

## Minutes of November 15, 2021 Meeting of Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education

### I. Attendance

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

### II. Motions

Motion	Failed	Passed	Abstain
1. <b>Motion to accept minutes from July 2021 Meeting</b>		X	1 person
2. <b>Motion for the Chairperson to convey this message: The Commission on HGE wishes to share its support for the Board of Education initial proposal for Ed Rules 306.49. We know the Board will consider the input from the public hearing and hope that the Board will move forward in the approval process as expeditiously as possible.</b>		X	

A quorum of Commission members was present at the meeting, and we convened at 4:04 p.m.

The last meeting was scheduled for September 2021, but there was no quorum. Those present asked Brian to deliver comments in support of Board of Education's work. Brian also agreed to see if the NH School Board Association has an interest in developing a sample school board policy before moving any further on this topic. It was agreed that Ashley would convene the Best Practices Subcommittee and Tom would convene the Implementation Subcommittee; subcommittees will identify objectives for this year with timelines and key milestones. It was reported that Marna Ducharme submitted her resignation to the Governor's Office.

Here is a summary of the discussions at the November 15 meeting:

**I. July minutes accepted.** Ms. Preston moved to accept the minutes of the July 2021 meeting; Tom White seconded. Brian Balke abstained, having been absent for that meeting. The minutes were accepted.

**II. Proposed Standards.**

The State Board of Education will have a public hearing in December (possibly, December 9) and will consider any input from the public. The Parent Information Center is an example of a group that might give input. After that, the proposed standards will move onto JLCAR, the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules.

Those who want to speak have to register. Testimony is in person or in writing. You can pre-register on the State Board of Education website or contact Amanda Phelps directly:

Amanda Phelps  
Administrative Rules Coordinator  
(603) 271-2718  
amanda.j.phelps@doe.nh.gov

Kati Preston, Robert Trestan (on behalf of ADL), and Rev. Harmon (on behalf of NH Council of Churches) plan to speak. Those on the Commission should not suggest that they are speaking on behalf of the Commission.

Brian moved that the Commission authorize the Chairman to convey the following statement to the Board of Education: “The Commission on HGE wishes to share its support for the Board of Education initial proposal for Ed Rules 306.49. We know the Board will consider the input from the public hearing and hope that the Board will move forward in the approval process as expeditiously as possible.” Arthur Ellison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

We discussed the recently enacted “Right to Freedom From Discrimination in Public Workplaces and Education” and how, if at all, that statute will impact our work. Evan conveyed that teachers are concerned that the new statute will interfere with teaching about important topics like the origins of genocide.

### **III. Subcommittees.**

- a. **Implementation Subcommittee.** There was an Implementation Subcommittee meeting on October 19, and the attached notes represent what was discussed. We agreed to clarify that “Needs assessment of resources needed,” means “Matching teacher resource needs with existing resources, as identified by the Best Practices Subcommittee,” and, similarly, that “Needs assessment of resources needed” for administrators be clarified as “matching district needs with existing resources as identified by the Best Practices Subcommittee.”

b. **Best Practices Subcommittee.**

Ashley convened the Best Practices Subcommittee in October as well. Evan reported that the Best Practices Subcommittee is preparing a “white paper” for early May to help administrators with implementation so that they can prepare for the year ahead – what the bill is, what the goals are. The long-term goal would be to collect existing documents/resources and “maps” to significant commemorative dates -- key points during the year (like, for example, national/international commemorative events like International Holocaust Remembrance Day or recognition of the victims of the Rwandan genocide) – with appropriate topics and material to cover. We also agreed to give teachers information on materials that already exist rather than have them have to “reinvent the wheel.” Brian said he could help the Best Practices Subcommittee work with administrators. We will aim to have a draft of the white paper in February. The next subcommittee meeting will be in December.

**IV. Next meeting**

The next full Commission meeting is scheduled for **March 21, 2022 at 4 pm.**  
**Save the date.**

At 5:15 Brian moved to adjourn; Robert seconded; motion accepted unanimously.

Discussing short term, long term goals, and an action plan for implantation.

Short term goals:

Conducting forums. This can be conducted via zoom either locally or regionally. Forums can also be conducted in schools (perhaps department meetings) utilizing teachers connected to the Commission or the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Forums for teachers could be conducted on Wednesday or Thursdays either at 3:00 or 3:30pm or a 6pm timeframe.

1. Forums for teachers
  - Information about the Commission and the mandate that is coming
  - Needs assessment of resources needed
  - Information on available resources
  - Share information collected with school administrators
2. Forums with administrators/superintendents
  - Information about the Commission and the mandate that is coming
  - Needs assessment of resources needed
  - Information on available resources
  - Share information collected with school administrators
  - Preparation/training/support/language for discussing the mandate with their communities before implementation. Outside trainers (perhaps ADL) could be utilized.
3. Coordinate with the Best Practices subcommittee to list resources, best practices, and identify what we need to put in place and make available on the Commission website (on the Cohen Center webpage).
4. Issue the new standards and best practices.

Long term goals:

1. Create a vehicle for feedback on implementation. Perhaps this can be done on a two-year cycle. This would be available for administrators and teachers. Although this will not be a formal evaluation, it will provide a means to assess best practices and implementation.
2. Inform and recruit mayors to implement Genocide Awareness month events in April.
3. Ongoing forums.
4. Recruit and organize a speakers' bureau.
5. Identify partners (NEANH, NHCSS, NHASCE, Principals Association. School Board Association)
6. Create a group of experts that educators can tap into. Initially, it could begin with Keene State College's Holocaust and Genocide Department and expand.