

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Call In: 1-802-552-8456

Conference ID: #683 716 687#

One National Life Drive, Room 514, Montpelier, VT 05620

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present: Tara Cariano, Harwood Unified Union School District; Lissa Knauss, Montpelier Roxbury School District; Sandra Cameron, Vermont School Boards Association; Stephanie Currier, North Country Union High School, Katy Culpo, Castleton University

AOE: Jess DeCarolis, Suzanne Sprague

Members of the public: Mike McRaith, Vermont Principals' Association

Meeting called to order at 3:33 pm

Questions and comments about meeting notes from last meeting

Tara wasn't clear about reaching out to the Superintendent's Association. Decided in interest of time we will just reach out to them as a stakeholder.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from last mtg - Lissa, 2nd Sandra. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Mike McRaith, Asst Executive Director VPA

Been difficult couple years for both students and adults in schools. Health and wellness is valued and interested in centering the work in school more.

Request we prioritize and measure output wellness and use those measures to drive decisions. Big asks not connected to work we are already doing will be very difficult to implement.

Few years ago, snapshot of schools and school districts, we as a state committed to having a school climate score and that would be part of educational quality review. This has not been actualized yet, for good reason because how do you measure that? Change in agency leadership also led to this being delayed as well as Covid disruption.

Mike's suggestion was to concentrate on output scores, ex. What is the rate of anxiety in any given building or district? For example measure the physical and mental health (both students and adults).

Heather clarified our charge - make recommendations to AOE for each LEA to set up local wellness policy. Mike's suggestion could be to require LEAs way to measure outcomes or integrate already gathered information.

Sandra - in areas where we already have something in place let's be cohesive and for areas where we don't already have statute, use "may language".

Timetable and deadlines for recommendations:

Heather - Jess's input is going to be important to this conversation.

January 15th deadline - for us to finalize policy, not about implementation

Tara - To do a thorough job let's ask for extension. Include report of what we've done, current timetable and new deadline.

Heather - letter should come from committee and also acknowledge that the AOE will need an extension too. Needs to ask about whether it should be joint extension or two separate.

Sandra - could letter include suggestion that allow for schools to not be expected to implement before next school year and with lots of support? By January budgets are done for next school year. Important to keep this in mind.

Jess DeCarolis update:

Council has opportunity to communicate importance of reasonable implementation plan. For starters, we could point out language differences (e.g., school vs district), define the audience.

Feedback from stakeholders included:

Comprehensive Health section - new section and no current model language

How is this practicable in the school? Please keep in mind all the things we have to attend to in school and pay for.

Suggest we start with the Comprehensive Health section and offer some model language (not just resources and statute) for stakeholders to respond to.

Katy - comprehensive health education statute isn't that new re: what is supposed to be taught in health and schools, but the disconnect is that it has not happened. This is a huge opportunity to get this going in schools. 2015 passed ESSA, tied federal dollars to PE and Health ed.

Jess - the bridge between policy and practice needs to be built (resources, educators,

Sandra - make recommendation for technical assistance

Jess - Another recommendation might be integrated health education. Qualified health educators have been hard to find, so other ways to deliver this health education without a specific person in a position

Tara - comprehensive school counseling model could include the mental health component of health ed.

Sandra - policy is adopted by school board, but implementation is responsibility of administration

Jess- could bring some sample language and sample curriculum and technical assistance to next meeting or share it ahead of time.

Katy - HECAT, school health index from CDC is good for measuring the components

Lissa made motion for Jess to share draft language for model comprehensive health, Katy 2nded

To Do for next meeting:

Heather will find out if two separate letters for extension (committee and AOE) and then let us know.

Tara will draft timeline for new deadline for next meeting that can be included in letter.

Jess will bring draft model language for Comprehensive Health Education section of local wellness policy.

Motion to adjourn - Katy, Sandra 2nded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 4:35

DRAFT