

Minutes of June 1, 2021 Meeting of Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education

This meeting can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qo6BC-iSpII>

I. Attendance

Name	Contact Information	Present	Absent
Senator Jay Kahn, Chair	Kahnjay03@gmail.com 603-352-2903 603-271-3077/work	x	
Brian Balke	Brian.balke@sau19.org 603-497-4818	X	
Dina Michael Chaitowitz, Esq.	dmichaelchaitowitz@gmail.com 603-235-0258/cell	X	
Evan Roy Czyzowski	evanczNH@gmail.com 603-502-3233	x	
Marna Ducharme	mducharme@londonderry.org 603-540-0043	X	
Representative Arthur Ellison	Highland242@gmail.com 603-224-7425	X	
Dr. Yves Pacifique Gakunde	ygakunde@ci.keene.nh.us 603-357-9800	X	
Ashley Harbel	aeharbel@gmail.com 860-908-9995	X	
Reverend Zachary Harmon	vicarstchristophers@gmail.com 603-329-4674	X	
Bishop Peter Libasci	lleduc@rcbm.org 603-663-0129	X	
Kathy Preston, Vice-Chair	katispeaks@gmail.com jennabisbee@comcast.net (assistant)		X
Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett	rabbijon@tbanashua.org 603-809-9736	X	
Robert Trestan	rtrestan@adl.org 617-406-6360	X	
Dr. James Waller	jwaller@keene.edu 603-358-2011	X	
Tom White	twhite@keene.edu 603-358-2746	X	
Representative Dan Wolf	dan@hodan.com 603-763-5176 603-526-6997/work	X	

II. Motions

Motion	Failed	Passed	Abstain
1. Motion to accept minutes from April 2021 Meeting		x	

Senator Kahn reviewed the Right-to-Know law.

I. April minutes accepted. Rep. Wolfe moved to accept the minutes of the April meeting; Rep Ellison seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously by all those present.

II. Policies Subcommittee report.

The State Board of Education spent its April and May meetings discussing rules implemented by other states with respect to Genocide and related studies. The Board will be continuing this discussion on June 10. It will be helpful if several members of this Commission who have knowledge of implementation in other states be resources to the Board as it goes through that discussion. Chairman Kahn indicated that the Board would likely take some action at June meeting.

We discussed two issues that Board members are curious about: (1) the age appropriateness of Holocaust and genocide education (they observed that the floor in other states was “no earlier than 6th grade”); and (2) how tightly the rule should prescribe a course of study (in some states, the course of study is wide open; in other states, rules prescribe location of studies). Board members expressed some concern that if the studies are placed in literature classes, the result might be simply a reading of *Night*. Ms. Harbel noted that the complete text of our proposed standards guards against that outcome.

If the Board continues to express concern over the phrase “not later than 6th grade,” we will clarify that the curriculum be implemented in middle school grades 6-8th and continuing through 12th grade.

Sup. Balke can be available on the 10th; Ashley, Tom, Evan, Marna, and Robert may be able to participate as well. Meeting starts at 9 am, and meetings typically go to 3:30 or 5 pm. There is no definitive time. Senator Kahn will let Angela Adams know who is available when. **Folks have to register:** Here is the link to register for the State Board Meeting:

<https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/state-board-of-education/state-board-m>

[eetings-and-minutes/2021-state-board-meetings](#). You will get a confirmation from Angela Adams.

III. Miscellaneous

1. The Chairman reported that we received a letter from Jim Smart regarding the Commission incorporating Palestinian humanitarian concerns. It is not the role of the Commission to expand its charge beyond the scope in the legislation without subsequent legislation doing that. It was suggested the topic of Palestinian humanitarian concerns be discussed in the best practices sub-committee.
2. **Save the date Wednesday July 7th for our next meeting.** Further information to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm.