

Education Committee Members

Pat Yosha - Chair

Ken Mendis, Ex-Officio

Shawna Coppola

Misty Crompton

Kim Gillis

Julia Lavine

Tricia Maynard

David Ryan

David Weber

Cynthia Bradley Young

Nancy Zajano

Jocelyn Merrill

Courtney Skerritt

Position Statement “Education Matters”

- Published on RUT website & in area newspapers

February 9th Fireside Chat: “Frequently Unasked Questions”

- 98 persons participated
- Website flyer widely publicized
- Program included summary of legislation that includes “effective banning instruction that frames racism, sexism or ableism as systemic issues”
- Panelists:
 - Dr. James Morse, Supt. of Schools in Oyster River Community District
 - Devon Chaffee, Executive Director of ACLU-NH
 - Parents: Shawna Coppola & Camilla Thompson
 - Teachers: Beth Caputa & Cynthia Bradley Young
- Moderator Tanisha Johnson asked, “*Why should studying about people of color be a focus in a nearly all-white state?*”
- ZOOM management by Courtney Skerritt made for successful execution of this event!
- Survey for respondents and resource lists for participants referred to in Chat for viewers, and which remain there for others’ use.

Monitoring bills in NH Legislature

- SB 304 and SB 298: Both seeking to repeal and replace the “banned concepts” parts of HB1. Both voted “inexpedient to legislate” in House committee
- HB1255: “Teacher Loyalty” bill; currently in House Committee
- HB1679: Dissolution and repeal of cooperative school districts; currently in House Committee
- HB1261: Making use of Native American mascots illegal; currently in House Committee
- SB258 Special Protection for Graves of African Americans from Enslavement Era
 - **Passed** in Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

In Congress, monitoring HR6261: African American History Act

- “Bill authorizes the National Museum of African American History and Culture to carry out educational program\’s and related activities.”
- Introduced in House in January 2022
- Sponsors include Rep. Bauman of New York & Sen. Booker of New Jersey

Looking Ahead

Frederick Douglass Community Reading

Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire (BHTNH) again inviting towns to participate in a community reading of the speech, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July,” this year on July 1

Education Committee will organize Exeter event--view to developing a fresh approach

Fireside Chat on “Book Banning in Schools”

Effect of new laws and programs

How to provide adequate study of history

August timing just before start of new school year

Continue to monitor Department of Education and State Board of Education activities with a focus on issues relevant to Racial Unity Team mission

Continue collaboration with Oyster River Equity and Justice group, SAU 16, BHTNH, NAACP, New Hampshire Listens