

**Minutes of March 31, 2022 Meeting of
Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education**

Next meeting: May 16th 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	
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	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 11/15/2021 meeting		X	

1. **Minutes.** Brian Balke moved to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. Rep Ellison seconded. Ashley, the Rabbi, and Representative Wolf abstained. Motion passed.

2. **Update from Senator Kahn:** In February of 2021, we adopted proposed standards for Holocaust and Genocide education. The Board of Education held its public hearing on those standards, and made two changes – to include Armenian genocide in the list and that the introduction of education be age appropriate. The Board of Education adopted those changes. Amanda Phelps, who is responsible for getting rules to JLCAR (the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules), went on sick leave. Senator Kahn spoke to Commissioner Edelblut, noting that Genocide Awareness Month is in April and it would be a positive turn of events if during that month the rules were adopted by JLCAR. He will follow up. The Office of Legislative Services does quality control to make sure that rules are not inconsistent with legislation. Senator Kahn will look into what is happening and will keep us posted.

[Clerk’s note: The standards were adopted.

<https://www.education.nh.gov/news/state-board-education-approves-holocaust-and-genocide-education-rules.>]

3. **The Best Practices Committee** is hoping the standards will be adopted before summer so that they can start working with SAU-level people to start a dialogue on curriculum. Similarly, committee members want the standards to be settled before they move forward creating resource banks. However, members have talked about ways to build resources, how to break up the information so its digestible, and about talking to

teachers during the Cohen Center’s summer institute about what they want and need (do they want lessons plans, lists of resources, etc.; what would be helpful to them?). We said we weren’t providing a set curriculum, but would provide resources. Committee members have also discussed having mentors that teachers could reach out to; this would be a long-term plan.

Brian Balke said that there is a Superintendent conference at end of June; Brian will see if we can get some time to speak to superintendents, although he is hesitant to present on something that might not be set. Senator Kahn said that the standards have to be adopted by June or there has to be a new hearing. Folks agreed that it would be worthwhile to give superintendents an update regardless.

4. Policies Committee. When JLCAR gets the standards on its agenda, Brian is happy to be present on behalf of the Commission and make it clear that we support what state board has done. The meeting is scheduled for April 15 at 9 am.

5. Implementation. The Governor’s proclamation needs to get prepared. In the past, the Governor has also asked Tom White to help him prepare a statement for Genocide Awareness Month. Senator Kahn will contact the Governor’s legislative staff. It would be wonderful if he could make announcement about the standards as well.

Senator Kahn noted that the proclamation is intended to promote civic engagement. Two years ago, we talked about having a question-and-answer session with teachers. This idea was placed on hold because of Covid. We need to start thinking again about public engagement and school engagement. Rev. Harmon suggested engaging Houses of Worship in this effort.

6. Other discussions:

- a. Senator Kahn talked a bit about House Bill 1671, Relative to the Content of an Adequate Education. There was a question about how social science would be defined. The proposed definition is that social studies would include “civics, government, economics, geography, history, and Holocaust and genocide education.” The bill is currently in the Senate.
- b. Senator Kahn reported on House Resolution 7, “reaffirming support for the nation of Israel and the location of the embassy of the United States therein. BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring: That we reaffirm our strong support for the Jewish people and our truest ally in the Middle East, the Nation of Israel; the recognition of the current and

historical capitol of Israel being in Jerusalem; and the location of the embassy of the United States now finally in Jerusalem where it should have been and where it should remain.”

- c. 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.

d. Next meeting is on May 16 at 4 pm. NOTE: Dina will be out of the country and someone else will need to take notes.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.