

Remote
Via Zoom

May 26, 2020

Present: Amanda Garces (Chair); Mark Hage (Vice Chair); Asma Elhuni; Barbra Marden; Bruce Pandya; Cynthia Reyes; Infinite Culcleasure; Mara Iverson; Maxwell Barrows; Vera Sheehan; Natasha Eckart Baning; Xusana Davis; Heather Thomas Lynn; Chelsea Myers; Amber Wylie, Heather Bouchey, Miakoda Schultz, Heather Lynn, Michael Martin

Call to Order/Amendments to Agenda

The meeting convened at 5:15pm

Review and Approve Minutes from March 14, 2020

Motion made to move the minute approval to the upcoming meeting to give individuals a chance to review the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard

There was no Public representation comments.

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

Act 1 – Work Plan Amendments and Approval

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

Mr. Hage once again explained that “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.)

Mr. Hage asked confirmation whether sub-committee was the right structure to use as we execute the work of the Vermont Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group. The working group agreed to the structure.

Additionally, he went over the timelines to ensure the provided dates are achievable.

Heather Bouchey made a recommendation to consider submitting one document to the State Board of Education at the same time to the General Assembly.

Asma Elhuni made a suggestion following one of the timeline dates (Oct 2022), Thinking about her community and how is constantly being erased from holidays. She wanted to know if there was a way to make recommendations before a finalized version.

Mr. Hage, asked whether we should create another committee that would help channel communication to the school districts. The decision was made to reword the #4 “Seek input from public constituencies” subcommittee

Motion made to authorize Amanda Garces (Chair) and Mr. Hage to perform housekeeping around the workplan. The motion was seconded and passed.

Covid-19 challenges and letter

Mrs. Garces (Chair) asked whether anyone from the work group was willing to help with the letter draft that informs the public where we are at. A google document will be created for anyone interested in providing input.

Budget

Mrs.Garces moved the item to the next meeting.

Meeting Discussion (Requested by Maxwell)

Max Barrows shared a recent episode of an Asian student who were mis-treated by their fellow schoolmates due to the recent information of COVID19 originating from China. Cynthia Reyes, shared additional information around Asian documentary in USA.

Housekeeping

Amanda Garces (Chair) mentioned that due to COVID19, the request to add students/indigenous resources to the workgroup submitted to the e legislative is currently on hold, she plans to reach out once again with the request, as we will need approval to make any additions to the work group.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Barbra Marden.

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