

October 12, 2023 Parent Partnership Minutes

AGENDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 8:30 – 8:45 Guest Speaker Scott Fitzgerald – Athletic Director - Unified Sports● 8:45 – 9:00 Guest Speaker Michael Bessette – Assistant Superintendent – Ed 306 (The minimum standards for public school approval in NH)● Welcome High School student participants!●
NOTES/DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introductions● Student representatives<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussion of NECC program○ Larry clarified with student members some general guidelines for participation● Scott Fitzgerald<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Unified basketball to start after Thanksgiving○ How do schedules set up? Can we expand? Can Middle School Students join?<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Basketball part of NHI- there are two divisions, we are in the Rec division- facilitating great experience to get all involved■ They give a general schedule- a few away and home games■ Who can participate as partners- partners no shooting, we have flexibility, partners are not scoring■ Talk together about how to help each other■ Last year 6 unified athletes, 4 or 5 partners

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Sensitive to stimulus in the environment- ex. Stop the clock before the horn goes off■ Middle school student can do it if they have a para with them○ Unified soccer, volleyball, basketball and track- this is based on interest level○ We customize our meets for track-○ Designated budget- implemented basketball into the budget, there are not a lot of expenses involved in it, coach is not a part of it but will look at a stipend in that○ If there is enough interest they will offer it○ Flexibility for 8th grade to join team○ Practice during flex period so if we could transport kids to KRHS, they could participate in the team○ Student- there is interest in adding unified sports to high school, there might be more participation to partners if there was more flexibility with practices or a different time than Flex period● Unified Sports<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussed budgeting needs (hiring a coach as stipend)○ Transportation needs for MS to HS during the day (8th grade)○ Students share that there is interest to have more Unified Sports, the Partners like doing it and have friends that want to do it○ Focus on skills - motor skills
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- and resilience
- Rec League makes it different that SONH
- More participation in partnership if the scheduling was different - practices occur during FLEX period which is difficult for the students that want to be engaged in the Unified team but also want to meet the academic requirement.
 - Suggestion to offer it after school
- Community Service Time
- Are there other districts that want to increase beyond HS?
- GOALS of Unified Program - can we articulate?
 - Whats the need?
 - Erin discusses that being excluded from activities that everyone else has the opportunities to do, that highlights a need. Also cautions against being seen as community service - counterintuitive to the purpose of our group to establish a culture of inclusivity and diversity.
 - Increase athletic participation?
 - Big appeal to wide
 - EQUITABLE EXPERIENCE
 - HS is redefining the district's mission and vision around athletics, there is a thread about students with disabilities.
- [Ed 306](#) (or this public mtg material [pages 508-610](#))
 - Underpinning - the absolute rule book for every public institution working in the field of education, including charter

schools. Things that MUST BE done in order to have an approved educational program within the state. Set by laws , rules, responsibilities, outcomes; extensive document - addresses everything from curriculum to facilities to hire/license staff members

- Why is it a concern?
Components became out of date, reflective of different educational times; there are challenges that NH is facing right now because of politics. Examine ways to bring Ed 306 in line with Competency Ed - what education, should look like and rooted in cost (if Ed 306 defines responsibility of state to include XYZ then state has to pay XYZ). Ed 306 does take one specifics like mental health and social emotional needs of students.
- Governor appoints people to that board. Board is heavily distorted to a political side which is not in alignment with majority of individuals that service in field of education, as we know it. (Charter school example.)
- ELO/Band example to demonstrate competencies; “best assessor of competency is whoever in the field”
- Political side of things - effecting all of this.
- Encourage people to testify - encourage parents and help them understand what Ed 306 will fundamentally change (equity, safety, things that level the playing field); everything on the table gets stripped the the bare bones. *Strongly consider political choices in November.* This is how you

	<p>can affect change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sarah shares the if ED 306 continues in the way that they attend and funding is dropped, public schools are a valuable resource for students with special needs; if state takes away funding what will happen to programs? She imagines that things will have to be cut. She reiterates, writing letters and testify on behalf of disapproval of proposed changes.○ State Board of Ed meets on second Thursday of the MOnth at 900a. They haver very quietly changed location to Granite State College in Concord. https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/state-board-of-education○ State Board of Ed has the rules○ Devin asks how many people know how to get engaged and testify - she asks if the school or if there is a program can give parents a condensed version of how to do that. That has gone out through Facebook but we have laws that make it so we have to be very careful in how we coach and teach people to do that.○ Rachel asks if it would valuable for us to draft a letter○ Reaching Higher NH – highlights video is helpful! Advocacy information on website. Michael also offers to make connection. Maureen shares 1-pager○ Erin notes that we want to know, with our limited time, what can we do to make a difference. - Michael provides info on some representatives that would be good to target in
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	terms of communication.
ACTION ITEMS	

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open House update ● Hot Topics facing special education in the district <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taking a look at discipline, out of school suspensions and in school suspensions, discussion about the law regarding discipline ● Define purpose for wanting to increase UA offerings - competition league versus skill-building. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish need ○ Identify interest with families, whats the driver ○ Tap into youth organizations? ● Followup on Ed 306 - action items for this group?
NEXT MEETING DATE	11/9 830-930 KPDC in New London, with remote option