

Montpelier High School
5 High School Drive, Library
Montpelier, VT 05602

November 26, 2019

Present: Asma Elhuni; Barbra Marden; Bruce Pandya; Celilo Bauman-Swain; Cynthia Reyes; Infinite Culcleasure; Mara Iverson; Mark Hage; Maxwell Barrows; Miakoda Schultz; Vera Sheehan (via phone, joined at 5:48 pm); Natasha Eckart Baning; Xusana Davis; Heather Thomas Lynn; Chelsea Myers; Mill Moore; Bor R. Yang; and Dan French.

AOE: Heather Bouchey, Suzanne Sprague

Others: Laura Greenwood, East Montpelier; Sara Moche, St. Johnsbury; Amanda Garces, Montpelier; Lee Reilly, Barre; Lindsey Halman, Up for Learning/Jericho; Carlen Finn, Voices for Vermont's Children; Wajie Faour, Richmond; Kia Morris, VCESES

Statement of Acknowledgement

Secretary French convened the meeting at 5:32 p.m. He stated that the meeting was the initial meeting of the Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group. Secretary French said that Deputy Secretary Heather Bouchey will be his designee.

Secretary French acknowledged the important work that the Advisory Group is taking on. He additionally acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on ancestral grounds of the Native Americans. He made the statement out of respect of tribal elders past and present.

Call to Order/Amendments to Agenda/Introductions

Present members introduced themselves. Moore stated that Amber Wiley will be his official designee at future meetings. Lynn stated she is the designee for the Vermont School Boards Association. Yang stated that her designee is Amanda Garces. Baning stated she is the designee for the Vermont NEA.

Election of Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk (minute taking)

Secretary French said the meeting will follow Robert's Rules of Order. He opened the conversation to nominees for chair. Elhuni nominated Hage. Yang nominated Garces. Secretary French closed the conversation. He asked the nominees to make a brief statement. Garces was elected as chair by a simple majority vote.

Chair Garces asked for nominations for Vice Chair. She opened the conversation for Vice Chair.

Elhuni and Marden nominated Hage. Hage was elected Vice Chair by a simple majority vote.

Chair Garces asked for nominations for clerk who is responsible for taking meeting minutes. She asked Secretary French if the clerk could be a person from outside the working group. He said yes. Chair Garces asked the working group for consensus on seeking a clerk from outside the working group. There was consensus. Marden offered to be the minute-taker in the interim. Secretary French said that Agency of Education staff are recording the minutes for this initial meeting.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard

Kiah Morris, Vermont Coalition of Ethnic and Social Equity in Schools, addressed the working group.

Chair Garces asked to discuss the housekeeping topic.

Housekeeping

Secretary French explained Vermont's Open Meeting Law. He said that Agency of Education staff will warn the meetings, assist the Chair in formulating the agendas, publish meeting agendas, organize meeting dates via Doodle Poll, coordinate reimbursements (including per diem and mileage), create a dedicated web page, provide conference call - in details and arrange logistics for upcoming meetings.

Meeting Discussion

Chair Garces led conversation regarding schedule for the year and length of meeting. Myers reminded the working group that a report to the General Assembly on their work plan is due on March 1, 2020.

Discussion followed regarding number of meetings, homework and subcommittees, creating a work plan, duration of meetings, alternating week nights and weekend meetings, using a facilitator, resources, seeking outside funds, accommodations for members, report to the legislature, meeting locations, meeting set up and using microphones.

Following discussion, the working group decided that the next meeting will take place in January in the Montpelier area and be scheduled for two and a half hours. Chair Garces asked Secretary French to supply and explain the State standards for the next meeting so to better understand the work that needs to be accomplished. Chair Garces said that an agenda item will be discussing the qualities of the facilitators. A Doodle poll will be sent to members to determine meeting date and time preferences. Requests for accommodations, should be directed to Deputy Secretary Bouchey.

Chair Garces will share her contact information with the working group.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.