



New Hampshire School Boards Association
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2020 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2020

1. Welcome and Introductions:

President Travis Thompson, SAU #16, Exeter Regional Cooperative, called the 2020 Delegate Assembly to order at 1:15 p.m.

President Thompson led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Thompson introduced the NHSBA Officers and Board of Directors in attendance:

Amy Facey, First Vice-President (Souhegan Cooperative)
Brenda Willis, Second Vice - President (Derry Cooperative)
Shannon Barnes, Immediate Past President (Merrimack)
John Widmer, Lakes (Gov. Wentworth Regional)
Nancy Hendricks, South Central (Londonderry)
Matt Ballou, South West (Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative)
Holly Kennedy, South West (Hinsdale)

President Thompson introduced NHSBA staff and others in attendance:

Barrett M. Christina, NHSBA Executive Director
William Phillips, NHSBA Staff Attorney and Director of Policy Relations
Amanda Hodgman, NHSBA Operations Manager
Becky Forrestall, Guest, (NHSBA Director of Governmental Relations effective July 1, 2020)

Matthew Upton, Esq., Drummond Woodsum law firm, serving as Parliamentarian for the Assembly.

2. Certification of Delegates:

President Thompson recognized Amy Facey, First Vice President, to certify that a quorum of delegates was present.

Amy Facey certified the number of delegates present as fifty-five (55), which met the twenty percent requirement under the NHSBA Bylaws to conduct the business of the Delegate Assembly. President Thompson declared a quorum present and called the 2020 Delegate Assembly of the New Hampshire School Boards Association to order.

3. Adoption of Agenda:

President Thompson asked for a motion to adopt the proposed agenda.

The motion was made and properly seconded.

Motion to accept the 2020 Agenda was adopted by unanimous vote.

4. Adoption of Minutes from 2019 NHSBA Delegate Assembly:

President Thompson asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the 2019 Delegate Assembly, as presented.

The motion was made and properly seconded.

Motion to accept the 2019 minutes from the Delegate Assembly was adopted with one abstention.

5. President's Report:

President Thompson stated he was planning to keep his comments to a minimum and thanked the delegates for their service and dedication to the school boards. He acknowledged the efforts of the members of the NHSBA, as well as the staff of NHSBA, and appreciates the advocacy and professionalism of all.

6. Nominating Committee Report:

President Thompson presented the Report of the NHSBA Nominating committee, as found in the booklet for the Delegate Assembly.

Mrs. Facey, of the Souhegan Cooperative School Board and NHSBA's First Vice President presented the Report of the Nominating Committee. Those nominated were as followed:

President: Travis Thompson, Exeter Regional Cooperative School Board

First Vice President: Amy Facey, Souhegan Cooperative School Board

Second Vice President: Brenda Willis, Derry Cooperative School Board

Immediate Past President: Shannon Barnes, Merrimack School Board
South East Region: Matt Pappas, Rochester School Board
Lakes Region: Pam McLeod, Alton School Board

Director Christina asked for thoughts from members to be emailed or shared with both he and the Board, about how to engage North Country seats/members to try and actively meet the needs of the North Country delegates. He recognizes the challenges the Association has faced in terms of geographically finding ways to keep that connection and participation, while also recognizing the need to include the voices and engagement of the members in that region.

A motion was moved and seconded to accept the Report of the NHSBA Nominating Committee, as presented.

The motion passed by voice vote with one opposition.

The Report was **adopted**.

President Thompson congratulated the 2020 officers and the reelected NHSBA Board Members.

7. Treasurer's Report:

President Thompson recognized First Vice President, Amy Facey to provide the Treasurer's report, as the Immediate Past President, Shannon Barnes, is not in attendance today. Mrs. Facey presented the report, as found in the booklet, for the Delegate Assembly. The Report was placed on file.

8. Executive Director's Report:

President Thompson introduced Executive Director, Barrett Christina.

Director Christina was pleased to state that over the past year, NHSBA has continued to add more members, attendance at training sessions continue to be robust, and Director Christina reminds members that both he, and Will Phillips, NHSBA Staff Attorney and Director of Policy Services, are available at any time to come out and meet directly with boards and provide guidance or training. The NHSBA webinar series continues to have good registration and offers other ways for members to have access to information. The current Superintendent searches are going well, and have gone well, over the past year. Director Christina asks that if members have ideas or needs, to please send ideas about services to the NHSBA team.

9. Resolutions:

President Thompson began the Resolutions Section by explaining the process that would be utilized, as well as the rules under which this portion of the meeting would be run.

President Thompson noted that all resolutions in the Policies, Resolutions, and Statement of Belief Manual would continue without changes, unless a specific motion was made by a delegate.

First Vice President, Amy Facey, verified that of the 160-member school boards, 55 are in attendance.

No motion was made.

Proposed Continuing Resolutions for 2020: Resolutions 1 - 5:

President Thompson presented Continuing Resolutions #1-5 as a block (yellow pages).

Director Christina calls a point of order, and reports that some of the resolutions from last year were accidentally pre-printed in error. Resolutions numbered 1-6 should have already been carried over in the 2020 manual, as continuing. This means that only Resolutions numbered 7-11 are the resolutions under consideration for this year, to become continuing resolutions. Director Christina thanks members for understanding this error and carrying on with voting on Resolutions 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 for continuation, as a block.

A motion was made to accept resolutions 7-11, as a block. The motion was promptly seconded.

No further discussion is offered.

The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Proposed New Resolutions for 2020: Resolutions 6 through 11:

President Thompson and Director Christina verify the numbers are correct for the Proposed New Resolutions.

Resolution #6:

This resolution was brought forth by the Raymond school board and is not recommended by the Board. The NHSBA Board has recommended proposed alternate resolution.

A motion was made to accept the alternate resolution as provided by the NHSBA Board of Directors. The motion was properly seconded.

Nancy Hendricks, Londonderry School Board, asked if someone is in attendance from the Raymond board to discuss their thoughts on the alternate resolution.

Janice Arsenault is in attendance and stated that the Raymond Board is in favor of the alternative resolution proposed by the Board.

No further discussion is had.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution #7:

This resolution is brought forth by the Contoocook Valley School Board. This resolution is recommended by the NHSBA board of directors.

The motion is made and promptly seconded.

No further discussion is needed.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution #8:

This resolution is brought forth by the Monadnock School Board and is recommended by the NHSBA Board of Directors.

The motion was made and promptly seconded.

No further discussion is needed.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution #9:

This resolution is brought forth by the Manchester Board of School Committee. This resolution is not recommended by the NHSBA Board of Directors. The Board has provided an alternate resolution.

A motion was made and properly seconded to adopt the alternate resolution.
No further discussion is needed.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution #10:

Resolution 10:

This resolution is being brought forth by the Oyster River School Board, Nottingham School Board, and Dover School Board. This resolution is not recommended by the NHSBA Board of Directors.

An Alternate Resolution has been offered by the Board.

Tom Newkirk from Oyster River states that they have discussed this at the Oyster River Board meeting, and the alternate resolution is acceptable to the Oyster River School Board and his board would like to see the alternate resolution adopted.

A motion to accept alternate resolution was made and properly seconded.

Further discussion was had.

Member Shane Wells from Northwood asks for clarification as to what happens if this *and* Proposed Resolution #11 also passes? They are similar/cover the same issue. Would the alternative for this resolution would cover resolution #11, as well, and would both go into continuing resolution? Director Christina clarifies that if the membership vote approves or does not approve, each resolution is considered separate and would go into next years' resolutions for consideration, as well.

Wendy Hall from Lebanon asks for clarification in terms of advocacy. If both resolutions are adopted, would NHSBA staff provide advocacy for each, as there are some minor differences. Executive Director Christina concurs, there are some minor differences and yes, NHSBA would provide equal advocacy for both.

Delegate Lisa Steadman, Monadnock Regional School Board, asks if one resolution supports local control, should she abstain/advocate for one over the other? Director Christina reviewed historical precedence in regard to the Hennessy amendment from 2017. This allowed for local control, similar to the Keene resolution which was proposed in 2017. NHSBA did not have a resolution which spoke to this issue, at that time, and testified in support, without taking a position on the firearms' issue itself, but tying the issue back to local control. Individual towns currently decide who is allowed on school grounds. The resolution in 2017 which was seeking NHSBA support for some level of gun restriction, which failed by this body, was a very close vote, perhaps 24 in support and 32 opposed, approximately.

In 2018, there was no proposed resolution offered regarding this issue of allowance of guns on school grounds. In 2019, two separate resolutions were proposed, which were in conflict with each other; one seeking a ban and one seeking local choice option. This body defeated both resolutions, and this too, was a close vote. Given that there were two bills proposed last year, seeking to restrict and impose restrictions on school grounds, with the three-year voting record of this body, NHSBA testified in opposition. Director Christina stated that not testifying/providing testimony to the House Education Committee was not an option. The Committee was expecting some level of testimony from NHSBA. Supporting the legislation

itself was not an option due to the fact that NHSBA had not adopted any specific resolutions, and at that time, testifying as opposed seemed only appropriate option. If the vote swings this year, the resolution that would pass would be a continuing resolution and would not fall within the statement of beliefs manual. Director Christina's general thinking is rather than testifying publicly, NHSBA would supply a statement regarding the process of the NHSBA membership in terms of voting in/out resolutions, how the current vote came to be, clarify our process for resolutions, and provide this to the legislation, so that they would better understand why NHSBA would not be taking an obvious position either way. This provides input to the process but does not confuse legislators or appear as though NHSBA is continuously changing its position.

Tom Newkirk, Oyster River School Board, states that it sees alternate resolution #10 as a resolution which does not coincide with Resolution # 11 which is proposed. Last year, if you had to allow a local district to decide, it created a checkerboard approach and much room for an incoherent system state wide. This is not a local control resolution, and Oyster River wants a statewide restriction. The alternate resolution language gives a bit more latitude and gives more choice for boards. The Membership should still look at proposed resolution # 11 which provides both options. This allows the state to restrict vs. districts making individual decisions.

Nicole Saginor from the Cornish School Board asks the Membership: what is the chance that the Legislature will adopt a bill that limits this issue? Director Christina states that the pattern seems to be that the Legislature will adopt a bill with this intention, however, the general consensus is that then the Governor would likely veto this bill. Representative/Delegate Tim Josephson from the Mascoma Valley School Board agrees with this prediction.

Lorrie Carey from the Merrimack Valley School Board states that there are concerns as related to elections, for example. She cannot prevent people from carrying in at an election. This creates conflict in the laws for her, in her dual roles. She supports the idea that districts are different- North Country vs. Salem for example. She cites there may be cultural differences, in terms of people's comfort with firearms on school grounds. She feels the issue of local control is important. This allows for regional differences. The NHSBA Board of Director's recommendation has changed since last year, as well.

April Villani from the Pembroke School Board states that if you have a concealed carry license there is already a level of safety, as your license had to have been signed off on by the police chief. This is later corrected by Will Phillips, as incorrect (see below).

Denys Draper from the Lafayette School Board, states that we have lived in Coos County, and she cannot say in any position that weapons are used any differently in different parts of the state. Firearms may be more common in some regions but states her son and daughter and law live near Sandy Hook, and her daughter in law is a surgeon. She was called in when Sandy Hook happened and would like the body to consider Sandy Hook when making these decisions.

Kelly Gordon from the Nottingham School Board asks for someone to clarify- if we are to vote today and are split, would Director Christina still not support this at the state house?

Director Christina again reviewed the past voting history, and stated that he would hesitate to say the body supports a bill, as it is a split vote, and due to our resolutions needing three years to move into the NHSBA Policies, Resolutions and Statement of Belief Manual, this would not fall in that category. It would be important for the House Education Committee/Senate Education Committee to know this process. Our process depends highly on who attends this Delegate Assembly year to year, and we want to be clear that we support this process, but not specifically legislation. Director Christina reviewed the options we have at hearings (support, oppose, not testify). IF this resolution passes, it may be advantageous for NHSBA to not take a position.

Will Phillips, NHSBA Staff Attorney and Director of Policy Services, clarifies an incorrect statement which was made earlier: in NH, if someone asks to see a permit, there is no requirement for permit for concealed/carry. There is no mandate that someone has a permit. The reason people in NH gain a permit, is so that they can carry in a different state.

Director Christina states that it is an important issue, but we also want to be cautious as a membership to not let this issue define who we are as an Association. We have dozens of resolutions, and we would love to be able to provide training, information, professional learning and support to board members, versus testifying on this one issue. This is not a defining issue of us as an Association and we do not want this to divide us as a membership. This is one resolution. It does not define all the other things the Association does, means, and provides.

Kelly Gordon from the Nottingham School Board asks; however, the vote turns out, she would like to request that if it does pass as a resolution, she would like Director Christina to support it at the LOB.

Peter Leavitt from the Alton School Board states that with the voting always being a narrow margin, that kind of vote doesn't give the NHSBA the appearance of strength of numbers. We do not want to change each year, and if we keep flipping year to year, putting forth the process we use, not the position we take, would be more advantageous. If it makes it into the NHSBA Policies, Resolutions, and Statements of Belief Manual, then he feels it would be more likely we could testify for/against.

Director Christina stated that he was in between a rock and a hard place He could not have represented that NHSBA supported it last year, and sending a letter explaining our process may have been a more prudent option, but the LOB was expecting a public comment from NHSBA. It has been an evolution over time, and we may choose to handle things this way until certain issues become an ongoing resolution. Obviously, we could see a petition to withdraw something out of the NHSBA Policies, Resolutions, and Statements of Beliefs Manual, but that is a different discussion.

President Thompson discussed that the NHSBA Board, after last year's vote and given the diversity of group members, many Board members felt strongly that we should be advocating for no guns on grounds, but the NHSBA Board feels that this explanation to LOB, with alternative language, may be better.

Nancy Hendricks from the Londonderry School Board stated that she remembers where she was when Sandy Hook happened and cannot rationalize why anyone would want a weapon on school property. She is concerned about active shooter drills and has no reason to support weapons on school grounds.

Shane Wells from the Northwood School Board states that if you think stopping someone from having a weapon, will stop school shootings, it will not. He suggests that Membership just move to vote as it will be vetoed regardless.

A motion is made to accept the alternative language provided by the NHSBA Board of Directors. The motion was promptly seconded.

Vote is made by count:

45 in favor
4 opposed
3 abstentions

Alternative resolution # 10 has passed.

Kelly Gordon from the Nottingham School Board asked if the numbers on this vote will change NHSBA's testimony at the LOB this season. In the interest of the meeting, President Thompson stated he will have the Board of Directors address this at the next board meeting.

Resolution 11:

This resolution is submitted by the Keene School Board and is not recommended by the NHSBA Board of Directors.

A motion is made to not accept proposed resolution #11. The motion was seconded.

Further discussion on resolution #11 was had.

Sharon Gordon from the South Hampton School Board states she is new to this process, and thanks Membership for their patience. She asks for clarification on how to vote on this. It is confusing as #10 and #11 are saying two different, conflicting things.

President Thompson stated that they are two separate resolutions, and members need to vote on them separately. He asks if the South Hampton School Board voted on how they would like Sharon to vote? She states that her board never had any discussion on these resolutions. President Thompson offered that at times, our members did not vote in the past when that was a situation that occurred. Local boards should designate who is to represent the vote.

Lisa Steadman from the Monadnock Regional School Board stated that her body asked her to vote that local authority should still stand.

Chesterfield board member Ege Cordell stated that there is no amendment submitted, but yes, some districts do hire security personnel. Local restrictions would not apply to police, security, etc., according to language clarification by NHSBA Staff Attorney, Will Phillips.

Kelly Gordon from the Nottingham School Board asked; if resolution # 11 does not pass, does that cause a problem testifying at the State level? Director Christina stated that the Board Of Directors supported Resolution #10 as amended, but not Resolution #11 at all because police would have to know what districts do and don't allow guns on school property. This would lead to confusion and from a policy standpoint would not allow boards to have local policy. With potential election changes, the makeup of the board, and policy changes, this would lead to having great inconsistency.

Comment from Mike Pellerito from the Mascenic School Board, stating that he is in favor of not recommending resolution #11, but many of us are in favor of local control. However, in talking to his fellow board members, the checkerboard concern was something they discussed and therefore directed him to oppose this resolution.

A motion is made to vote on resolution, using delegate count.

5 in support

46 opposed

1 abstention

Resolution 11 fails.

Adjournment

President Thompson makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was properly seconded.

Mr. Thompson stated that the business of the Delegate Assembly had been concluded, and the Assembly was adjourned by general consent at 2:20pm.