

1 NASHUA RESOLUTION ON COMMON CORE 2013.10.14 (DRAFT AS INTRODUCED)

2 Prime Sponsor: David Murotake

3 Co-sponsors:

4

5 BOARD OF EDUCATION. Requests New Hampshire Board of Education and Department
6 of Education to delay mandatory implementation of Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA)
7 and other Common Core State Standards (CCSS) alignments required in the CCSS
8 Implementation Framework for a period of two years, and forbid use of assessments and tests
9 requiring mandatory submission of privacy information without opt-out provisions, or
10 otherwise violate the strict provisions of New Hampshire and Federal student and family
11 privacy laws.

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13 A RESOLUTION: To urge and request the New Hampshire Board of Education and
14 Department of Education to delay mandatory implementation of Smarter Balanced
15 Assessments (SBA) and other Common Core State Standards alignments required in the
16 CCSS Implementation Framework for a period of two years, and forbid use of assessments
17 and tests requiring mandatory submission of privacy information without opt-out provisions,
18 or otherwise violate the strict provisions of New Hampshire and Federal student and family
19 privacy laws.

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21 WHEREAS, the Common Core State Standards Initiative, also known as "Common Core",
22 was initially undertaken by a voluntary group of states, at the behest of the National
23 Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers; and

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25 WHEREAS, the New Hampshire State Board of Education adopted the New Hampshire
26 Common Core State Standards (NH CCSS) on July 8th, 2010, along with a NH CCSS
27 Implementation Framework; and

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29 WHEREAS, the New Hampshire State Board of Education most recently adopted a revised
30 NH CCSS Implementation Framework on July 23, 2012; and

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32 WHEREAS, the Implementation Framework requires Districts to measure, by the 2014-2015
33 school year, “the effectiveness of CCSS, align district/school data systems to support CCSS
34 analysis, align staff evaluations with CCSS curriculum, instruction, and assessment
35 requirements, align SINI/DINI/restructuring plans with CCSS implementation, align District
36 Master Professional Development plan to support professional learning of CCSS outcomes
37 and expectation”; and

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39 WHEREAS, the Implementation Framework further requires Districts to administer the State
40 Summative Assessments in Spring 2015, including the SMARTER Balanced CCSS
41 Assessment (Grades 3-8, 11), Competency Assessments/Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)
42 (Grades 9-12) and the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP); and

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44 WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire is not a "home rule" state, and by RSA 186:5 the
45 State Board of Education "shall have the same powers of management, supervision, and
46 direction over all public schools in this state as the directors of a business corporation have

47 over its business, except as otherwise limited by law", and further that "It shall be the duty of
48 school boards and employees of school districts to comply with the rules and regulations of
49 the State Board", thereby requiring all New Hampshire Districts to comply with deployment
50 of the CCSS, its assessments and testing; and

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52 WHEREAS, a variety of studies cited by the National Conference of State Legislators
53 (NCSL), including the Stanford University Center for Opportunity Policy in Education, the
54 Pioneer Institute, and the Fordham Institute estimate costs of \$289 per student "over and
55 above business as usual" on average, and higher in Districts like Nashua that begin CCSS
56 transition and alignment with outmoded or sparse technology; and

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58 WHEREAS, the Nashua School District was last evaluated as a "low Step 1" in recent years
59 on a four-step technology readiness assessment by the New Hampshire Department of
60 Education;

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62 WHEREAS, after two years of substantial budget increases in technology investments, over
63 50% of District computers are still more than 8 years old, with more investment needed;

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65 WHEREAS, the District must still purchase a substantial amount of instructional materials,
66 including "catching up" on textbook purchases deferred to allow acquisition and integration
67 of instructional technology while awaiting publication of appropriate Core aligned textbooks;

68 and

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70 WHEREAS, Hart Research Associates conducted a survey of 800 teachers in March 2013,
71 finding over 74% concerned that the assessments will begin before students and teachers are
72 ready to be tested, that a majority believe their Districts have not done enough in terms of
73 professional development to learn both content and pedagogy, develop model lesson plans
74 for curriculum, and obtain the technology needed to run the computerized assessments; and
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76 WHEREAS, on April 30, 2013, US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan admitted to flaws in
77 Common Core assessments and consequences, to the annual meeting of the American
78 Educational Research Association, calling for “Assessment 2.0” – a “re-think” on Common
79 Core assessments and consequences; and

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81 WHEREAS, on April 30, 2013, both AFT President Lisa Weingarten and NEA President
82 Dennis van Roekel called for a 2-year moratorium on Common Core assessments and
83 consequences, citing the lack of readiness of the Standards, the School Districts, the students,
84 and the teachers in preparation for assessments; and

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86 WHEREAS, Nashua teachers have expressed agreement with the national AFT call for a 2-
87 year moratorium;

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89 WHEREAS, the National School Board Association, American Association of School
90 Superintendents, National Association of Elementary School Principals, and National
91 Association of Secondary School Principals issued a joint memorandum, noting states and
92 districts face “very real obstacles” to align their curricula with the new standards and

93 administer the required tests, and that "Getting this transition right can mean the difference
94 between getting and keeping public and educator support for the Common Core or a loss in
95 confidence in the standards and even the public schools, especially if as expected the first-
96 year scores will disappoint,"; and

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98 WHEREAS, the New Hampshire School Board Association, in its September 13 letter to the
99 State Board of Education, expressed "continuing concerns over the erosion of local school
100 board/district governance by both the State and US Departments of Education", that "these
101 required policy-related changes will come at the very time when school boards continue to
102 grapple with yet to be defined changes apparently required by the ESEA waiver; the
103 implementation of the Common Core State Standards; and, a transition to the Smarter
104 Balance assessment tools, to name but several prominent and new state and/or federal
105 mandates", and "On behalf of its members, has posed various questions to Department
106 officials concerning these new initiatives, seeking clarity as to impact on local school
107 districts, with the hope that answers would enable understanding and support for the
108 initiatives." but concluding, "Those questions have largely been unanswered, to date"; and

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110 WHEREAS, it may be difficult for the District to provide the needed teacher and
111 administrator professional development, technology acquisition, technology integration, and
112 Core aligned deferred textbook purchases within District budget constraints in the one fiscal
113 year remaining before the CCSS summative assessments are held in the 2014-2015 school
114 year, without additional funding such as a Race to the Top (RTTT) grant award; and

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116 WHEREAS, student behavior indicators including testing for mental health, social and
117 cultural habits (including religious practices), and family status which may be used for CCSS
118 tests and assignments are forbidden by New Hampshire legislation and regulations; and

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120 WHEREAS, Nashua parents, constituents and elected officials have expressed concern that
121 CCSS assessments and tests may violate New Hampshire and federal privacy laws by
122 requiring the storage and sharing of private student and family data, without consent, using
123 preschool through post-graduate tracking systems and a federally-funded State Longitudinal
124 Databases; and

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126 WHEREAS, the ability to guarantee student and family privacy, prevention of online entry of
127 student privacy data and enforcement of "opt out" is beyond the ability of the District to
128 guarantee, being the responsibility of the State Board of Education and the State Department
129 of Education; and

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131 WHEREAS, five states rejected the Common Core from the start, and increasing concern
132 over Common Core issues has resulted in other States either withdrawing from Common
133 Core, or considering prohibition of continued Common Core implementation.

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135 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nashua Board of Education hereby urge and
136 request the State Board of Education and the Department of Education to delay mandatory
137 implementation of Smarter Balanced Assessments and other Common Core State Standards
138 alignments required in the CCSS Implementation Framework for a period of two years.

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140 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District shall not administer any assessments or test,
141 where the privacy of student data cannot be guaranteed, preserving student and parental opt-
142 out rights to the full extent of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or
143 Nashua District Policy, whichever is stricter; and request the State Board of Education and
144 the Department of Education to forbid use of assessments and tests requiring mandatory
145 submission of privacy information without opt-out provisions, or otherwise violate the strict
146 provisions of NH student and family privacy protection legislation.

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148 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
149 Superintendent of the Nashua School District, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City
150 of Nashua and the State Commissioner of Education.

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155 Prime Sponsor:  _____ October 14, 2013