



Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Thursday, August 20th, 2020

Present: Amanda Garces (Chair); Mark Hage (Vice Chair); Bruce Pandya, Vera Sheehan, Barbra Marden, Maxwell Barrows, Miakoda Schultz, Celilo Bauman-Swain, Infinite Culcleasure, Cynthia Reyes, Natasha Eckart Banning, Xusana Davis, Heather Lynn, Chelsea Myers, Amber Wylie

Absent: Asma Elhuni, Mara Iverson, Heather Bouchey, Bonnie Johnson-Aten, Michael Martin

Members of the Public: 3 Guests: 3

Call to Order/Amendments to Agenda

The meeting convened at 5:00 p.m.

Review and Approve Minutes from July 23, 2020

Minutes approved unanimously

Opportunity for Public to be Heard

No public comments

Act 1 – Substandard sub-committee report – categories of Inquiry and Questions for analyzing and discussing Vermont’s educational standards

Amanda Garces (Chair), rearranges the agenda so that Jess DeCarolis could speak before she left at 5:30 pm.

DeCarolis is the division director of Student Pathways at the Agency of Education who oversees technology programs, after school learning, etc. DeCarolis thanks the committee members for the tool created and gave feedback.

Garces introduces next guest. Christie Nold

Christie Nold is entering her 6th year of public-school teaching at FHTMS in South Burlington and prior to that directed school programs at Shelburne Farms. Next Generation Standards A

move towards universal design which is designing a curriculum that can be accessed at many different literacy levels which is better for everyone

- Equity is put at the bottom of list right now because wellness needs to be addressed first
- School systems can do one more thing so this work needs to integrate into what is already happening
- Tool can inspire the conversation to layer on top of what districts are already doing — the discussions they are already having
- How do we internally assess school practices and policies today and add pressure?
- Can we render visible for the white teaching world what is otherwise visible to BIPOC and disabled folk? — could prompt a local investigation into what's missing

Decisions and Housekeeping

The document will be voted on in the next meeting in late September and then crowdsourced after to start compiling feedback. Idea to create an equivalent document to the tool that uses its framework but compiles stories and experiences from different people in plain language.

A suitable place to hold documents needs to be found. A google form w/ a questionnaire needs to be filled out with everyone for stipends.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Nirali Desai