



**Act 1 - Ethnic and Social Equity
Standards Advisory Working Group
- RFP Subcommittee**

August 15, 2022, 9:00am – 10:00 am

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlde2pqDouGNGWwBlEOsteCpXnTNyboxH2>

Present – Act 1 Working Group:

Amanda Garces, Michael Martin, Chelsea Myers, Vera Sheehan, Heather Bouchey, and Mark Hage.

Public:

None

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:05 am

Call to Order/Amendments to Agenda/Introductions

Opportunity for Public to be Heard

None present

RFP Discussion

Summary of Meeting:

1. An RFP is required to hire a consultant to assist the Working Group with the next major charge of its statutory mission, which pertains to Vermont's Education Curriculum Standards. It was also explained that an RFP will need to be reissued – **it has been issued twice so far** – because no one has yet to apply. A promising candidate we had initially thought would ask to be considered for the position was unable to do so for personal and family reasons.
2. The RFP subcommittee discussed the nature of the work as a “framework/pillars” methodology and the forms it might take, and it agreed broadly that this approach made the most sense, rather than the group attempting to critique and rewrite whole sections of the

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standards. The latter is not feasible given the breadth and scope of what it entails, and because of the limited time left to the Working Group to complete its charge.

3. The subcommittee further agreed to wrap up the curriculum standards work by the end of December 2022. Another report to the legislature is also due then.
4. Our recommendations for the curriculum standards would ultimately be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval.
5. It was suggested, and supported by all, that whoever is hired as a consultant understand from the onset that we are looking for an expert who will work very collaboratively and openly with the Working Group based on agreed-upon community norms, and recognize and benefit from the rich and diverse lived experiences and educational expertise of the group's members. We are not interested in a "cookie cutter" approach to the work or to someone dictating as facilitator/consultant what we should do. The final product of our efforts has to be based on what we know and understand to be best for Vermont students, schools and communities. Additionally, the committee discussed the importance of making sure the consultant hired does not reduce the group's focus to a "black-white binary" – but embraces and grounds it to the broadest conception of cultural, racial/ethnic, indigenous, and social-identity group inclusivity, consistent with Act 1 (2019) and our work to date.
6. Michael and Mark agreed to work on the former RFP to be consistent with the outcomes of this meeting to submit for consideration to the working group and the agency. Vera will offer her contributions to the document after Mike and Mark finish with it.
7. This next RFP document, will be shepherded as before by the Agency of Education.
8. The RFP will be discussed again at the meeting of the entire Working Group on August 18.