resolution without singling- out one of the protected classes.

14. Submitted by the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School Board

Proposed Resolution:

The New Hampshire School Board Association will ensure that NHSBA member dues are not being used for lobbying purposes consistent with RSA 15:5.

Rationale:

The resolution simply seeks to follow the statute. If member school boards do not segregate funds when paying NHSBA membership dues, thus co-mingling state and non-state funds, then those membership dues cannot be used for lobbying purposes as stated in RSA 15:5.

NHSBA Response:

$\sqrt{\text{Adoption NOT recommended by NHSBA Board of Directors.}}$

First: The Board of Directors believes the objective of the proposal is not appropriate for a Resolution. NHSBA Resolutions are intended to guide NHSBA's positions relative to legislative advocacy, while this resolution would seek to direct the internal operation of NHSBA relative to its membership.

Second: The resolution would require NHSBA to somehow monitor or audit the accounts and expenditures of its member districts.

Third: The premise is based upon an open question statutory interpretation.

RSA 15:5 states:

I. Except as provided in paragraph II, no recipient of a grant or appropriation of state funds may use the state funds **to lobby or attempt to influence legislation**, participate in political activity, or contribute funds to any entity engaged in these activities.

II. Any recipient of a grant or appropriation of state funds that wishes to engage in any of the activities prohibited in paragraph I, or contribute funds to any entity engaged in these activities, shall segregate the state funds in such a manner that such funds are physically and financially separate from any non-state funds that may be used for any of these purposes. Mere bookkeeping separation of the state funds from other moneys shall not be sufficient.

Relative to Paragraph I, NHSBA maintains that the Association is not subject to Paragraph I, as NHSBA is not a "recipient of a grant or appropriation of state funds."

Relative to Paragraph II, RSA 15:5 became law in 2006. A review of the legislative history includes no information that would indicate that paragraph II was intended to apply (1) absent a primary object of the payment to "lobby or attempt to influence legislation" by the third-party entity, or (2) when the entity's positions are not directed or even chosen by the recipient of the state funds (i.e., an individual school district/board).

In this regard, NHSBA is not different than any other entity – whether for profit or notfor-profit - which receives payments from a district and which spends some of its revenue on attempts to influence legislation.

Additionally, and despite the fact that public employee/officer organizations such as NHSBA were funded in the same manner as NHSBA is in the present day, NHSBA is not aware of any instance since this statute became law when the bills' sponsors asserted that RSA 15:5 was intended to apply to organizations such as NHSBA.

Nothing precludes school boards from segregating funds for NHSBA dues. Consistent with limitations on NHSBA's legal services, NHSBA recommends that boards consult with their own local legal counsel for an interpretation of RSA 15:5, II. If a local board chooses to segregate funds, the board should consult with local counsel, along with the superintendent, business administrator and district auditor to best determine how that should be accomplished. Local counsel should be involved to ascertain whether this statute would also apply to other professional organizations/associations, vendors, contractors, or other entities engaged in legislative advocacy.

15. Submitted by the Governor Wentworth School Board

Proposed Resolution:

The GWRSD School Board tonight voted unanimously to support and in so doing reaffirm the current NHSBA resolution.

My motion;

I move the GWRSD School Board vote to support and reaffirm the current NHSBA resolution which reads "NHSBA supports that the state and federal government seek and provide viable, sustainable, permanent funding to provide a school breakfast and lunch at no cost to students."

Now reflected in the minutes, during public portion of the meeting, and recorded by Wolfeboro Community Television.

Rationale:

N/A

<u>NHSBA Response</u>: Though this is not a proposed resolution, per se, the NHSBA Board of Directors thanks the Governor Wentworth School Board for their continued support. If Continuing Resolution #2 passes, it will become a permanent Resolution in the NHSBA Statement of Beliefs Manual.

16. Submitted by the Concord School Board

Proposed Resolution:

The board voted 8-0 to send the following proposed resolution regarding universal free lunch to the NHSBA: (Motioned by Mr. Weinberg, 2nd by Mr. Cotton).

- 1. "Whereas the Concord School Board recognizes the importance of nutrition for supporting the development and learning potential of New Hampshire students.
- 2. Whereas the Concord School Board believes it is critical to tackle childhood hunger and food insecurity.

3. Therefore, we submit a resolution to the NHSBA to advocate to the NH State Legislature to create a universal and subsidized meal program for NH public school students."

Rationale:

Support for the issues concerning food insecurity

The Concord Board is committed to ensuring that all children receive nutritious meals while at school. In seeking support from the state to fund breakfast and lunches, the Board offers the following rational.

The Board acknowledges that every student needs to start the day with a healthy breakfast and a healthy lunch to sustain learning throughout the day

Schools in the city of Concord have a significant number of students with food insecurity. The district faced a deficit in revenues from the food service program due to the inability of families to afford the meal program

The district provides breakfast and lunch to students attending summer programs at the school.

The board realizes that not all families fill out the required paperwork for a variety of reasons, having state support would lessen the burden of filing the application

<u>NHSBA Response</u>: This Proposed Resolution is similar to Continuing Resolution #2. However, the NHSBA Board of Directors believes that a slight amendment to CR#2 is warranted and necessary, consistent with this Proposed Resolution. Continuing Resolution currently states:

NHSBA supports that the state and federal government seek and provide viable, sustainable, permanent funding to provide a school breakfast and lunch at no cost to students. (2022)

Alternative Resolution Recommended by NHSBA Board of Directors:

NHSBA supports that the state and federal government seek and provide viable, sustainable, permanent funding to provide a school breakfast and lunch at no cost to students *and at no cost to local school districts*. (2022)

<u>NHSBA Rationale:</u> Continuing Resolution #2 only addresses providing school meals to students at no cost. Over the last number of years, the New Hampshire Legislature has passed numerous laws with unfunded mandates passed down to local school districts. This proposed Alternative Resolution clarifies that any school funding programs should also be at cost to local school districts and should not be an unfunded mandate.

17. Submitted by the Concord School Board

Proposed Resolution:

Concord Board of Education Resolution For Gun Free School Zones

A RESOLUTION of the Concord Board of Education in Concord, New Hampshire supports New Hampshire State Legislation that will enforce the Federal Gun Free School Zone Act.

WHEREAS, the Concord Board of Education has an obligation to ensure that all students are provided a safe, secure, and supportive environment in which education and school activities are conducted; and

WHEREAS, legislators are accountable to create a safe or unsafe environment in our schools, as evidenced by increasing incidents of gun violence threats and gun violence in schools; and

WHEREAS, so far this year in 2024, the United States has experienced 88 incidents of shooting in schools with 78 victims of these shootings; and

WHEREAS, the presence of firearms increases risk of such harm; and

WHEREAS, the Concord Board of Education policies #544 prohibits weapons including firearms on school properties unless under the control of law enforcement personnel; and

WHEREAS the federal government has designated schools as gun-free zones; and

WHEREAS, the federal Gun Free Schools Act prohibits students from bringing firearms into schools, and the federal Gun Free Schools Zone Act prohibits all other persons from bringing firearms within 1,000 feet of school property; and WHEREAS, any bill set before New Hampshire Legislators that does not enforce federal law of gun free school zones, compromises the ability to maintain a safe environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

The Concord Board of Education:

• Opposes current New Hampshire state law that does not require state and local law enforcement to enforce federal law of gun free school zones.

• Urges all City of Concord's elected representatives serving in the New Hampshire State Legislature to pass legislation to keep firearms out of school zones.

• Urges New Hampshire State Legislature to pass a bill that enforces federal Gun Free School and Gun Free School Zone Acts in order to create and maintain a safe education environment. • Commits to creation and revision of Concord School District policies that prohibit students, staff, and civilians from bringing firearms within a school zone.

• Directs the Concord School District Superintendent to distribute this resolution to city, state, and local policy makers, all members of the State Board of Education (New Hampshire); New Hampshire State School Board Association; New Hampshire Association of School Administrators; New Hampshire State Teachers Association; local print, voice, and internet media.

Adopted the day of 2024, the Concord Board of Education voted at a dully called meeting at which a quorum was present with in favor, opposed, and abstained from the Resolution.

Resources:

K-12 School Shooting Database; https://k12ssdb.org/ Concord School District Policy #544 Weapons on School Property NH RSA 192 D:2 Federal Gun Free School Zone Act 1990 Federal Gun Free Schools Act 1994

<u>Rationale</u>:

Support for issues concerning weapons in the schools

The Concord Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for children and staff and in doing so supports a gun free school zone. The Board offers the following rational.

The rules that apply to students attending schools should apply to adults who enter school grounds.

The Board was faced with a situation when adults (some carrying weapons) were using a school facility over a weekend at the same time students were in the building at an event. Students observed the adults carrying a weapon and sent panic among the students and parents. The situation was quickly resolved but not without heightened anxiety on the part of students.

The district receives federal funds to support school programs and is cognizant of the rules around the Federal "Safe and Gun Free Zones" and yet NH laws allow for concealed weapons as well as open carry.

<u>NHSBA Response</u>: NHSBA has two resolutions relative to guns and firearms on school grounds.

Continuing Resolution #4 states: "NHSBA will advocate for legislative action that ensures local school boards comply with federal firearm laws and policies." (2022)

Resolution VI:G• states "NHSBA supports legislation to restrict possession of firearms on school property, limiting possession to certified police officers only." (2020)

This Proposed Resolution is different, however, as it speaks to local law enforcement enforcing federal law regarding firearms on school grounds

Alternative Resolution Recommended by NHSBA Board of Directors:

VI:G• NHSBA supports legislation to restrict possession of firearms on school property, limiting possession to certified police officers only. <u>NHSBA further supports state</u> <u>legislation that would allow enforcement of the federal Gun Free School Zones Act</u> <u>within New Hampshire.</u>

18. Submitted by the Oyster River School Board

Proposed Resolution:

II:E• NHSBA proposes that the state develop an equitable and sustainable tax plan dedicated solely to education for the purpose of fully funding a constitutionally adequate education for all students in the state. (2002)

Proposed resolution amendment, edit in bold italics:

II:E• NHSBA proposes that the state develop an equitable and sustainable tax plan dedicated solely to *public* education for the purpose of fully funding a constitutionally adequate education for all students in the state.

Rationale:

Recent legislation and rule interpretation by the state continue to complicate the ability of school districts to fund a constitutionally required adequate education. Recent court rulings (ConVal vs. State of NH, Rand vs. State of NH) reiterate this requirement to form a tax plan and the continued failure of the legislature to do so. This lack is creating a significant and negative educational and financial impact on public school districts and local taxpayers. Therefore it is timely to make a small edit to NHSBA policy II:E to reinforce that NHSBA not only supports an equitable and sustainable tax plan to fund education, but that the tax plan should support PUBLIC education rather than private and/or parochial education. This also allows policy II:E to more fully coincide with policy I:B, which opposes the creation of vouchers (Education Freedom Accounts) and other programs that funnel tax dollars away from public schools into private and parochial schools.

NHSBA Response:

The NHSBA Board of Directors supports the intent and purpose of this Proposed Resolutions, with minor modifications.

Alternative Resolution Recommended by NHSBA Board of Directors:

II:E• NHSBA proposes that the state develop an equitable and sustainable tax plan dedicated solely to *public schools operated by local school districts* education for the purpose of fully funding a constitutionally adequate education for all students in the state.

<u>NHSBA Rationale:</u> The NHSBA Board of Directors believes that the alternative language clarifies that education funding be directed at public schools operated by local school districts, lest there be any confusion or misunderstanding as to what constitutes "public education."

19. Submitted by the Oyster River School Board

Proposed Resolution:

The NHSBA does not support the proposed revisions to State Administrative Rule ED 306, document #10556, as amended on 3/27/2024.

Rationale:

The proposed revisions to State Administrative Rule ED 306, as of 3/27/2024, are problematic, inadequate, and unclear in multiple areas. The proposed rule changes conflict with multiple areas of standing NHSBA policies, resolutions, and statements of belief, including but not limited to:

I:B (moving tax dollars away from public schools);

II:N and II:U (unfunded mandates and fiscal impact);

V:K, V:M, and V:N (all regarding various aspects of local control, including standards, assessment and accountability);

VI:F (equity and inclusion for students) and VI:H (diversity, equity and inclusion within curriculum;

VIII:H (decreases in content and skills tested).

The proposed revisions also can be interpreted as affecting adequate funding by shifting educational requirements to options, which significantly complicates budgeting and aspects of local control. Local control itself is challenged in the draft by limiting language allowed in crafting policies as well as altering how a credit can be earned, which are typically under local school board purview. Standards are weakened by changing "mastery" to "proficiency" in meeting competencies, where "proficiency" is now defined as a minimum requirement as opposed to a high requirement. There are also multiple changes, such as changing "instructional" to "learning", and "teaching" to "facilitating learning" that lessens the importance of classroom learning. Highly qualified and credentialed professional teachers are paramount in providing quality education; eliminating or weakening teacher preparation and licensure is a disservice to students and society and compromises the quality of the diploma issued by the school district.

Due to these and other issues and areas of concern, the NHSBA should not support the proposed revisions to ED 306 as of 3/27/2024 (5/28/2024 proposed revisions have not yet been approved at this date).

$\sqrt{\text{Adoption NOT recommended by NHSBA Board of Directors.}}$

<u>NHSBA Rationale</u>: Not support. On Wednesday August 14, 2024, the State Board adopted the new minimum standards, rendering this Proposed Resolution moot.

20. <u>Submitted by the Oyster River School Board and Cosponsor of the Hanover/Dresden</u> <u>Resolution Submitted Above</u>

Proposed Resolution:

Whereas all children deserve to be safe in New Hampshire schools; and

Whereas public education strives to encourage tolerance, acceptance, inquiry, and curiosity; and

Whereas all children deserve the opportunity to participate in school based extracurricular activities, including sports teams; and

Whereas several school districts in New Hampshire have already adopted inclusive transgender student policies; and

Whereas the state of New Hampshire has previously enacted anti-discrimination laws in 2018 protecting transgender people from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations and schools;

Therefore be it resolved that the NHSBA supports and advocates for statewide legislation and local school board policy that affirms the rights of all students to participate in education including school sponsored curricular and co-curricular activities, free of discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

<u>NHSBA Response</u>: This Proposed Resolution is the same as Proposed Resolution #13, above. The NHSBA Board of Directors response is the same to this Proposal as it was to Proposed Resolution #13.

Alternative Resolution Recommended by NHSBA Board of Directors:

VI:F• NHSBA supports equity and inclusion in all aspects of education, <u>including</u> <u>curricular programs, extra-curricular programs and co-curricular programs</u>. NHSBA supports adherence to all anti-discrimination laws, rules and statutes ensuring that no student is excluded or discriminated against on the basis of sex, gender identity, race, religious creed, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, national origin, economic status, familial status, sexual orientation, health condition, or native language. (January 2021)

<u>NHSBA Rationale:</u> NHSBA Resolution VI:F already speaks to NHSBA's support for equity, inclusion and anti-discrimination laws. This Resolution also includes all classes protected under state law. The NHSBA Board of Directors believes the Alternative Resolution reaches the stated goal of the proposed resolution without singling-out a single protected class.

21. Submitted by the Hooksett School Board

<u>Context</u>

NH state law provides a framework for school impact fees to be established for new residential development/construction via RSA 674:21 which specifically refers to "public school facilities". Local zoning ordinances specify criteria for the assignment of fees to new construction, collection of fees from developers, retention of these fees, and the criteria for school districts to be eligible to receive these fees as revenue to offset expenses for facilities construction or improvement. In some communities, ordinances or Planning Board areas of focus are oriented towards municipal projects, and school district concerns may be inadequately considered.

Proposed Resolution

NHSBA will advocate for laws governing impact fees to be updated to require local Planning Boards to revisit impact fee methodology, policy, and schedule at least every five years, to ensure local ordinances reflect legislative or rule changes and consider other local factors and school district concerns.

$\sqrt{\text{Adoption recommended by NHSBA Board of Directors.}}$

<u>NHSBA Rationale</u>: Impact fees stand to have a significant effect on school board budgeting, facilities planning, and school capital improvement plans. The NHSBA Board of Directors believes that by supporting and advocating for this Resolution, school boards will have better stability, uniformity and financial planning as it comes to school district facilities and infrastructure.

22. Submitted by the Mascoma Valley Regional School Board on 8/3/2024

Proposed Resolution:

NHSBA will support legislation that requires the State of New Hampshire to fund the cost of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey for all middle school students in the state.

Rationale:

Currently, the state of New Hampshire covers the cost for school districts to survey students for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. This biannual, anonymous survey provides valuable information to school districts, health councils, and communities so they may be able to address underlying issues facing young people such as drug use, suicidal thoughts, self-harm, eating disorders, dating violence, abuse, bullying, vaping, addiction, and so much more. This survey is often the only way adults are able to understand the issues facing young people today because of its widespread use nationwide in an anonymized fashion. Currently, New Hampshire only funds the high school survey, leaving school districts having to fund a middle school survey themselves. An age-appropriate middle school survey is currently funded by our neighbors in Maine and Vermont, giving their communities better information to address problem behaviors earlier and build stronger risk prevention strategies by the time these students enter high school.

NHSBA Response:

$\sqrt{\text{Adoption NOT recommended by NHSBA Board of Directors.}}$

<u>NHSBA Rationale</u>: The NHSBA Board of Directors recognizes and appreciates the Mascoma Valley Regional School Board's interest and stated desire to address problem behaviors earlier and build stronger risk prevention strategies by the time these students enter high school. However, the Board of Directors also believes that local school districts should undertake the Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey on their own volition, lest it be another mandate from the state and another task levied upon our school district staff.

23. Submitted by the Keene School Board the on 8/5/2024

Proposed Resolution:

NHSBA urges the New Hampshire Legislature to repeal all laws that usurp local control in regard to materials found in public school libraries. Further, NHSBA urges the New Hampshire Legislature to repeal all laws that usurp local control in regard to materials used to teach the curriculum established by the New Hampshire Legislature, New Hampshire Department of Education and local school boards.

Rationale:

It is our belief that our local school boards are best suited to deal with the expectations of the communities they serve and the staff they hire.

NHSBA Response:

 $\sqrt{\text{Adoption NOT recommended by NHSBA Board of Directors.}}$

<u>NHSBA Rationale</u>: NHSBA currently has two Continuing Resolutions that speak to this matter.

Continuing Resolution #5 states: *NHSBA opposes any legislations that divests local school boards of original jurisdiction relative to complaints about local curriculum, instruction, and instructional resources such as books, library materials, and other instructional resources. Further, NHSBA opposes any legislation that subjects school district staff to civil lawsuits and sanctions relative to curriculum and instruction. (2023)*

Continuing Resolution #6 states: *NHSBA affirms the qualifications of school district staff to research and select appropriate digital and printed material for schools. Literary and curricular collections should offer students information that provides a balance of cultural values. Further, literary collections should represent diverse points of view; provide a global perspective; stimulate essential thinking skills; and meet the interests, abilities, learning styles, and information needs of the learning community. (2023)*

The NHSBA Board of Directors believes these two Continuing Resolutions are related enough to the Proposed Resolution such that another resolution on the same topic is not necessary.

24. Submitted by the Keene School Board the on 8/5/2024

Proposed Resolution:

NHSBA opposes state laws that require mandatory reporting by teachers and staff to parents and guardians of conversations teachers and staff (including counseling, therapy, and school psychology) have with a student regarding the student's own status as a member of any protected class.

Rationale:

It is difficult enough to find and retain good teachers and staff, and mandatory reporting of non-criminal issues is a psychological and emotional burden to students and staff, violates confidentiality, and is an affront to professional ethics.

<u>NHSBA Response:</u> Support alternative language.

Alternative Resolution Recommended by NHSBA Board of Directors:

NHSBA supports legislation which prioritizes the well-being and safety of students and, while recognizing the rights of parents to make decisions about their children, also gives due consideration and weight to educators' professional judgment and their responsibility under the Code of Ethics for New Hampshire Educators to always act in a student's best interests.

<u>Rationale:</u> The Code of Ethics for New Hampshire Educators contains the following provisions:

- Educators are expected to have an awareness and respect of the confidential nature of material received and communicated from a variety of audiences.
- Educators are expected to recognize and respect confidential information acquired in the course of employment regarding individual student safety, education, health, and personal information of students and their families.

The NHSBA Board of Directors believes that the proposed Alternative Resolution addresses the intent of the proposed Resolution while simultaneously addresses the responsibilities of teachers and school staff under the Code of Ethics for New Hampshire Educators.