



Act 1 - Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group

July 21, 2022, 3:00pm - 5:00 pm

Present – Act 1 Working Group:

Amanda Garces (Chair); Mark Hage (Vice Chair); Barbra Marden; Vera Sheehan; Natasha Eckart Baning; Xusana Davis; Heather Thomas Lynn; Michael McRaith; Cynthia Reyes; Heather Bouchey; Infinite Culcleasure; Miakoda Schultz

Public:

Auburn Watersong, Joshua Daniels, Yoram Samets, Jessica Meller, Eric Salat,

Laura Smith (notetaker)

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting convened at 3:18 p.m.

Call to Order/Amendments to Agenda/Introductions

Review and Approve Minutes from April 14, 2022

Motion: Approve minutes from April 14, 2022

Moved by: Mark Hage

Seconded by: Natasha Eckart Baning

In favor: Amanda Garces (Chair); Mark Hage (Vice Chair); Barbra Marden; Vera Sheehan; Natasha Eckart Baning; Xusana Davis; Heather Thomas Lynn; Michael McRaith; Cynthia Reyes; Heather Bouchey; Infinite Culcleasure; Miakoda Schultz;

Opposed by:

Motion Passed

Opportunity for Public to be Heard

- Auburn Watersong (she/her) - Abenaki, founder of Watersong DEI consulting and resilience development coaching. Glad to be here.

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EQS update and next steps

- On April 14th the manual was submitted to EQS subcommittee of the state board of education.
- They requested supplemental guidance to gain a better understanding of the EQS process.
- They are now in possession of [EQS, supplemental resource document](#) and [introductory narrative](#).
- Tammy Kolby and Kim Gleason are facilitating the EQS Sub-committee and we have presented our documents in their meetings. This sub-committee has received a lot of public comments. The working group received links to those comments and if someone would like to have a discussion about it, the chair has recommended to have a special meeting about it. Working group members were given the option to follow up with the chair if the special meeting is warranted.

Upcoming

- State Board will invite members of this working group to share about their specific groups and why the EQS is helpful for them. Amanda would love for members to go to these meetings and share all of the work. Neither Mark nor Amanda will be at the next meeting. Act 1 working group has requested the subcommittee to give the working group advance notice if they want/need more information before this.
- State Board, EQS subcommittee will have meetings until September before going to the full State Board.

Discussion of District Quality Standards:

- A new set of standards that the AOE has directed. DQS are requiring district leaders and school boards to have a set of standards that supervisory districts will need to address e.g.: facilities, evaluating superintendent etc. There are none so far in the current regulatory toolkit.
- Question from Mike McRaith about political history:
 - Answer: Came out of a joint set of recommendations from state Board of Ed and AOE regarding the agency and its role of moving from a department to an agency. Agencies have their own rulemaking authority. Last session the Board of Ed and AOE were directed to work with each other on this. Heather Bouchey and Amanda Garces offered get more info.
- Question from Mike McRaith: Are the standards overlapping?
 - Answer: DQS are for districts and EQS are for schools. No overlapping content.

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EQS are for the whole education system. DQS are across districts—policies, practices, and procedures for district-level. Want working group to be involved with State Board group.

Next steps:

- Implementation. Should there be a policy committee to look at EQS and help support the implementation? Especially with VSBA. Look at statue policies, VSBA policies etc. Once our work is completed, we will be making recommendations to the state.

Motion: Motion to approve Amanda Garces, Mike McRaith, Heather Lynn, Cynthia Reyes, and Barbra Marden to a policy subcommittee to have a conversation about what a work plan would look like.

Moved by: Vera Sheehan

Seconded by: Mark Hage

In favor: Amanda Garces (Chair); Mark Hage (Vice Chair); Barbra Marden; Vera Sheehan; Natasha Eckart Baning; Xusana Davis; Heather Thomas Lynn; Michael McRaith; Cynthia Reyes; Heather Bouchey; Infinite Culcleasure; Miakoda Schultz;

Opposed by:

Motion passed

RFP discussion

- Update: Sent out and extended deadline for simplify bid RFP and didn't get any applicants. Recommend getting another committee to come together to look at RFP and possibly think of a different plan. How do we get support from a consultant to work with curriculum directors and merge some of the things that are already happening in the state?
- Would love to get a committee of people who know the field, with community members, 6 people, to look at RFP in the next few weeks. Two meetings needed, possibly one.
- Note: Heather is liaison to get the RFP done but will be gone in the next two weeks. Will join after that.
- Goal: To have something for an August meeting. Also, if you are unavailable, you can always email ideas and Amanda can bring them to the group.

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Motion: Motion to create RFP subcommittee with Mark Hage, Veera Sheehan, Mia Shultz and possibly Chelsea Myers and Mike Martin to explore alternative processes.

Moved by: Mark Hage

Seconded by: Cynthia Reyes

In favor: Amanda Garces (Chair); Mark Hage (Vice Chair); Barbra Marden; Vera Sheehan; Natasha Eckart Baning; Xusana Davis; Heather Thomas Lynn; Michael McRaith; Cynthia Reyes; Heather Bouchey; Infinite Culcleasure; Miakoda Schultz;

Opposed by:

Motion Passed

Housekeeping

- There are still three empty seats. There should be two new appointees by the first week of August.
- There weren't enough applicants for students, so the Edj Coalition has re-opened the posting. Prinsha and Celilo are both going to college and Celilo will continue. Will share applications to send around to young people.
- Questions from Infinite Culcleasure: Any information from legislative council re: looking at EQS?
 - Answer: State board is looking for their own lawyer. Attorney at AOE did look at the EQS. That will become part of the process that's currently underway. Would make sense if the state board of ed will get their own opinion.
- Send stipend form to Suzanne. If you have questions, ask Amanda or Suzanne.

Open for public comment:

- Questions from Eric Salat via chat:
 - Can you describe what you mean by an equitable learning environment?
 - Mark Hage referred to the EQS definition section and the definitions listed there of equity and equitable.
 - Will the board establish another subject for students called ethnic studies?
 - No, decided in the beginning of the year that ethnic studies should be included in everything not a separate ethnic studies program.



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Motion: Motion to adjourn

Moved by: Mark Hage

Seconded by: Veera Sheehan

Endorsed by: Amanda Garces (Chair); Mark Hage (Vice Chair); Barbra Marden; Vera Sheehan; Natasha Eckart Baning; Xusana Davis; Heather Thomas Lynn; Michael McRaith; Cynthia Reyes; Heather Bouchey; Infinite Culcleasure; Miakoda Schultz;

Opposed by:

Motion Passed

Meeting Adjourned at 4:20 p.m.