



Advisory Council on Literacy
 January 11, 2023, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

DRAFT 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; Susan Koch, Montpelier Roxbury School District, Darren McIntyre, Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators, Charley Gunkel, Montpelier Roxbury School District; Amy McMullen, Vermont School Boards Association; Michael Flanagan, Maple Run School District; Katie Campbell, Maple Run School District; Bev Davis, Vermont Superintendents Association

Others: Amanda Garces, Suzanne Sprague

Time	Activities and Notes
3:00	Council Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Select notetaker • Roll Call & share – Share 1 hope you have for students this coming year
3:25	Approve Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2022 <p>The November minutes were approved with a change of the start time to 3:04 start.</p>
3:30	Hear Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Garces (parent): mother of child with disabilities who receives services on an IEP; concerned with the three-cueing system of balanced literacy and students with disabilities being stigmatized; advocating for instruction based on the science of reading and the inclusion of multicultural resources
3:40	Next Task: Services to Support Implementation of the Plan (Hear and Discuss) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce task (Act 28 p.9, #2) • Review State Recommendations from Blueprint (pp. 24-33) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Going to develop recommendations about how Council can support the AOE and school districts in implementing these recommendations • Discuss broad areas of possible needed supports • AOE is doing a lot of work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gathering data (surveys about literacy and MTSS implementation, educator prep programs in higher education) ○ About to roll out modules, developing a playbook ○ We will learn more about this in upcoming meetings • Discussed narrowing process <p>Initial Thoughts:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cynthia Gardner-Morse: Concern about leaving decisions up to school boards and school districts; sees inconsistencies in MTSS guide (wants to see it pare downed to a two-pager); wants AOE to provide a list of science-based commercial programs (and those that are not science-based); suggests AOE consult a national reading expert to guide transition (Emily Leute says NIC work is focused on this) • Susan Koch: Statewide assessment trainings, calibrating – this model is effective because it ensures people have a clear understanding about an assessment and how to use it; think about the connection from PK to grade 2 (Emily Leute says early literacy NIC working on this); benefit to having consortia (trainers for a whole section) • Don Tinney: Remembers calibrating writing portfolios (labor-intensive but effective); concern about personnel shortages (keep this in mind as we consider recommendations); what is our role in looking at the MTSS system? (concern about lack of consistency from district to district) • Bev Davis: Needs to read the state recommendations again, but remember Alaska playbook (very helpful); can't just put out a playbook and expect people to read and understand it on their own, but support it with PD (maybe remotely to address the personnel shortage) • Ana Russo: Do LEAs know how to collect data that will be helpful for them? And interpret the data? Data collection and literacy training (Emily Leute says AOE has an RFP out for this); recommendation that AOE has capacity and appropriate expertise; have we explored different funding sources to help support LEAs? • Michael Flanagan: online, asynchronous option could be really valuable • Susan Gray: for MTSS to work well, it rests on the foundation of high-quality Tier 1 instruction (assessment and practice); Education Week articles about how popular reading programs are failing our students; can AOE create a slideshow to go with the VTmtss field guide that coaches can use to deliver PD to their schools? • Gwen Carmolli: highly recommends culling resources and sharing out the really good ones • Katie Campbell: Is it realistic to think that when we are done with making our recommendations that it's really going to be the AOE telling every school system what strategies/programs they can/cannot use?
4:25	<p>Preview Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review 16 VSA §2902 • Review VTmtss Field Guide 2019 • Michael Flanagan: How can we communicate with our constituents and general public that we are acting and doing things to help the situation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gwen Carmolli: You are welcome to share anything we create. We want to gather their input. I do written updates to VTCLA, sometimes they send direct questions, sometimes I survey them.
4:50	<p>Wrap Up</p>