

Meeting conducted via teleconference due to COVID19

December 15, 2020

Present: Amanda Garces (Chair); Mark Hage (Vice Chair); Asma Elhuni; Bruce Pandya; Celilo Bauman-Swain; Cynthia Reyes; Infinite Culcleasure; Maxwell Barrows; Vera Sheehan; Xusana Davis; Heather Thomas Lynn; Chelsea Myers; Amber Wylie; Heather Bouchey; Mia Schultz

**Members of the public:** Erin Adams; Anthony Larrapino; Ben Freeman; Kaila DeBonville; Lee Riley; Martha Deiss; Meg Hillson; Mike McRaith; Neil Richardson; Pat Fitzsimmons; Mike Martin; Addie Lentzer

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

The meeting convened at 5:10 PM.

Cynthia Reyes introduced Erin Adams, a new volunteers who will support with note taking

### **Review and Approve Minutes from November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

There were no amendments to the agenda. November 24<sup>th</sup> meetings were approved

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

- Anthony Larrapino made comments on curriculum problems that the group should look into on the history of housing segregation in the US and how the government has contributed to it. Anthony wants to make sure children are taught what they need to know to be good citizens, not just get a job and suggested “The Color of Law” book and how this explains systemic racism. Anthony would like to know if VT is teaching students how housing laws have caused segregation. “The Color of Law” also comments on how housing segregation isn’t included in educational books for students. Wants the committee to focused on Government segregation if housing and works to integrate this and other resources into the school curriculum in the next year. Offered his help.
- Mike McRaith extended his gratitude for this group and they work that they have done and the work that they are aiming to do. Extended his collaboration for the group because he is a part of the VPA and there is overlap with the work being done and wants to have this groups work alien with the VPA. Mike’s email is [mmcraith@vpaonline.org](mailto:mmcraith@vpaonline.org)
- Ben Freeman offered his help with anything and provided his email [bfreeman@vtlff.org](mailto:bfreeman@vtlff.org)

### **Educational Quality Standards Review**

Working group members review and discussed the final revisions to the “Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices, Series 2000 – Education Quality Standards”

Revisions were approved. As next steps, Mark will incorporate changes and will send an e-mail to working group members to ensure all are on board.

### **Legislative Report**

Working group members review and discussed the final revision to the report to the general assembly.

Report was finalized

### **Housekeeping**

Announcement of Zoom Q &A’s for reports. The first one will be geared to legislators on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 Pm.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Erin Adams and Amanda Graces.