

Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group – EQS Subcommittee Meeting

Meeting via Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9117282027>

Physical Location: Vermont Human Rights Commission Office 14-16 Baldwin Street Montpelier, VT 05602 December 7th, 2021

December 21, 2021

Present: Amanda Garces (Chair); Mark Hage (Vice Chair); Cynthia Reyes; Infinite Culcleasure; Michael Martin, Chelsea Myers; Mike McRaith, Vera Sheehan,

Members of the public:

Kayla Arena-Giron, Susan Aranoff, Keith Bryant, Ahuva Marinksy, Jessica Meller, Peggy Shukur, Letitia Kim, Stephanie Margonlis, Melissa Augenbraun.

04:30 p.m. – 04:40 p.m.: Call to Order/Amendments to Agenda/Introductions

The meeting convened at 4:39.

04:40 p.m. – 04:45 p.m.: Review and Approve Meetings from EQS Sub-committee 12-7-2021

[Minutes from 12-7 approved.](#)

04:56 p.m. – 06:15 p.m.: Discussion EQS definitions and categories

Statement of Purpose Paragraph 1:

- Conversation about changing “substantially equal in quality” to “high quality, equitable” in Section 2110: Statement of Purpose
- Decided on removing the word *socially* in Statement of Purpose and instead use the word inclusive and defining it

Statement of Purpose Paragraph 2:

- Conversation about replacing *extra-curricular* with *co-curricular*
- Switch *extended learning environments* to *extended learning opportunities* to be consistent with Act 77

Statement of Purpose Paragraph 3:

- Discussion about removing *bias* and keeping *discrimination*
- addition: *housing status* and *or immigration status*.
- Independent school: inconsistencies in first paragraph use public schools but here we say approved independent schools and we need to be more expansive than just public schools

Change: *culturally responsive to culturally relevant*

Add: critically, democratic, and bias

Change: expansion of three provisions to four

Change: *critically reflects to critically examines*

Add *ongoing* to historical and ongoing project of *democratic* nation-building

- “historical and *ongoing* project of democracy *in the United States and globally*”

04:46 p.m. – 04:56 p.m. Opportunity for Public to be Heard

Letitia Kim (FAIR):

- Want to see a provision that includes the necessity for diversity of sources including sources we do not agree with, which is essential in public schools

6:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.: Next steps

- Will return to statement of purpose document and discuss “equality of rights”
- Group members will volunteer to do certain segments, outline discussion points, and take responsibility to lead discussion at next meeting
 - Chelsea
 - Cynthia
 - Mike McRaith
 - Michael Martin
 - Infinite Culcleasure
 - Mark Hage taking a stab at definitions
- Early January
 - Doodle Poll will be sent out

Meeting Adjourn at **6:30 p.m.: Adjourn**

Notes by Kayla Arena-Giron, edited by Amanda Garces