



Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group

Approved Meeting Minutes

Meeting conducted via teleconference

August 19, 2021

Present: Amanda Garces, Asma Elhuni, Mark Hage, Xusana Davis, Michael Martin, Cynthia Reyes, Infinite Culcleasure, Mia Schultz, Barbra Marden, Max Barrows, Julie Hansen, Natasha Eckart, Vera Sheehan, Mike McRaith, Asma Elhuni, Heather Bouchey, Mara Iverson, Chelsea Myers

Absent: Heather Lynn, Bruce Pandya, Celilo Bauman-Swain,

Members of the public:

Liz Powel, Martha Deiss, Judith Kaplan, Beth Shelley, Stephanie Sherman, Michelle Wolfson, Susan Aranoff,

Call to Order/Amendments to Agenda/Introductions

The meeting convened at 5:05

Review and Approve Minutes

Correct Julie's last name to Hansen.

Mark Made a motion to approved, seconded by Heather Bouchey– all approved.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard-

No comments

Agenda item 1: VT Association of Librarians

Beth Shelley, Librarian at Westford Elementary School in the Essex Westford School District and the Vermont School Library (VSLA) intellectual freedom representative, Judy Kaplan, Coordinator of the UVM School Library Media Studies Sequence and VSLA higher education representative, and Stephanie Sherman, Librarian at Middlebury High School in the Addison County School District and the VSLA Southwest region representative.

Discussion to prevent censorship in schools and how to protect student's intellectual freedom. Visions for libraries is that every learner is respected and has access to resources and help. The discussion was rich and committee members explain the process of policy development. The type of policy should be directed to the legislature and individual members will reach out to ensure there is a follow up.

Agenda item 2: Agency of Education conversation

Jess DeCarolis presented tools for the working group to look at. The discussion led to the need to have further conversation and revisit all the wonderful things her department is doing in relation to equity. The working group would like to see what equity work links to the mandate of Act. 1

Agenda item 3: Survey and EQS Next steps

Mark gave an overview of the timeline of the EQS. The working group will spend September reviewing and answering questions for a vote in October 2021.

Agenda item 4: Housekeeping and Next steps

The Education Justice Coalition will be hiring an Act. 1 organizer to support with outreach

Applications for the working group are open

Reminded everyone to send their stipend form.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30