



# City of Concord, New Hampshire

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**Byron O. Champlin**

TO: Members of City Council

FROM: Mayor Byron O. Champlin

DATE: September 23, 2024

RE: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Belonging (DEIJB) Steering Committee

I propose the appointment of the following individuals to serve as ex-officio members of the DEIJB Steering Committee for two-year terms to expire October 31, 2026.

- Becky Kennedy, 15 Wyman Street, Concord. If approved Becky Kennedy will serve as the Merrimack Valley School District Representative. Becky Kennedy's letter of interest and resume are attached.
- Cara Meeker, 90 Rockingham Street, Concord. If approved Cara Meeker will serve as the Concord School District Representative. Cara Meeker's letter of interest and resume are attached.

In accordance with Section 18 of the City Council Rules, these proposed appointments are being distributed to City Council as information in advance of formal action at the October 15, 2024 City Council meeting.

**Becky Kennedy**

bkenedy@mvsdpdpride.org

9/30/2024

**Mr. Byron Champlin**

Mayor

Concord, NH 03301

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my interest in joining the City's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Belonging (DEIJB) Committee. As an experienced District Administrator and School Counselor with 18 years of experience in the education field, I am deeply committed to fostering inclusive and equitable environments that support the well-being and success of all individuals, particularly within the school community.

In my current role, I have had the opportunity to lead the implementation of New Hampshire's Multi-Tiered System of Supports for Behavioral Health and Wellness (MTSS-B). This framework has been essential in addressing the diverse social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students while promoting inclusivity through systemic change. My work with MTSS-B has given me valuable insight into how targeted, tiered supports can promote equity by ensuring that every student receives the appropriate interventions and services they need to thrive.

I am passionate about applying these principles to a broader community context, where we can work collaboratively to address systemic barriers and promote belonging for all. In addition to my experience with MTSS-B, I have also been involved in implementing programs like the Signs of Suicide Prevention training, and have led district-wide professional development on suicide prevention, student well-being, and the use of data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) to inform decision-making.

I believe that my experience in the school system, would make me a valuable contributor to the DEIJB Committee and offer a student driven lens. I am excited to collaborate with other members of the committee to create inclusive policies and initiatives that promote social, emotional, and academic success for all members of our community.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my experience and dedication align with the goals of the DEIJB Committee. Please find my resume attached for your review.

Sincerely,

Becky Kennedy

# Rebecca Kennedy

15 Wyman St. Unit 50 Concord, NH 03301

p. 603.630.3169

[bkennedy@mvsdpride.org](mailto:bkennedy@mvsdpride.org)

**Experienced District Administrator and School Counselor** with 18 years of dedicated service, committed to advocating for students' social, emotional, and academic well-being. Proven leader in implementing key initiatives such as NH Scholars, Signs of Suicide Prevention training, MTSS-B, and Transition Team programming. Skilled in organizing professional development for district staff and community members, with a focus on suicide prevention and leveraging YRBS data to drive informed decision-making. Passionate about creating supportive and inclusive environments for all students.

## EXPERIENCE

### **Merrimack Valley School District- System of Care Coordinator July 2021-Present**

- Organizes professional development planning and implementation
- Organization of District Community Leadership Team (community management team to include regular meetings and strengthening relationships with community partners)
- Grant management and securing additional funding for behavioral health, wellness, social and emotional education
- Implementation of MTSS-B District wide

### **Merrimack Valley High School, Penacook, NH — School Counselor July 2012 - PRESENT, and August 2006 - June 2010**

- Monitor and implemented college/career, personal/social, and academic interventions
- Initiate referrals for Special Education, mental health counseling, and outside agency support
- Create, monitor, adjust 504 plans
- Participate in MTSS-B Teams
- Supervise counseling department interns
- Plan and organize community outreach nights (Mental Health, SOS, College Overviews, Freshman Orientation, Academic Awards)

### **PROformance Soccer Academy, Bedford, MA — Clinician and Coach Mentor March 2011 - PRESENT**

- Plan, instruct, and coordinate coaching development for all youth town coaches in soccer organizations K-2 (Bedford Youth Soccer Bedford, MA) *2016-Present*
- Run technical and tactical training sessions (many towns)
- Instruct and plan summer camp and skill academies

## **EDUCATION**

**Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH** Dec. 2018 - July 2021

CAGS Educational Leadership - Principal Certificate

**Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH** Aug. 2002 - May 2006

M.Ed. Counselor Education: School Counseling

**Plymouth State College, Plymouth, NH** Aug. 1998 - May 2002

B.A. Art:Graphic Design, Minor: Anthropology/Sociology

**Certified Experienced Educator:** State of New Hampshire (K-12)

## **Other Leadership Roles**

**Anna Maria College Paxton, MA - Head Women's Soccer Coach**

June 2010 - February 2012

**Plymouth State University Plymouth, NH - Assistant Women's Soccer Coach** June 2012 - June 2014 , 2002-2009

Dear Mayor Champlin,

Please accept this letter of intent to serve as the Concord School District's representative on the City of Concord's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee. Thank you for including both the Concord and Merrimack Valley School Districts in this important work. As you know, the public school system is a microcosm of Concord and we share your pledge to create more equitable and accessible communities within the school environment and beyond. I believe wholeheartedly in celebrating our diverse citizenry and in the continued education and understanding of the unique lived experiences of every person who calls Concord home.

In my role as school board member, I also serve on the school district's equity advisory committee and look forward to bridging the work of these two committees by offering opportunities for combined efforts and initiatives. My promise to you and the committees upon which I serve is to be self-reflective, to listen, to research, and to be committed to advancing solutions that benefit the underserved members of our city.

Thank you,

Cara Meeker

# Cara Meeker

90 Rockingham St. Concord, NH 03301

928.814.2756 – [caramecker@yahoo.com](mailto:caramecker@yahoo.com)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Red River Theatres**

**2022 - 2024**

*Business Administrator*

- Managed the back office of a nonprofit independent movie theater-- handling payroll, cash deposits, personnel matters, invoice and receipt tracking, vendor relationships, inventory purchasing, and facility licensure renewal.
- Worked directly with executive director and accountants to track annual budget, review monthly financial reports, and assist in the completion of the annual audit.
- Worked with a team to manage special events and rentals for individuals and community partners, including planning, communications, contracts, and event execution.
- Created ads to spec for print publications, radio ads, and assisted with the creation and distribution of weekly e-newsletters and social media.

### **State of New Hampshire, Department of Safety**

**2021 - 2022**

*Program Administrator IV; Rules Coordinator*

- Coordinated agency rulemaking for all divisions of the Department of Safety as a member of the Legal Unit, including drafting and editing of rules, submitting rulemaking proposals to the state, hosting public comment hearings, and working within the department to improve processes for the efficient and timely delivery of rules and to provide exceptional customer service to the citizens of the state.

### **State of Colorado, Office of Legislative Legal Services**

**2010 - 2021**

*Senior Legislative Editor*

- Collaborated with nonpartisan staff attorneys and editors of the state legislature to draft, edit, proofread, and submit proposed legislation and resolutions within the deadlines required by rule and state law; drafted and edited amendments to bills during committee work and legislative debate.
- Researched and drafted ceremonial resolutions and memorials; assisted in the preparation of legal memos, written responses to proposed citizen initiatives submitted to the state, and the yearly publication of the Colorado Revised Statutes.
- Carried out a variety of short- and long-term projects, including researching policy and legislation; creating tables, documents, and presentations; training new staff; serving as amendment clerk to the House, and attending local and regional meetings.

## RELEVANT COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

- Current Member, Community Impact Committee, Merrimack Valley Granite United Way
- Current Member, Creative Concord (Chamber of Commerce); Sound & Color Music and Arts Festival Planning Committee
- Current Elected Official, Concord School Board of Education, Concord School District
  - Board Secretary; Chair of Policy and Communications Committee; Member of Finance Committee; Member of Equity Advisory Committee
- Volunteer, Market Days (Planning Committee member); Halloween Howl; Midnight Merriment; Multicultural Festival; CommUnity Action Program (Planning Committee member)

## EDUCATION

**Northern Arizona University**, Quaternary Sciences Master's Program  
**University of Oregon**, B.A. Geography, Environmental Studies

**2002 - 2005**  
**1997 - 2002**