



# **Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group**

## **Approved Meeting Minutes**

Rutland Free Public Library, Fox Room  
10 Court Street,  
Rutland, VT 05701  
Meeting conducted via teleconference due to COVID19

March 14, 2020

Present: Amanda Garces (Chair); Mark Hage (Vice Chair); Asma Elhuni; Barbra Marden; Bruce Pandya; Celilo Bauman-Swain; Cynthia Reyes; Infinite Culclease; Mara Iverson; Maxwell Barrows; Miakoda Schultz; Vera Sheehan; Natasha Eckart Baning; Xusana Davis; Heather Thomas Lynn; Bonnie Johnson-Aten, Chelsea Myers; Amber Wylie, Heather Bouchey, Mia Schultz, Melanie Stultz Backus, Amber Arnold, Amber Wylie, Asma Elhuni,

Others: Karen Tropper (supporting Max Barrows), Life LeGeros, Hannah Miller, Handrik, Elisa

### **Call to Order/Amendments to Agenda/Introductions**

The meeting convened at 10:30am

### **Review and Approve Minutes from January 13, 2020**

Motion made to approve the Jan 13, 2020 minutes with the following amendment to the minutes: Heather Bouchey, to be included under the work group section.

Change the wording on Page 3 from “to at least one indigenous person” to include more than one indigenous person. The motion was seconded and passed.

Amanda Garces (Chair) kicked off the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves.

### **Opportunity for Public to be Heard**

Members of the public introduced themselves with no further comments.

### **Scope of our work – Act 1 Timeline**

Mark Hage (Vice Chair) covered the initial draft of the “Work Plan For Consideration by the Working Group which detailed the work plan to be submitted by Chair and Vice chair on behalf of the **Working Group** to the Vermont General Assembly, as required by **Act 1** (2019).

Hage covered that the “due to the scope and complexity of the Working Group’s duties, and the magnitude of material to be read, discussed, analyzed, and systematized, has led to organizing essential duties with a subcommittee structure, with an emphasis on collective engagement and consensus-based decision-making”

Where the work of these subcommittees will

1. be guided and shaped at each stage by questions, guidelines, reporting protocols, and timelines determined by the Working Group and informed by the statutory requirements of Act 1 (2019).
2. be accountable to the Working Group and issue written recommendations for action and, if appropriate, for further study and deliberation.

The **subcommittees, will undertake work in the following four domains:**

1. State educational standards
2. Vermont statutes
3. State Board of Education rules
4. Seeking Input from public constituencies (parents, teachers, administrators and educational support professionals, students, the general citizenry, advocacy organizations, etc.)

Heather Lynn asked some clarifying questions as to why the above subcommittees were identified as such. Additionally, she asked both the chair and Vice chair to explained how they envision the work of the sub-committee and working group.

Max Barrows raised some concerns around the timeline for the subcommittee deliverables based on the current state where the State is dealing with COVID-19

Vera Sheehan asked how the government shutdown would affect the timeline deliverables.

Heather Lynn and Xusana Davis recommended for Garces and Hage to reach out to the AOE on guidance on how COVID-19 is going/likely to impact the work to be performed by the committee.

Max Barrows mentioned that the electronically shared materials may not work for everyone and may not be the best way to share material. Amanda Garces (Chair) is willing to work closely with anyone who may need further assistance in access electronically submitted documentation. Celilo Bauman-Swain once again offered the possibility of using google documents as tool to share material. A google folder has already been created with documents for each meeting.

Amanda Garces (Chair) asked confirmation whether sub-committee was the right structure to use as we execute the work of the Act. 1 Ethnic Studies and Social Equity Working Group and if so, to identify a chair for each subcommittee.

The working agreed to the structure.

Cynthia Reyes offered to chair the State education standards subcommittee.

Celilo Bauman-Swain and Bruce Pandya offered to chair the “seeking input from public” subcommittee. Garces urged the work group members to reflect on which subcommittee they would like to either chair or contribute to.

Next steps:

Amanda Garces (Chair) and Mark Hage (Vice Chair) will provide details on what the subcommittee domains entail, this will help work group members to make decisions if they want to chair or co-chair any of the above domains.

Additionally, Garces and Hage (Vice Chair) will provide a timeline when each work group member should identify which subcommittee they want to represent.

### **Working Group Budget**

Garces will share a spreadsheet with the work group members to provide input on what we think should be included on the budget list.

### **Meeting Discussion (Requested by Infinite)**

Infinite Culcleasure asked clarification on the protocol for substitutes to show up for a meeting if a work group member is not able to make the meeting. Would the person be compensated? Currently there is no protocol in place. Heather Bouchey responded said you need to ask the secretary of state how the substitutes are dealt with? Can they be reimbursed? Heather Bouchey will clarify

### **Housekeeping**

Garces (chair) mentioned that there might be opportunities for work group members to volunteer to present on behalf of the work group on the ACT1. The chair will provide any necessary assistance for anyone who volunteers.

The request to add students/indigenous resources to the workgroup has been submitted to the legislative. We are waiting for the Bill to go through the senate.

Next meeting: Garces to share a doodle invite for the work group members to vote on the next meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Barbra Marden.