



Advisory Council on Literacy
 March 8, 2023, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Approved Meeting Minutes

Present: Gwen Carmolli, Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association, Chair; Susan Gray, Vermont Independent Schools Association; Cynthia Gardner-Morse, Community Member; Don Tinney, Vermont National Education Association; Emily Leute as a proxy for Secretary French, Agency of Education; Ana Russo, Vermont Agency of Education; Michael Flanagan, Maple Run School District; Katie Campbell, Maple Run School District; Bev Davis, Vermont Superintendents Association; Susan Koch, Montpelier Roxbury School District; Jennifer Farnsworth, Essex-Westford Educational Community Unified Union School District

AOE: Suzanne Sprague, Meg Porcella, Pat Fitzsimmons, Lori Dolezal, Emily Lesh, Stephanie Vogel

Time	Topic	Notes
3:00-3:25	Senate Education Committee Testimony Share one resource/instructional strategy that has led to improved literacy achievement. How was it useful?	The meeting began at 3:04 p.m. Gwen Carmolli provided testimony to Senate Ed regarding recommendations we submitted about the Blueprint. She reviewed the areas of strength, support, changes, etc. They were appreciative and look forward to seeing scores rise and are aware of the effects of the pandemic and also safety issues that have been on the rise in schools. Share one resource/instructional strategy that has led to improved literacy achievement. How was it useful? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Literacy Essentials - detailed instructional practices ● <i>The Writing Revolution</i> by ● Mini-Matrix Maker ● Think-aloud ● Literacy program - Amplify - aligns well with Wilson ● Heggerty phonemic awareness program ● <i>Shifting the Balance</i> by Burkins and Yates ● PASS - phonemic awareness screener ● BookFlix - pairs a fiction story with a non-fiction story, digital, has subtitles ● Ana Russo - VT Alt Assessment resources ● IES WWC Practice guides on Foundational Skills and Adolescent Literacy.
3:25-3:30	Approve minutes from February meeting	Michael Flanagan/Cynthia Gardner-Morse - approved

3:30-3:40	Public Comment	<p>Community Member - submitted after Feb. meeting - Mack Gardner-Morse – appreciates use of evidence-based, concerns with Tracy Watterson comment about VT removing RTI from VT-MTSS, would like the Council to review the research on RTI and work on amending the MTSS guide to include RTI. Gwen notes that Tracy is working on a response.</p> <p>Video link resource, Dr. Kilpatrick on RTI</p> <p>Cynthia Gardner-Morse - submitted a question about March task. She will bring it up during that agenda item.</p> <p>Susan Gray - Do we have any representation on the Council for students in the Correctional High School of VT? Gwen responded that representation is outlined in Act 28.</p>
3:40-4:10	AOE Literacy/Act 28 Updates	<p>Act 28 outlines a number of tasks for the AOE to do (as well as tasks for the Council).</p> <p>Emily Lesh provided the following updates.</p> <p>Purpose of Act 28:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To improve literacy outcomes for all students ● Addressing learning loss through evidence-based interventions <p>Core Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish Literacy Council ● Appropriated ESSER funds to support a position and PD <p>Literacy Policy and Practice Drivers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Act 28 ● Act 173 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Comprehensive Assessment System ○ Coordinated Curriculum ○ Education Support Teams ○ Needs-based PD ● VT Early Learning standards ● EQS <p>Updates on Act 28 (slides are posted on Council website):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hired an Act 28 project manager ● Established a cross-divisional team to coordinate literacy efforts across the AOE ● Coordination with Council and other membership organizations, districts/SUs

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Surveyed the field about current literacy practices ● Identified and analyzed local literacy investment trends (from CIPs and Recovery Plans) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PD in literacy ○ New programs ○ ELA coaches ○ ELA interventionists ● Surveyed the field to understand local needs/opportunities in order to identify strategic activities at AOE (over 83% response rate) ● Resources, reports (over 20) posted on Advisory Council website ● Working on designing evergreen webspace to organize and collate resources in a user-friendly format ● Working on a Literacy Playbook and a Community of Practice ● Put out an RFP for a statewide exemplar coordinated curriculum that SUs/Districts could implement voluntarily ● Contract to support PD/coaching on local comprehensive assessment system ● Resources on assessment guidelines being updated ● 306 educators attending Lexile/Quantile Academy ● Developing ELL resources ● Reviewed literacy syllabi for pre-service teachers ● Developed self-paced online learning PD modules - these will be released soon ● Put out an RFP for family engagement strategies for literacy <p>Gwen Carmolli asked for questions (2/member):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How will Playbook be rolled out? <i>AOE would like to hear suggestions and will be asking for feedback on draft outline of the Playbook. Intent to roll out this summer. Focus of Playbook will be on implementation of the Blueprint.</i> ● What do the Regional Labs do? <i>There are Regional labs set up through US DOE to provide support to states.</i> ● Is there a plan to assess the state of and impact of educator vacancies? <i>There are efforts to address workforce shortage underway.</i> ● Will the Playbook reference the revised Blueprint or the current Blueprint? <i>Recommendations about revisions will be taken into consideration when developing the Playbook.</i> ● Will there be communication going out to districts/SUs about the resources that will be coming out? <i>Good suggestion – AOE will look into this. May be done during Coffee and Conversation Sessions.</i>
4:10	MTSS Follow-up	Tabled until April meeting
4:15-4:35	Council tasks	Next task is to provide advice on what services AOE should provide to districts/SUs - we need to prioritize the recommendations (with input from

		the constituents we represent). We'll be sharing these priorities with the AOE. They will also be included in our report to the State Board and the legislature.
4:35-4:36	Wrap-up	<p>Reminder that Council members are eligible for a stipend for up to 8 meetings – reach out to Gwen Carmolli or Suzanne Sprague if you have questions.</p> <p>Next meeting is April 12. We'll hear an MTSS follow-up from AOE and we'll be reviewing the feedback from our constituents on priorities.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.</p>