



Date: November 26, 2018
From: New Hampshire School Boards Association
Re: NHSBA Delegate Assembly – January 26, 2019

Dear NHSBA Member School Boards –

Included with this email/packet is a document with all Proposed Resolutions submitted for the January 2019 NHSBA Delegate Assembly, scheduled for Saturday January 26, 2019 from approximately 10am to 3pm. The agenda is being finalized and will be sent to all members shortly.

With respect to the Proposed Resolutions, NHSBA asks the following from its member school boards:

1. Please have all school board members review the Proposals.
2. Please have all school board members review the 2019 Proposed Continuing Resolutions.
3. Have your local school board appoint/elect an official Delegate to attend the NHSBA Delegate Assembly.
4. Have your local school board take an official vote/position on each of the Proposed Resolutions.

Additionally, please note the following:

1. Every submitted Proposed Resolution is included as it was submitted. The Proposed Rationale was completed by the school board that submitted the Proposal.
2. The recommendation from the NHSBA Board of Directors is just that – a recommendation. The ultimate positions/Resolutions will be determined by NHSBA member school boards.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact NHSBA if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Barrett M. Christina
Executive Director

Executive Director
Barrett M. Christina
bchristina@nhsba.org
NH School Boards Association
25 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 101
Concord, NH 03301



New Hampshire School Boards Association
25 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 101
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 228-2061
(603) 228-2351 (fax)
www.nhsba.org

NHSBA – Proposed Resolutions for January 2019 Delegate Assembly November 26, 2018

Proposed Resolution #10

Submitted by: Oyster River Coop School Board

Proposed Resolution: The New Hampshire School Boards Association supports legislation that makes clear the authority of local school districts to restrict all but authorized police and security officers from bringing firearms onto school property. This restriction applies to all students, school visitors, employees, volunteers, those attending school functions, and those voting when the polling place is in a school.

Rationale: While the federal Gun Free School Zone Act (GFSZA) would seem to coincide with this resolution, recent actions of the legislature, and an opinion by the attorney general, substantially undercut this law. In an August 26, 2016 ruling, the Attorney General stated that the NH Open Carry law allows guns to be brought into polling places (including schools) The state of New Hampshire, in his opinion, has no authority to enforce the GFSZA. In fact, another New Hampshire statute, RSA 159:26 denies any political subdivision the power to regulate “the sale, purchase, ownership, use, possession, transportation, permitting, taxation, or any other matters pertaining to firearms...” According to school attorney Gordon Graham, this law “has completely pre-empted the authority of school districts to formally adopt a policy or regulation regarding the possession of firearms on school property.” (communication to SAU 5 Board). This law would seem to make any restriction (e.g. parents bringing in guns to teacher conferences) beyond the capacity of districts to regulate. On the other hand, school boards and administration have the responsibility of maintaining an environment “free of hazardous conditions” (NH Department of Education Rule 302.02(m)—a rule that presumably would allow prohibiting the possession of guns on school property. Attorney Graham concludes that “the jumble of federal and state laws is a mess.” Action on this resolution will bring state law in line with the federal law, and give clear authority for districts to maintain gun-free schools.

NHSBA Executive Committee Recommendation: Opposed/Not recommended. The NHSBA Board of Directors has reservations adopting a Resolution relative to guns or firearms on school grounds. The NHSBA Board of Directors recognizes that school boards and individual school board members may have vastly varying opinions on this matter.

NHSBA Board of Directors Proposed Alternative: NHSBA calls upon the United States Congress, the New Hampshire Legislature and local public safety agencies to prioritize collaborative threat assessment and crisis planning with school districts; and further supports legislation at the federal, state and local levels that protect students and school district employees from on-campus violence.

Proposed Resolution #11

Submitted by: Manchester Board of School Committee

Proposed Resolution: Eliminate/remove the two existing NHSBA Resolutions relative to the New Hampshire Retirement System:

- (1) NHSBA supports the continuing existence of the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). The NHRS should be strong, secure, solvent and fiscally sustainable. To achieve this goal, NHSBA supports legislation that will strengthen NHRS's solvency while also lessening the fiscal impact on local school districts. NHSBA supports legislative changes to NHRS that ensure NHRS is fully funded. NHSBA supports legislative changes to NHRS that return state contributions to NHRS. NHSBA supports requiring that all NHRS rate increases are shared equally between employees, employers and the state. (2017)
- (2) Resolution X:A• NHSBA supports the continuing existence of the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). The NHRS should be strong, secure, solvent, and fiscally sustainable. To achieve this goal, NHSBA supports legislation that will strengthen NHRS's solvency, including legislation to change how an employee's average final compensation is determined. NHSBA supports a calculation using an average of the highest five years for all employees retiring after July 1, 2016. NHSBA further supports legislation requiring that all NHRS rate increases, above those attributable to the \$2.4 billion unfunded liability agreed to by public employers in 2007, be shared equally between employees and employers. (2011)

Rationale: The decennial commission has established a long-term plan for fully funding the New Hampshire Retirement System. All stake holders had an opportunity to voice their opinion to the Commission and make recommendations.

NHSBA Executive Committee Recommendation: Support/Recommend. The NHSBA Board of Directors believes that eliminating these two Resolutions will better reflect the Association's position with respect to recent actions of the New Hampshire Retirement System. The NHSBA Board of Directors agrees with the stated rationale as expressed by the Manchester Board of School Committee. Additionally, the NHSBA Board of Directors believes that challenges facing local school boards with respect to NHRS funding relate primarily to the elimination of state contributions to the NHRS, which were cut in 2009 and fully eliminated in FY 2013.

NHSBA Board of Directors Proposed Alternative: NHSBA supports the continuing existence of the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). The NHRS should be strong, secure, solvent and fiscally sustainable. To achieve this goal, NHSBA supports legislation that will return state contributions to NHRS.

Proposed Resolution #12

Submitted by: Merrimack Valley School Board

Proposed Resolution: NHSBA advocates for the proper funding of high quality public education and opposes any provisions of the law or rule that funds private school student reassignment using publicly raised tax dollars.

Rationale: RSA 193:3 and Ed 320 rules represent potential areas where school choice proponents can divert publicly raised funds in the case of school reassignment. The NHSBA should oppose any such efforts.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Opposed/Do Not Recommend. The NHSBA Board of Directors greatly appreciates the Merrimack Valley School Board's submission and interested in this matter. However, the NHSBA Board of Directors believes the subject matter and intent of this proposal is already covered in NHSBA Resolution I:A and I:B. Adoption of this Resolution would be duplicative and repetitive.

Proposed Resolution #13

Submitted by: Mascenic Regional School Board

Proposed Resolution: The Mascenic School Board supports NHSBA Resolution I:A, that the utilization of public education funds (be used) solely for public school purposes as determined by the local school boards.

Rationale: The advent of SB 193 and the continued advocacy for the use of public, taxpayers funds to support vouchers and/or private school interests is contrary to our belief that public education funds be used solely for the support of students' public school education.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: **No action** is needed on this proposal, as it was submitted to indicate the Mascenic Regional School Board's continued support of NHSBA Resolution I:A. The NHSBA Board of Directors greatly appreciates the Mascenic Regional School Boards continued support of this Resolution and continued support of NHSBA.

Proposed Resolution #14

Submitted by: Mascenic Regional School Board

Proposed Resolution: The Mascenic School Board supports Resolution I:B "urging the NH Legislature and Congress to oppose any efforts to subsidize elementary or secondary private, religious or home schools with public tax dollars. We oppose the creation of vouchers, tax credits and tax subsidies that in any form are targeted to (offset) the tuition or expenses for non-public K-12 schools, rather than diverting scarce tax dollars away from our public school classrooms". We urge "the NH Legislature and Congress to support improvements in our public school and to meet current funding obligations and promises benefiting the majority of America's children who are educated daily in our public schools".

Rationale: The Mascenic School Board supports the importance and responsibility of the NH Legislature and Congress to adequately fund our country's system of public education and to maintain up-to-date funding formula's designed to meet these needs.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: **No action** is needed on this proposal, as it was submitted to indicate the Mascenic Regional School Board's continued support of NHSBA Resolution I:B. The NHSBA Board of Directors greatly appreciates the Mascenic Regional School Boards continued support of this Resolution and continued support of NHSBA.

Proposed Resolution #15

Submitted by: Raymond School Board

Proposed Resolution: That if a parent chooses to exempt their student from a statewide assessment, school district does not need parental approval for the alternative activity that will be provided to the student while the assessment is being administered.

Rationale: RSA 193-C:6 and RSA 91-A:5, III were amended, such that if a student is exempted from taking the statewide assessment by their parent or legal guardian, the school must provide an appropriate alternative educational activity for the time period during which the test is administered, and that the alternative activity will be agreed upon by the parent/legal guardian and the school district. We feel that requiring parental approval for each student’s activity places an undue burden on school districts already required to find space and staff for these alternative activities during assessments.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Opposed/Do Not Recommend. The NHSBA Board of Directors understands and respects the concerns raised with this proposal. However, the NHSBA Board of Directors is concerned that the proposed language may be interpreted as meaning NHSBA does not respect parental input. Additionally, the NHSBA Board of Directors is unaware of any instances in which the school district and the parent were not able to reach mutual agreement on alternative academic activities for those students who do not take the state-wide assessment test.

Proposed Resolution #16

Submitted by: Raymond School Board

Proposed Resolution: The public funding not be used to support religious or private education.

Rationale: None provided.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Opposed/Do Not Recommend. The NHSBA Board of Directors greatly appreciates the Raymond School Board's submission and interested in this matter. However, the NHSBA Board of Directors believes the subject matter and intent of this proposal is already covered in NHSBA Resolution I:A and I:B. Adoption of this Resolution would be duplicative and repetitive.

Proposed Resolution #17

Submitted by: Raymond School Board

Proposed Resolution: That the decision as to what date to start the school year remain a local decision and not be mandated by the State Government.

Rationale: There has been discussion in State Government about the possibility of mandating that the first of school for all New Hampshire public school be after Labor Day each year. While we're not necessarily opposed to this, we feel that it should be decision made locally, not mandated by the State.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Opposed/Not Recommend. The NHSBA Board of Directors greatly appreciates the Raymond School Board's submission and interested in this matter. However, the NHSBA Board of Directors believes the subject matter and intent of this proposal is already covered in NHSBA Resolution V:I. Adoption of this Resolution would be duplicative and repetitive.

Proposed Resolution #18

Submitted by: Keene School Board

Proposed Resolution: The NHSBA supports continuing to allow school districts to determine the best opening school date for their own districts.

Rationale: The opening date of school should not be a top-down, one size fits all decision. Different regions of the state have different needs and desires regarding both the starting and ending dates of their local school districts. Local school boards are in the best position to understand the needs and wants of their local communities and should be able to determine the best start date for their region based on this information.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Oppose/Do Not Recommend. The NHSBA Board of Directors greatly appreciates the Keene School Board's submission and interested in this matter. However, the NHSBA Board of Directors believes the subject matter and intent of this proposal is already covered in NHSBA Resolution V:I. Adoption of this Resolution would be duplicative and repetitive.

Proposed Resolution #19

Submitted by: Keene School Board

Proposed Resolution: The NHSBA supports legislation allowing local districts to determine whether guns are allowed in their schools.

Rationale: Local school districts and superintendents work closely and intensely with local and state safety and law enforcement personnel to develop individualized school safety plans designed for the individual buildings and communities. Local officials should retain control over what weapons policies best keep their own students and buildings safe.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: Opposed/Not recommended. The NHSBA Board of Directors has reservation adopting a Resolution relative to guns or firearms on school grounds. The NHSBA Board of Directors recognizes that school boards and individual school board members may have vastly varying opinions on this matter.

Proposed Alternative: See Proposed Resolution #1 – Oyster River School Board

NHSBA calls upon the United States Congress, the New Hampshire Legislature and local public safety agencies to prioritize collaborative threat assessment and crisis planning with school districts; and further supports legislation at the federal, state and local levels that protect students and school district employees from on-campus violence.

Proposed Resolution #20

Submitted by: Litchfield School Board. Approved by the Litchfield School Board on November 5, 2018

Proposed Resolution: The NHSBA supports the modifying RSA 193:3, I, to require the New Hampshire State Board of Education to restore support for local decision in Change of School Assignments and Manifest Educational Hardship requests.

Rationale: Support from the State Board of Education for local decisions in a case of manifest educational hardship would restore authority to local school boards and enable local school boards to render better decisions which are in the best interest of the child. Local school boards better understand the situation under which a parent/guardian requests a manifest education hardship decision for their child. Local school boards are in a better position to determine if there is clear and convincing evidence to approve this type of request.

NHSBA Board of Directors Recommendation: No action. This proposed Resolution was submitted after the Friday November 2, 2018 deadline. For this reason, and to maintain consistency and fairness, the NHSBA Board of Directors is declining to make a recommendation on this proposed Resolution. The Litchfield School Board may introduce this proposal from the floor of the January Delegate Assembly.



New Hampshire School Boards Association
25 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 101
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 228-2061
(603) 228-2351 (fax)
www.nhsba.org

Continuing Resolutions for 2018
Adopted at the 2018 NHSBA Delegate Assembly – January 20, 2018

1. NHSBA supports legislative action that allows criminal background checks to be shared with their Human Resources Department and that the specific charge be shared with the Superintendent so he/she can make an informed judgment related to their employment. (2017)
2. NHSBA supports the continuing existence of the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). The NHRS should be strong, secure, solvent and fiscally sustainable. To achieve this goal, NHSBA supports legislation that will strengthen NHRS's solvency while also lessening the fiscal impact on local school districts. NHSBA supports legislative changes to NHRS that ensure NHRS is fully funded. NHSBA supports legislative changes to NHRS that return state contributions to NHRS. NHSBA supports requiring that all NHRS rate increases are shared equally between employees, employers and the state. (2017)
3. NHSBA supports language in legislation that provides parents' rights to opt-out of content and programs that they feel are not appropriate for their child(ren). However, NHSBA opposes language requiring parents to opt-in to content and programs for their child(ren). Opt-in language creates an undue burden on the school district to account for every student who would participate, versus the few who choose not to participate. (2017)

4. NHSBA supports fully funding the School Building Aid program pursuant to RSA 198:15-a. Furthermore, NHSBA believes that an adequate school building is a component of the requirement to provide an adequate education and therefore the state is obligated to provide funding for adequate school facilities. The state has failed to meet this obligation since 2009. (2017)
5. NHSBA supports modifying RSA 193-C:6 to require that the State Department of Education publish the results of the statewide assessment within 30 days of receipt of the assessment results. The NHSBA supports modifying RSA 193-C:6 to prohibit embargos of assessment results by the State Department of Education, local school districts, or other agencies. (2017)
6. NHSBA supports modifying RSA 198:38 to provide state funding for the cost of full day kindergarten for school districts that have chosen to provide kindergarten for the entire school day. (2017)
7. NHSBA supports the study of the establishment of additional state adequacy aid for public pre-kindergarten. (2017)
8. NHSBA supports modifying RSA 193:12 to add the following: Any person who provides false information for establishing residency for school attendance purposes, or any person who assists in doing so, may be required to remit full restitution to the school district or districts that have financial or fiscal liability as a result of the false information. (2018)
9. NHSBA supports amending pertinent electioneering statutes to clarify: (1) the definition of “election” official”; (2) that electioneering by election officials may not occur at the polling place; and (3) that a public body may affirmatively promote positions established by formal actions of that body. (2018)



2019 NHSBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

It is time for the 2019 NHSBA Delegate Assembly. This meeting informs the NHSBA legislative efforts for the next year and allows your Board an opportunity to vote on statewide issues. We need at least one delegate from each NHSBA member board to attend the Delegate Assembly. Alternate delegates are welcome and encouraged to attend as well. There is **NO** cost to attend this event!

Phone: (603) 228-2061
or (800) 272-0653
Fax: (603) 228-2351

<http://www.nhsba.org>

Officers

Shannon Barnes
President, Merrimack

Travis Thompson
1st Vice-President, Exeter Regional

Amy Facey
2nd Vice-President, Souhegan Coop

Donald Austin
Immediate Past President

Date: Saturday, January 26, 2019*
Hot Topics: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Business Meeting / Lunch: 1:00 – 1:30 pm
Delegate Assembly: 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Place: Center at Triangle Park
25 Triangle Park
Drive Concord, NH
03301

You can register online @ www.nhsba.org/trainingdelegates.asp

Or complete the registration below and fax it to NHSBA, Attn: Amanda by Monday, January 14th, 2019. The fax number is: (603) 228-2351.

**Delegate Name:

District:

SAU:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

**Alternate Delegate Name:

Phone:

Email:

The proposed resolutions are attached to this packet. We ask that each delegate review the resolutions prior to the Assembly.

Call (603) 228-2061 with any questions.

We look forward to seeing you on January 26th!

*In case of weather emergency or cancellation the NHSBA Delegate Assembly will take place on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at the Center at Triangle Park in Concord, NH.

Executive Director
Barrett M. Christina
bchristina@nhsba.org
NH School Boards Association
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Concord, NH 03301