

**Minutes of August 29, 2022 Meeting of
Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education**

Next meeting: October 11, 2022 at 4:00 pm

I. Attendance

Name	Contact Information	Present	Absent
Senator Jay Kahn	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	
Robert Dunn	rdunn@rcbm.org 603-434-4794	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	
Kathy Preston	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 See *
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 of March 2022 meeting		X	
2. Motion to accept minutes of May 2022 meeting		X	1 abstention
3. Motion to direct the Best Practices Subcommittee to develop an information packet (including a webinar) that describes the requirements and best practices for implementation.		X	

***Peggy Shukar from the ADL attended in lieu of Robert Trestan.**

1. **Minutes.** Tom White moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Ashley Harbel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom White moved to approve the minutes of the May meeting, with a correction to the date of the next (i.e., this) meeting (the minutes had said August 22). Ashley Harbel seconded. Dina abstained as she wasn't at the May meeting. Motion passed.

Kati Preston, Zachary Harmon and Brian Balke arrived after these votes.

2. **Update from Senator Kahn:**

Nate Green posted the Technical Advisory on the New Hampshire Department of Education's website: <https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/inline-documents/sonh/technical-advisory-holocaust-and-genocide-6-6-22-002.pdf>

Technical Advisory on DOE site includes revised rules approved by the DOE. Tom White has posted it on KSC Cohen Center site:
<https://www.keene.edu/academics/cchgs/education/nh-commission/>

3. The Best Practices Committee

Ashley Harbel reported that during the summer training at Cohen Center, teachers indicated that they were not aware that the required Holocaust education has to be in a social studies class.—She thinks this is something that needs clarity. Having the rules is great, but we need to do outreach. People know there is a law, but may not know the details of the law.

Brian Balke said it would be fairly easy to get in touch with superintendents, school principals, and others to get this information disseminated. Evan said some teachers were concerned that teaching this topic might run afoul of SB 2 divisive concepts, and teachers may want “approved” lesson plans.

Bob Dunn suggested that we should emphasize to people concerned that they will run afoul of “divisive concept laws” that the Holocaust education rules were adopted by the Department of Education and post-date the divisive concept law. Hopefully, that chronology should give teachers some confidence and degree of certainty that they are not running afoul of the divisive concept law.

Brian Balke suggested creating a one-hour webinar that can be disseminated and would include some basic important facts – e.g., what the teachers are required to do, what are some of the challenges, what are some of resources. It takes time for teachers to get comfortable; it will get better by year 2.

Sen. Kahn noted that Technical Advisory says the requirement doesn’t take effect until 2023/24 school year. We need to get clarification given the statute’s requirement that the law take effect immediately. Brian said he would reach out to Nate Greene for clarification.

Tom White offered to help creating webinar. He also suggested identifying some mentors – several people per region—who could provide assistance as a follow-up.

Senator Kahn made a motion to direct the Best Practices Subcommittee to develop an information packet (including a webinar) that describes the requirements and best practices for implementation. Brian seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ashley asked if we needed a motion to direct Best Practices Subcommittee to set up some teacher professional development. Ashley said this could be done via Zoom and without a cost. Senator Kahn didn’t think we needed such a motion. The Cohen Center

will have its own workshop packages.

4. Peggy Shukar from ADL

There are six states (Delaware, NC, NJ, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, Colorado) with Holocaust Commissions that work closely with ADL and that might want to share information – reach out one by one, or set a date and see whether people can come. Peggy will reach out and see if there is interest in a multi-state Zoom discussion of best practices. Tom White knows some people in those states, too, through an association in which he is involved. Peggy said it would be interesting to talk with people in states that also have divisive concepts laws (like Texas and Florida).

5. Implementation.

Genocide Awareness Month is April. Many commemorations of US- and UN-recognized genocides occur in April. As such, there is a great potential for diverse community engagement. Bob and Zachary happy to work on this.

6. Going forward.

Senator's Kahn's term will end in December. The Commission's final report is due November 1, 2024.

Our next annual report is due on or before November 1, 2022. Senator Kahn will write it. We can include request for extension of the Commission in that report. No later than November 2023, we could also ask for a legislative change that would repeal the repeal provision of the statute. Rep. Dan Wolf and Rep. Art Ellison could introduce.

Ashley questioned whether people wanted to change the subcommittee(s) they are on. Dina will circulate names of original members and seek assignment preferences.

7. Other discussions.

a. Kati's graphic art book about her experiences as a hidden child is being published and she is happy to talk with people about the book. Kati is also hoping to go into prisons and talk with prisoners about her experiences. The prison trip is being filmed. Evan went to Poland this year with 7 teachers, and they worked with Ukraine students.

b. With respect to filling the role of our middle school appointee, Senator Kahn noted that we shared four names of people with Governor's office. There is a new appointments person.

c. Ken Burns's PBS series is September 18-20; this is a great professional development opportunity. Senator Kahn suggested that we get information out that Commission encourages educators to watch, regardless of when the requirement kicks in. Peggy suggested an educator-only webinar that we do after the series is released (Evan, Ashley and Tom volunteered). Senator Kahn suggested having such a program in October. Brian said he would push out information to his networks. Dina suggested maybe NH Civics and JFNH could also publicize on their FB pages.

d. The NH Council for Social Studies is having its annual conference on October 21 in Manchester. Dina suggested this might be a good opportunity to relay information about Holocaust education requirements and resources.

e. Our next meeting is October 11 at 4:00.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm