



## NHCASD Meeting Minutes \* May 23, 2025

Concord School District, The Board Room, 33 Liberty St., Concord, NH 03301

### Members and Attendance

Name	Organization/Representing	Meeting Status
<b>VACANT</b>	<b>(a)The governor, or designee.</b>	<b>VACANT</b>
Kate Scheer (Alternate – TBD)	(b)The commissioner of the department of education, or designee.	Present Virtual
Deirdre Dunn Tierney (Alternate – Lisa Fountain Storez)	(c) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.	Present Virtual
Courtney Keane <b>(Alternate: Amanda Merrill )</b>	(d) The director of the division of public health services, department of health and human services, or designee	Present In Person
Jessica Gorton (Alternate – TBD)	(e) The bureau chief of the bureau of developmental services, department of health and human services, or designee.	Present Virtual
Carolyn Lewis	(f) The bureau chief of the bureau of behavioral health, department of health and human services, or designee.	Not Present
Andrew Houtenville (Alternate – <b>Lesley Blecharczyk</b> )	(g) The director of the Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire, or designee.	Present In Person
Jane Bergeron-Beaulieu <b>(Alternate- Shelly Fagen)</b>	(h) A special education director, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Special Education Administrators, Inc	Present Virtual
<b>VACANT</b>	<b>(i) The president of the New Hampshire Medical Society, or designee.</b>	<b>VACANT</b>
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre (Alternate – TBD)	(j) A representative of the New Hampshire Developmental Disabilities Council, appointed by the council.	Present In Person

Amy Frechette	(k) An individual who has an AUTISM spectrum disorder, appointed by the governor.	Present In Person
<b>VACANT</b>	<b>(l) A family member of a person who has an AUTISM spectrum disorder, appointed by the governor.</b>	<b>VACANT</b>
Marissa Berg (Alternate – TBD)	(m) A representative of the Community Support Network, Inc., appointed by such organization	Present In Person
Michelle Ronayne Ronayne (Alternate: Jena Motolla)	(n) A representative of the New Hampshire Psychological Association, appointed by the association.	Not Present
Vernon Clough (Alternate – TBD)	(o) The director of the office of Medicaid business and policy, department of health and human services, or designee.	Present In Person
1. VACANT	(p) Up to 5 additional members, nominated by the council and appointed by the governor.	1. VACANT
2. VACANT		2. VACANT
3. VACANT		3. VACANT
4. VACANT		4. VACANT
5. VACANT		5. VACANT
Gina Cannon	(q) A person who has an AUTISM spectrum disorder, appointed by the council	Present In Person
Nancy A. Wells (Alternate: Paula MacKinnon) Alternate: Julianne Taylor	(r) A representative of the New Hampshire Nurses' Association, appointed by the association	Present In Person
Kathryn Greenslade (Alternate: TBD)	(s) A licensed speech-language pathologist, appointed by the New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Inc	Not Present

**A QUORUM WAS REACHED**

(\*) delineates family member of/or individual with a disability which counts toward an in-person quorum.

### Guests or Members of the Public

Nicollette King	Member of the Public	Virtual
Amy Rayume	Member of the Public	Virtual
Elaine Strand	Member of the Public	Virtual
Steven Ayotte	Member of the Public	In-Person
Shannon Bouchard	Member of the Public	Virtual
Carrie Duran	AC Administrative Support	Virtual

### Introductions and administrative items

- Each person on the call introduced themselves and stated which seat they were representing or if they were a member of the public.
- Review of correct contact email for council administrator. Please use [casdnh@gmail.com](mailto:casdnh@gmail.com) for all Autism Council correspondence.

**MOTION:** Gina Cannon made a motion for the in-person members of the council to make a motion to accept the members of the council into the meeting who are attending via Zoom. Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre seconded the motion.

Council Member Name	Vote
Amanda Merrill	Yes
Lesley Blecharczyk	Yes
Amy Frechette	Yes
Marissa Berg	Yes
Gina Cannon	Yes
Juliane Taylor	Yes
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre	Yes
Vern Clough	Yes

### HB 634 Autism Council Legislation Update – Marissa Berg, Interim Chair

Introduced HB 634 -Housekeeping bill

Amended HB 634 – Amended to repeal the Autism Council

- Senate has decided not to repeal the Autism Council.

**MOTION:** Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre made motion for the in-person members of the council to make a motion to accept the members of the council into the meeting who are attending via Zoom. Shelly Fagen seconded the motion.

<b>Council Member Name</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Amanda Merrill	Yes
Amy Frechette	Yes
Marissa Berg	Yes
Gina Cannon	Yes
Shelly Fagen	Yes
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre	Yes
Vern Clough and Kathryn Greensdale	Yes

### Vote on Meeting Minutes

Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre made a motion to accept the April 2025 meeting minutes. Shelly Fagen seconded the motion.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Representing</b>	<b>VOTE:</b>
<b>VACANT</b>	<b>(a)The governor, or designee.</b>	<b>VACANT</b>
Kate Scheer (Alternate – TBD)	(b)The commissioner of the department of education, or designee.	Abstain
Deirdre Dunn Tierney (Alternate – TBD)	(c) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.	Abstain
Courtney Keane <b>(Alternate: Amanda Merrill)</b>	(d) The director of the division of public health services, department of health and human services, or designee	Yes
Jessica Gorton (Alternate – TBD)	(e) The bureau chief of the bureau of developmental services, department of health and human services, or designee.	Yes
Carolyn Lewis	(f) The bureau chief of the bureau of behavioral health, department of health and human services, or designee.	Not Present
Andrew Houtenville (Alternate – <b>Lesley Blecharczyk</b> )	(g) The director of the Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire, or designee.	Not Present
Jane Bergeron-Beaulieu <b>(Alternate- Shelly Fagen)</b>	(h) A special education director, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Special Education Administrators, Inc	Yes
<b>VACANT</b>	<b>(i) The president of the New Hampshire Medical Society, or designee.</b>	<b>VACANT</b>

Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre (Alternate – TBD)	(j) A representative of the New Hampshire Developmental Disabilities Council, appointed by the council.	Yes
Amy Frechette	(k) An individual who has an AUTISM spectrum disorder, appointed by the governor.	Yes
<b>VACANT</b>	<b>(l) A family member of a person who has an AUTISM spectrum disorder, appointed by the governor.</b>	<b>VACANT</b>
Marissa Berg (Alternate – TBD)	(m) A representative of the Community Support Network, Inc., appointed by such organization	Yes
Michelle Ronayne (Alternate: Jena Motolla)	(n) A representative of the New Hampshire Psychological Association, appointed by the association.	Abstain
Vernon Clough (Alternate – TBD)	(o) The director of the office of Medicaid business and policy, department of health and human services, or designee.	Yes
1. VACANT	(p) Up to 5 additional members, nominated by the council and appointed by the governor.	6. VACANT
2. VACANT		7. VACANT
3. VACANT		8. VACANT
4. VACANT		9. VACANT
5. VACANT		10. VACANT
Gina Cannon	(q) A person who has an AUTISM spectrum disorder, appointed by the council	Abstain
Nancy A. Wells (Alternate: Paula MacKinnon)	(r) A representative of the New Hampshire Nurses' Association, appointed by the association	Not Present
Kathyrn Greenslade (Alternate: TBD)	(s) A licensed speech-language pathologist, appointed by the New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Inc	Abstain
Motion approved.		

## Quality Council Update: Gina Cannon

- Fiscal Agency is changing from Community Partners to Community Crossroads as of July 1, 2025.
- Budget discussion and how to spend outstanding dollars or money needs to be sent back to DHHS. Any decisions need to be voted on before June 30, 2025.
- We are hiring a new administrative support person for QC and Autism Council. It is a shared position between the two councils.
- Public IHS- In-Home Supports - Listening Sessions announced
- **NH Budget Process discussed**
  - Marissa Berg reviewed the NH budget process and where it is in the process.
  - Senate Finance refunded the developmental disabilities waitlist, eliminated the 3% Medicaid cuts as proposed by House Finance and added Room and Board funding.
  - Next step is Committee of Conference
  - Recreation Funding process discussed.
- PDMS Comments submitted to BDS

## Autism Council Budget

- Recommendations of items to purchase before the end of the fiscal year:
  - OWL, ZOOM, and Website Domain for Autism Council
  - Training and Education
- A council member asked about the status of HB 634 and where the AC stands.
- Council Admin: Who would house the OWL and be responsible for it.
  - Vice Chair, Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre and Gina Cannon thinks the Chair, or the Vice Chair should be in charge of the OWL?
  - Gina, What would happen to the equipment if the Autism Council was no longer?  
Response: It would go back to the state.
- Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre asked if we need a lap-top to go with the OWL? She also recommended the Autism Council consider strategic planning.
- Kate Scheer recommended training from the Office of the Special Education Advocate.

**Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre made a motion to form an Ad-Hoc Finance Committee. Marissa Berg seconded the motion.**

### Roll Call Vote

Kate Scheer	Yes
Deirdre Dunn Tierney	Yes
Amanda Merrill	Yes
Jessica Gorton	Yes
Shelly Fagen	Yes
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre	Yes
Amy Frechette	Yes
Marissa Berg	Yes

Michelle Ronayne	Yes
Vern Clough	Yes
Gina Cannon	Yes
Kathyrn Greenslade	Yes

Motion Passes

## Membership Committee

- Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre stated the Membership Committee met on April 24, 2025
  - Reviewed two applications: Amy Rhueme and Kelly Erhart for membership on the Autism Council.
  - Seats would be for the members at-large positions. Once accepted by the Autism Council, they would then be put forth to the Governor for appointment.
  - A overview of the experience and history of each applicant. All members provided with their applications ahead of time for review.
  - We are still accepting applications
  - Membership Committee will be meeting next month

**Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre made a motion to nominate Kelly Erhart for membership on the Autism Council for an at-large position. Marissa Berg seconded the motion.**

### Roll Call Vote

Name	Vote
Kate Scheer	Yes
Deirdre Dunn Tierney	Yes
Amanda Merrill	Yes
Jessica Gorton	Yes
Shelly Fagen	Yes
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre	Yes
Amy Frechette	Yes
Marissa Berg	Yes
Michelle Ronayne	Yes
Vern Clough	Yes
Gina Cannon	Abstain
Kathyrn Greenslade	Yes

Motion Passes

**Shelly Fagen made a motion to nominate Amy Rhueme for membership to the Autism Council for an at-large position. Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote**

Kate Scheer	Yes
Deirdre Dunn Tierney	Yes
Amanda Merrill	Yes
Jessica Gorton	Yes
Shelly Fagen	Yes
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre	Yes
Amy Frechette	Yes
Marissa Berg	Yes
Michelle Ronayne	Yes
Vern Clough	Yes
Gina Cannon	Abstain
Kathyrn Greenslade	Yes

Motion Passes

**Shelly Fagen made a motion to accept the Autism Council Membership Committee Procedure for At-Large Members.**

**Roll Call Vote**

Kate Scheer	Yes
Deirdre Dunn Tierney	Yes
Amanda Merrill	Yes
Jessica Gorton	Yes
Shelly Fagen	Yes
Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre	Yes
Amy Frechette	Yes
Marissa Berg	Yes
Michelle Ronayne	Yes
Vern Clough	Yes
Gina Cannon	Yes
Kathyrn Greenslade	Yes

Motion Passes.



Public Comment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steven Ayotte suggested a Polycom microphone system to be considered as a purchase for the Autism Council. Steven is also concerned about the legislation proposed to do away with the Autism Council. It has caused a lot of anxiety for the community. Asked for advocacy groups to continue to speak up.</li> <li>• Angela Fletcher asked about at-large membership can attend on Zoom or in person.</li> <li>• Marissa Berg discussed HB 634. A lot of advocacy has happened around supporting the Autism Council. We are in a positive place. Update will be given next month.</li> </ul>	
June Meeting Agenda Ideas - Next meeting on Friday, June 27 <sup>th</sup>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Resources and Training</li> <li>○ Autism Council Bylaws</li> <li>○ Update on HB 634</li> <li>○ Presentation from the IOD on projects and services</li> <li>○ Ask each organization to give updates</li> </ul>	

**Meeting Adjourned at 02:10 p.m.**

Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre made a motion to adjourn, and Gina Cannon seconded the motion.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by: Carrie Duran, Quality Council Administrator, [nhcascq@gmail.com](mailto:nhcascq@gmail.com)

