



# Advisory Council on Literacy

February 21, 2024, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## Draft Meeting Minutes

**Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**  
**Call In: 1-802-552-8456**  
**Conference ID: 655 264 880#**

[No. 28. An act relating to improving prekindergarten through grade 12 literacy within the State.](#)

*Members: Gwen Carmolli, Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association, Chair; Emily Leute, Agency of Education; Bill Clark, Standards Board for Professional Educators; Bev Davis, Associate Executive Director, Vermont Superintendents Association; Darren McIntyre, Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators; Beth O'Brien, Vermont Principals' Association, Vice Chair; Don Tinney, Vermont National Education Association; Catherine Campbell, Maple Run School District; Jennifer Farnsworth, Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union School District; Susan Koch, Montpelier Roxbury School District; Cynthia Gardner-Morse, Community Member; Ana Russo, Vermont Agency of Education; Amy McMullen, Vermont School Boards Association; Susan Gray, Vermont Independent Schools Association; Michael Flannagan, Maple Run School District; Charley Gunkel, Montpelier High School*

Advisory Council on Literacy  
 Feb. 21, 2024

Time	Notes
3:00	<p><b>Council Work:</b></p> <p>Welcome &amp; Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gwen reviewed the purpose of the Council and notes that we have 2 more meetings. April 2024 will be our last meeting.</li> <li>● Review of the norms and that each member of the Council represents a group of stakeholders.</li> <li>● Our work is rooted in evidence-based research.</li> <li>● Reminder of the resources we've been using.</li> </ul> <p>Select notetaker - Bev Davis</p> <p>Roll Call &amp; share - Name, role, and share a literacy assessment or data collection that is useful in your role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emily Leute - Any assessment that teachers use for the purpose for which it was designed and then use the data for action</li> <li>● Sandra Cameron - TS Gold and Kindergarten POA</li> <li>● Beth O'Brien - STAR to look at trends</li> <li>● Bev Davis - Informal Decoding Inventory - Sharon Walpole</li> <li>● Susan Gray - Aimsweb</li> </ul>

- Don Tinney - Has been researching the meaning of evidence-based and what that really means. In his work with VT-NEA they collect data via surveys.
- Gwen Carmolli - STAR - K-10th grade (K begins spring) as screener
- Katie Campbell - DIBELS - it's part of their Amplify program
- Jen Farnsworth - Core Phonics
- Cynthia Gardner-Morse - Acadience
- Michael Flanagan - as a librarian he looks at circulation numbers and which categories of materials are being checked out
- Charley Gunkel - as a student he looks at grades and information in Power School

3:20

**Updates:**

Council Updates:

- Two more meetings
- Staying on top of current bills and how they align with our work
- 8 proposed bills relating to literacy - one is dyslexia screening, another around literacy PD and Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Each of these bills is in draft 3.

AOE

- VTCAP 2023 results have been released
- State is preparing for 2024 VTCAP window which opens soon
- AOE is supporting development of local literacy plans
- Supporting assessment literacy and supporting use of data

VTCAP 2023 literacy results

- Danielle Dupuis provided an overview of the results.
- Last year was the first year of these new assessments - designed to measure mastery of Common Core and NGSS.
- March 11- May 3 is assessment window
- About 72 approved independent schools participating in addition to public schools
- Danielle reviewed what each assessment covers
- ELA Proficient and Above ranged from 43% - 57% - this is an increase from previous year but this is a new assessment.
- Math Proficient and Above ranged from 33%-53%
- Science 40%-45%
- About 30% difference (lower) in ELA results between students from historically marginalized background compared to those from historically privileged background - same across grade levels and content areas

Questions for Danielle

- Definition of historically privileged? Any student who doesn't meet the definition of historically marginalized.
- How do you determine if students are living in poverty - same indicator as in the past
- How does 2022 compare to 2023 for ELA? - About 10% higher in 2023, similar to 2019 rates
- Are there pictures in the ELA assessment? - Some images
- Do we assess K-2 at the state level? No
- Is the test a computer test for all grades? Yes, there is a paper-based accommodation but most students take it on a computer.

Questions for next meeting

- Can you share the alignment study (SBAC to Cognia)?
- Are there any positive trends in the data?
- How is the written part of the assessment scored? It is scored by live readers using a rubric.
- What types of tasks show up in reading, writing, listening?

3:44	<p><b>Data Collection/Assessment - Council Task</b>  Our last task is to recommend evidence-based literacy assessments. Schools and districts are required to have a local comprehensive assessment system. Assessment systems must include screening, diagnostic, summative assessments.</p> <p>Florida Center for Reading Research and IES (aka What Works Clearinghouse) - noted for evidence-based resources.</p> <p>Gwen has researched many of the resources. Commonalities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Importance of screeners</li> <li>● Importance of monitoring progress of students at risk, those who are receiving tier 2 interventions</li> <li>● Importance of using outcome assessments to determine whether students have mastered grade-level standards</li> </ul> <p>We should think about what is important as far as state-wide assessments go - so outcome assessments</p> <p>Council members should work with our constituencies about what the Council should recommend to the state. We should give them 3 choices:  Should Council recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● State should not collect this data, better done by individual districts</li> <li>● State should just collect performance data</li> <li>● State should collect performance data and information on screener used</li> </ul> <p>Gather this input before the March 27 meeting and send it to Gwen. The Council will then look at/discuss all the input and do a consensus vote in April. This decision may be decided through legislation but Act 28 tasks us with making a recommendation so we are going to go forward with making a recommendation.</p> <p>Cynthia asks about the final report to the legislature. Gwen will write the report during the summer, it's due Dec. 15. That report will include our recommendation for above.</p>
3:57	<b>Approve Meeting Minutes</b> - Cynthia/Sandra - no discussion - approved
3:58	<b>Public Comments</b> - none
4:00	<b>Wrap-Up and Adjourn</b>