



*Barrett M. Christina, Executive Director*  
*Holly Kennedy, President, Hinsdale*  
*Tim Dow, First Vice-President, Franklin*  
*Matt Pappas, Second Vice-President, Rochester*  
*Brenda Willis, Past-President, Derry Cooperative*

*25 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 101*  
*Concord, NH 03301*  
*Phone: (603) 228-2061*  
*www.nhsba.org*

**2023 NHSBA Delegate Assembly**  
**Saturday October 14, 2023**  
**10:30am**  
**Grappone Conference Center**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

**8. Submitted by the Oyster River Cooperative School Board on 7/4/2023**

**Proposed Resolution:**

The NHSBA opposes any policy affecting curriculum that enables parents, guardians or other individuals or organizations to circumvent already extant local school board review policies and exposes teachers to civil suits and sanctions at the state level.

**Rationale:**

In 2021, HB 2 was signed into law as RSA 354-A:31-34. Described as an anti-discrimination bill, it included a number of prohibitions for teachers with potentially severe penalties for violations. Due to lack of clarity in the law, a FAQ was issued by the NH Department of Education, the Commission for Human Rights, and the Department of Justice. Nothing in the clarification nor the law contradicts NHSBA's policies regarding equity and inclusion (NHSBA VI:F). However, we are concerned that the prospect of civil suits and "disciplinary sanctions" from the state has already had a chilling effect on efforts to create inclusive curricula which honestly address issues of bias and race. These civil suits and sanctions, as outlined in RSA 354-A:34, circumvent local school board policies that already exist to address parental concerns regarding curricular content. This is again an erosion of local control that we find concerning.

**NHSBA Board of Directors recommendation: Do no support.** This resolution is very broad reaching and would require NHSBA to predict what types of policies are enabling to parents, etc. making complaints, or exposes staff to any kind of litigation. NHSBA recognizes the fundamental right parents have to educate their children, and the corresponding right to opt their children out of objectionable course material. However,

curriculum decisions and complaints regarding those decisions are best addressed by the local community and their elected school boards.

The wording on this proposal is not focused enough in that it broadly addresses curriculum, anti-inclusion/diversity programming, teacher/employee liability and credentialing, and parent rights. Each of those elements could be addressed from different directions with more focused language that would be hard to contest as a matter of principle.

**9. Submitted by the Dover School Board on 7/10/2023**

**Proposed Resolution:**

V NHSBA affirms the qualification of school librarians to research and select appropriate digital and printed material for school libraries. Recognizing that marginalized groups have been historically underrepresented in school libraries, literary collections should offer students information that provides a balance of ethnic, political, religious, and cultural values. Further, library material should represent diverse points of view, provide a global perspective, stimulate critical thinking skills, and meet the interests, abilities, learning styles, and information needs of the learning community.

**Rationale:**

A recent sharp increase in book challenges across NH school districts has put many qualified librarians in the position of defending (often under great public scrutiny) their reasoning for including certain material in their collections. This resolution affirms the suitability of a school librarian to curate literary and media collections that offer readers a wide array of choices reflective of a diverse learning community. It upholds the librarian as a subject matter expert who sets a standard for library collections that serve all students by offering them opportunities to see themselves represented in the bookshelves.

**NHSBA Board of Directors recommendation: Support alternative language.**

**Proposed Alternative Resolution:**

NHSBA affirms the qualifications of school district staff to research and select appropriate digital and printed material for schools. Literary and curricular collections should offer students information that provides a balance of cultural values. Further, literary collections should represent diverse points of view; provide a global perspective; stimulate essential thinking skills; and meet the interests, abilities, learning styles, and information needs of the learning community.

## **10. Submitted by the Raymond School Board on 7/28/2023**

### **Proposed Resolution:**

To include an estimate of actual food service costs for the upcoming year in the preparation of the upcoming default budget.

### **Rationale:**

School districts are required to provide meals for students, regardless of their ability to pay. As such, district expenditures for food and student meal-related products and services may far exceed the revenue actually received. This true cost for feeding all students cannot be known ahead of time. Currently, school districts can only include the originally budgeted costs plus any contractual increases for food service in the default budget. This proposed resolution would allow school districts to include the estimate of the true cost to feed all students for the upcoming year in the preparation of the default budget.

**NHSBA Board of Directors recommendation: Not support.** While the NHSBA Board of Directors understands the rationale, we believe this Proposed Resolution is too narrow. There are potentially numerous areas of a school district budget that cannot be known ahead of time and require the school board to make an educated guess as to what the actual costs may be. The Board of Directors would encourage the Raymond School Board to submit a broader proposed resolution next year for consideration that speaks to all required services school districts provide in which the actual cost cannot be adequately estimated for purposes of a default budget under SB2/RSA 40:13.

## **11. Submitted by the Monadnock Regional School Board on 7/18/2023**

### **Proposed Resolution:**

NHSBA will support any legislation that intends to streamline the recruiting, credentialing, and hiring of certified teachers from other states. This resolution is in support of both the State of NH credentialing laws, as well as the interstate compact and reciprocity between NH and neighboring states. This resolution also supports changes to reduce barriers to teachers from other states who wish to transfer retirement savings from their current retirement program into the NH Retirement system.

### **Rationale:**

Teachers in NH are retiring at a pace that exceeds the in-state candidate pool. Any legislation that will attract teachers from other states who desire to work in NH will help to improve staffing shortages by attracting qualified teachers.

### **NSHBA Board of Directors recommendation: Support alternative language.**

**Proposed Alternative Resolution:** NHSBA supports any legislation that intends to streamline the recruiting, credentialing, and hiring of certified teachers and other licensed school staff from other states. This resolution is in support of both the State of NH credentialing laws, as well as the interstate compact and reciprocity between NH and neighboring states. This resolution also supports changes to reduce barriers to teachers from other states who wish to transfer retirement savings from their current retirement program into the NH Retirement system.

## **12. Submitted by the Monadnock Regional School Board on 7/18/2023**

### **Proposed Resolution:**

NHSBA will support legislation that clarifies the responsibility and accountability of parents/guardians of students who do not conduct themselves according to local laws or school policies. NHSBA will also support legislation that clarifies the protocols for school districts to follow in disciplining students and holding parent/guardian(s) accountable.

### **Rationale:**

While behavior challenges with students are at an all-time high, the underlying challenge is lack of accountability for parents and guardians. If a student misbehaves in any way, and the parent/guardian chooses to disregard the written law or policy, then the school district is forced to negotiate, concede, or accept the behavior. This dilutes the purpose of laws and policy with the rest of the student body and local community.

Further, parents and guardians are expected to send students to school who are prepared to learn and are not a disruption (e.g., sit quietly, stand in line, pay attention to adults, respect authority, etc.). When a student does not know how to behave in this way, learning time is lost for all students as the adults must attend to the disruptions.

### **NHSBA Board of Directors recommendation: Support alternative language.**

**Proposed Alternative Resolution:** NHSBA urges the New Hampshire Legislature and Department of Education to clarify the responsibilities, obligations and rights of school boards and school districts when students do not attend school on a regular basis; are habitually truant; and otherwise do not conform to the rules and regulations of the district.

**Rationale:** Upon conversations with the Monadnock Regional School Board, their primary intent was related to truancy and disruptive student behavior that negatively impacts other students. The NHSBA Board of Directors believes the Proposed Alternative Language meets the desired intent.

**13. Submitted by the Monadnock Regional School Board on 7/18/2023**

**Proposed Resolution:**

NHSBA will support legislation that creates flexibility for town moderators and moderators of cooperative school districts to postpone school district elections in the event of inclement weather.

**Rationale:**

The current rules requiring all towns in a cooperative school district to vote on the same day leave little flexibility in the event of dangerous weather. A decision to change a voting day must be applied to all towns even if they are geographically distant, and the lead time required to make a decision is very difficult to coordinate at the last minute. Moderators need more leeway to account for safety but also encourage voter participation.

**NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Support.**

**14. Submitted by the Manchester Board of School Committee on 7/28/2023**

**Proposed Resolution:**

The Manchester Board of School Committee proposes that the language of the Resolution II-C be amended and strengthened as follows, to increase funding significantly for Building Aid:

NHSBA supports additional appropriations under RSA 198:15-a, IV, the state's Building Aid Program to adequately fund all necessary school facility needs. This program has effectively created local and state partnerships in financing school building improvements that benefit all students of New Hampshire, and which should be considered a significant part of fulfilling the State's constitutional duty to provide an adequate education to all children. (First Adopted in 2000 – Revised in 2014)

**Rationale:**

The current \$50million is not nearly adequate to the needs of NH schools.

**NHSBA Board of Directors recommendation:    **Support.****



**15. Submitted by the Manchester Board of School Committee on 7/28/2023**

**Proposed Resolution:**

We propose strengthening the language of the continuing resolution II-S: advocate for funding for universal Pre-K; Pre-K programming; and related facilities costs.

**Rationale:**

The demand for Pre-K instruction is growing exponentially and private options are not sufficient for the needs of NH families.

**NHSBA Board of Directors recommendation: Support alternative language.**

**Proposed Alternative Resolution:** Amend NHSBA II:S to read “NHSBA supports additional state adequacy aid for public pre-kindergarten.”

Currently, Resolution II:S reads “NHSBA supports the study of the establishment of additional state adequacy aid for public pre-kindergarten.” (2017)

**16. Submitted by the Manchester Board of School Committee on 7/28/2023**

**Proposed Resolution:**

We support advocating for state sustainability incentives, opportunities, and targeted goals for energy efficiency and the expansion of renewable energy; resources for electric school buses; and capital funding dedicated to sustainability-related building construction, renovation, and infrastructure.

**Rationale:**

The rising costs of utilities, construction, and transportation demands that we come up with sustainable options for the future.

**NHSBA Board of Directors recommendation: Not support.** While this may be an important issue for some school boards, the proposal does not necessarily relate to school board governance or relate directly to education.

**17. Submitted by the Manchester Board of School Committee on 7/28/2023**

**Proposed Resolution:**

We propose advocating that Medicaid be used as primary calculator for free and reduced Lunch numbers for NH school districts; advocating for the State to join the Medicaid Direct Certification program; advocate that Medicaid to Schools (MTS) be revised to allow greater flexibility in sign off (by guidance counselors, e.g.); reduce administrative burden on localities; and fund an increase in per service fees.

**Rationale:**

Too many of our students are missed by the current Free and Reduced Meal formulas and the administrative burden and cost of administering the program could be reduced.

**NHSBA Board of Directors recommendation: Support alternative language.**

**Proposed Alternative Resolution(s):** The NHSBA Board of Directors recommends splitting this proposal into three separate resolutions.

- (1) NHSBA supports legislation and rulemaking that requires the state of New Hampshire and NH Department of Education to participate in the federal Medicaid Direct Certification Program to calculate eligibility more accurately for free and reduced lunch programs.
- (2) NHSBA supports legislation and rulemaking that helps make Medicaid to Schools (MTS) funding more accessible for school districts by allowing greater flexibility in sign off (by guidance counselors, e.g.) and by supporting implied parental consent and a clearly defined and executable opt-out process for accessing public benefits for students with disabilities. (Added above)
- (3) NHSBA will support legislation and rulemaking that proposes an increase in per service fees under Medicaid programs.

## 18. Submitted by the NHSBA Board of Directors

The NHSBA Board of Directors recommends deleting/removing the following Resolution.

~~IX:D• NHSBA supports the efforts of the National School Boards Association to provide more local governance and flexibility by working with federal officials to ensure passage of all federal legislation and regulations consistent with this goal. (2015)~~

**Rationale:** As members are likely aware, in September 2021, the National School Boards Association sent a letter to the United States Department of Justice, asking the Department for Federal assistance to stop threats and acts of violence against public schoolchildren, public school board members, and other public school district officials and educators. This letter was sent without notice to or consent by the New Hampshire School Boards Association. The letter in question received national attention. NHSBA received dozens of inquiries from local school board members, expressing both agreement disagreement with the letter. After careful and deliberate consideration, the NHSBA Board of Directors decided to withdraw its membership from the National School Boards Association. NHSBA was not alone, as approximately twenty-four other state school boards associations also withdrew their membership from the National School Boards Association.

As such, the NHSBA Board of Directors believes this Resolution should be deleted or otherwise removed from our Statement of Beliefs Manual.

## **19. Submitted by the Concord School Board on August 17, 2023**

### **Proposed Resolution:**

NHSBA will advocate to the NH State Legislature to create a universal and subsidized meal program for NH public school students.

### **Rationale:**

Whereas the Concord School Board recognizes the importance of nutrition for supporting the development and learning potential of New Hampshire students.

Whereas the Concord School Board believes it is critical to tackle childhood hunger and food insecurity.

### **NHSBA Board of Directors comment:**

Because this Proposed Resolution was submitted after the deadline, the NHSBA Board of Directors is not acting on the proposal and is not making a recommendation on this proposal.

Per NHSBA bylaws, this Proposed Resolution may be considered and debated upon at the Delegate Assembly if a two-thirds (2/3) majority of delegates present vote to consider the proposal.