

Minutes of September 7, 2023 Meeting
Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education
Next meeting: November 16, 2023

I. Attendance

Name	Contact Information	Present	Absent
Senator Donovan Fenton	donovan.fenton@leg.state.nh.us 603-313-7991		X
Brian Balke	Brian.balke@sau19.org 603-497-4818	X	
Dina Michael Chaitowitz, Esq.	dmichaelchaitowitz@gmail.com 603-235-0258/cell		X
Elizabeth Curtis	ecurtis@sau81.org 603-759-1262	X	
Evan Roy Czyzowski	evanczNH@gmail.com 603-502-3233	X	
Dr. Kate DeConinck	Kate.DeConinck@keene.edu (603) 358-2949	X	
Robert Dunn, Esq.	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	hamp@tds.net 603-674-6734	X	
Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett	rabbijon@tbanashua.org 603-809-9736		X
Robert Trestan, Esq.	rtrestan@adl.org 617-406-6360		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 June 6, 2023, meeting		x	

1. The meeting started at 4:02pm. The meeting took place in Room 100 at 21 S. Fruit Street, Concord NH.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. There was no public comment.
4. New Commission member Dr. Kate DeConinck, Director of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the New Hampshire Education Department representative was welcomed.
5. Discussion/review of draft legislation to extend the Commission Representative Wolf discussed the LSR request to propose a bill to move date for final report to November 1, 2027. It will be filed next week. Brian and Dan encouraged Commission members to attend the hearing.
6. Developed calendar of Commission dates for the year. Ashley discussed future dates for Commission meetings. **The Commission agreed to meet at 4pm on November 16, 2023. January 17, 2024. March 11, 2024. May 16, 2024.**
7. Update from Implementation subcommittee. Tom discussed the Cohen Center's Qualtrics survey being developed in order to discover the scope and breadth of Holocaust and genocide education in New Hampshire. The Commission discussed ways to gather meaningful responses. The format and topics were also discussed. Brian suggested that the survey go directly to teachers. He and others agreed that a multi-tiered approach (including school principals) would be the best way to move forward. The Commission agreed that the survey, in partnership with the Cohen Center, would be appropriate and should target both social studies and language arts teachers. Ashley suggested that it is important that the survey asks teachers what they need from us. Brian suggested partnering with Nate Green in the Department of Education. It was suggested that two surveys, a separate one for principals, be conducted. One goal of the survey is to discover

if teachers are under negative pressure while teaching these topics. The Commission suggested using positive wording such as, Do you feel confident teaching? Do you need more support in your school? Community outreach? Best practices? Lessons?

Zach stressed the importance of the survey for the Commission's work. Evan suggested that teachers, such as those trained at the Cohen Center, encourage their colleagues to take the survey. Tom will share drafts with Commission and ask for feedback.

8. Cohen Center upcoming events. Kate discussed 40th anniversary events and handed out Cohen Center materials. Kathy said it is important to use the term genocide(s) when referring to the bill.

9. Tom discussed the possible role of the Commission could play in New Hampshire's Genocide Awareness Month in April and possible venues around the state that could be utilized. Zack suggested churches and houses of worship would be accessible venues. Brian offered to host an event in Goffstown focused on bringing awareness to current genocides. A discussion followed about potential awards ceremonies. Dan suggested that a contest utilize the five educational regions of New Hampshire and to include both teachers and students. Different ideas were discussed with a conclusion that any awardees present something during Genocide Awareness month. Kathy supported the idea. Ashley offered to coordinate something in the Plaistow region. Evan and Ashley suggested the utilization of their students who will be traveling to Europe and Ashley also suggested the participation of Keene State students. The members then discussed how extraordinary this current generation is.

10. Other business. Dan made the motion to accept the June 6, 2023 minutes, and Ashely seconded the motion. The Commission voted to approve the minutes. Kathy, Ashely, Zach, and Kate abstained.

Dan made the motion to adjourn. Ashely seconded. The meeting adjourned 5:10pm.