

RUT Education Committee Minutes
11/8/23

Attending: Julia Lavine, Shawna Coppola, Pat Yosha, Misty Crompton, Tricia Maynard, Nancy Zajano

I. Update on content on Education Committee page of RUT website:

A. Responses to Ken's questions:

1. What is the focus of this committee's work? *See Opening/ Mission Statement below.*
2. Whom are we trying to reach? *Educators, parents, political activists/voters, teacher training programs at colleges and universities.*
3. What do we want the audience to know about our work? *See Opening Statement and Resource List.*
4. Who can design the website pages: for clarity, aesthetically, catchy? *New person to be hired for website.*
5. Who will be point person and what will process be? *We can't determine this till the new person is hired and the process is determined. We will want someone in charge of periodically updating the page.*

B. Education Webpage Sections:

1. Opening Statement/Mission Statement
2. Model Policies and Practices (3 SAU 16 documents)
3. Resources – name? “DEIJB something”
4. NH Legislative Alert/Updates on State Board of Education and NH Department of Education.

This section can link to other sources, including NH American Federation of Teachers (AFT); National Education Association – NH (NEA-NH); American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); as well as the NH Equity and Justice Center – they are most connected to just education bills – Pat will check on them. See their “primer” on Shawna's resource list below. They recently wrote letter to NH State Board of Education regarding the “306” (named for the administrative rule under which they are being reviewed) proposed standards.

5. “Eyes on Censorship” – links to other posts on national and local book censorship/bans/challenges and teacher censorship/firings (Shawna knows someone who updates this – she will check.)

Misty: Shall we encourage people to volunteer by having a link on this page and each “landing page”? Shall the link go to both the RUT Volunteer Coordinator (currently Joy) as well as an education committee point person to give welcome.

Regarding creating and updating social media – this is a full-time job. Although it's important to younger people and parents, we will wait till we have the web page content and then select items to send to Molly to post on RUT social media platforms.

Education Committee Opening Statement/ Mission Statement

The RŪT Education Committee supports the mission of the Racial Unity Team by advocating for diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging (DEIJB) in public schools.

Our committee is made up of community members, educators, and students. We meet once a month to discuss important issues pertaining to education across the state. Some of the work we do includes:

- Monitoring the NH Legislature, State Board of Education, and NH Department of Education with a focus on important bills and policies related to DEIJB issues;
- Planning events and discussions to educate NH communities about the goals of DEIJB;
- Engaging NH residents in DEIJB advocacy;
- Supporting educators, particularly those who are committed to antiracism and social justice in teaching and learning;
- Preserving public education in New Hampshire;
- Proactively dealing with issues relating to intellectual freedom and banned or challenged books;
- Developing and maintaining an online resource list that includes books, articles, videos, organizations, and institutions for parents, teachers and the general public that highlight the importance of support for DEIJB education at all levels of schooling.

Discussion:

Pat wondered why there was no mention of/acknowledging our work with SAU 16 in this statement. Responses included:

- We don't want to narrow our focus to a single district, but rather speak to a statewide effort.
- We can use our efforts with SAU 16 as a place to learn before we move to other districts.
- Acknowledging SAU 16 could bring a negative backlash on their efforts.

II. Update on posting of the new SAU 16 anti-discrimination protocol on website

Pat reported that Andres Mejia is sending the final version of three SAU 16 documents to Ken to post on the Education page of the RUT website:

1. *Non-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity and Employment*

2. *District Anti-Discrimination Plan* and
3. *Protocol to Respond to Harassment and Discrimination*

All three will be labeled as “Model Policies and Practice” and be preceded with an introductory paragraph regarding why they are presented on our page. Pat is drafting the paragraph.

III. Resource List (Shawna)

See attachment to email with these minutes

Currently the list has two main subheadings: “For Educators” and “For Families/Community Members.” These can be broken down further if we like, but we don’t want to overwhelm readers.

IV. Book Challenges in Dover (Shawna) (didn’t discuss)

- <https://www.nhpr.org/education/2023-10-31/dover-school-board-to-consider-book-removal-request>

V. Brainstorm future projects (didn’t discuss)

Shawna forwarded her monitoring update on the State Board of Education:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cJfYLZjBLnh397aJn5_G0EPQMFYQugXWK6Vm4X8uNek/edit?usp=sharing