



**Act 78: Adult Education and Literacy HSCP
Student Access Study Committee Meeting**
December 5, 2023, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
Call In: 802-552-8456
Conference ID: 310 932 166#

DRAFT MEETING
MINUTES

Present: Catherine Kalkstein, Central Vermont Adult Basic Education; Martine Gulick, Vermont Senate; Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity; Jess DeCarolis, Vermont Agency of Education; Mike McGrath, Vermont Principals' Association
AOE: Suzanne Sprague
Others: Michelle Faust, Marty Feltus, Robin Castle, Joe Przyperhart, Sean-Marie Oller, Sharon Parker, Meg Fuerst

Meeting called to order at 3:33 p.m. Minutes taken by Xusana Davis.

Agenda

1. 3:30 p.m. Call to Order, Roll Call, Amendments to Agenda
2. 3:35 p.m. Approval of October 24, 2023 Minutes
3. 3:35 p.m. Public Comment
4. 3:45 p.m. Review of Draft Proposed Legislative Changes to HSCP and ADP
5. 4:30 p.m. Next Steps
6. 4:50 p.m. Public Comment
7. 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Approval of Oct 24, 2023 Minutes

- Motion to approve: Mike MCRAITH
- Second: Jess DECAROLIS
- Vote Outcomes
 - Aye: [GULICK, DAVIS, Catherine KALKSTEIN, DECAROLIS, MCRAITH]
 - Nay: [None]
 - Abstain: [None]
- Result: Minutes approved.

Review of Committee Proposal

- DECAROLIS provides an overview of the contents of the proposal for the committee's consideration. This proposal includes
 - potential legislation that could be introduced to support appropriate funding of the adult education and literacy network;
 - findings on the needs of adult learners and the service providers who serve them;
 - approaches to the distribution of funding to reduce delays and/or process burdens for service providers and funding recipients.

- Committee members discuss the interplay between legislation and rulemaking, and the fact that if changes are made to statute, there may likely be changes to rules that become necessary to ensure consistency throughout the regulatory scheme.
- Committee members discuss the appropriate approach/strategy for how to introduce this proposal during the legislative session.
- Result: The committee members will provide feedback on the draft proposal by Monday 12/11 and to hold the final committee meeting on Wed 12/20 at 3:30 p.m.

Public Comment

- Sean-Marie Oller: Thanks the committee for tis work and wants to point out that the decline in enrollment mirrors the change in population. Also, it would be best to ensure that any changes to statute or rules don't result in reduced funding for any of the service providers from the funding levels they had been receiving before.
- Joe Przyperhart: At the top of Page 3 of the committee's proposed report, there is a mention that the budget will be based on an average of the two prior years. However, this would represent a substantial cut to funding because those years were an unusual time period due to COVID-19 interfering with enrollment.
 - DECAROLIS reply: The two years that would be averaged are FY'23 and FY'24. FY'24 represents a significant increase in enrollment, so we are confident this is a safe approach and will not solely rely on those previous years marked by lower enrollment.
- Michelle Faust: Appreciates the committee's proposal and work. Moving in this direction would save us a tremendous amount of time that we are spending on administrative tasks, which takes away from the student experience, which is really what it should all be about.

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn: GULICK
- Second: DECAROLIS
- Vote Outcomes: All vote aye.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.
- Next Meeting Date: Wednesday December 20, 2023 (3:30-5:00 p.m.)

Action Items

- Kalkstein: Alert any absent members of the next meeting date.
- All: Provide feedback on the proposal directly to the Chair by 12/11.