

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Dial in Number: 802-552-8456

Conference ID: 893 672 245#

November 28, 2022

Present: Henri Sparks, Burlington Schools; Amanda Garces, Human Rights Commission; Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA); Bernice Garnett, Associate Professor, UVM; Ken Canning, Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust (VSBIT); Jay Nichols, Vermont Principals' Association (VPA); Sandra Cameron, Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA); Mill Moore, Vermont Independent Schools Association (VISA); V Pearson, Upright; Jeff Fannon, Vermont National Education Association (VT-NEA); Daniel French, Vermont Agency of Education

AOE: Suzanne Sprague

Agenda:

1. Public to be Heard
2. Draft Updates to Model HHB Policy and Procedures Presentation
3. Updated letter
4. Other Items
5. ?

The meeting convened at 2:34 p.m.

There was a change to the agenda. Nichols made a motion to remove the update to the Model HHB Policy and Procedure agenda item to a future meeting and until the AOE is able to solicit feedback from its Vermont partners. Fannon seconded. Discussion followed regarding the draft changes and soliciting feedback from the public and supplying a track change version. The item is tabled until a future meeting.

There was no public comment.

Chair Sparks lead the discussion on the letter provided by Garces. Garces said Garnett supplied comment on the letter and is working with her. Discussion followed regarding the need for a letter and to provide the recommendations in a formal manner, principals are overburdened with required paperwork necessary to complete HHB investigations, the need for a hypothetical

case study one-day intensive training for principals, legal steps are overwhelming, overlap with Title IX and HHB investigations, Title IX cases follow federal law and take priority over the Vermont law, proactive training, unfair to families and students, different process for elementary schools and high schools, punitive process, deficient system, protecting students, parents' rights, solutions and holding people accountable, AOE staff dedicated to HHB, concern with wording of the letter, need for written recommendations, focusing on the recommendations, accusations to educational establishment, better high-quality data, purpose to improve the quality of education for students and being an advisory council to the Secretary of Education.

Chair Sparks turned the discussion onto the recommendations to Secretary French. Discussion followed regarding editing the letter to only include the recommendations, inquiry process around the recommendations, discuss prospective solutions and determine whether they will work, facilitated setting to discuss the recommendations to improve them and come to agreement on them and holding an in-person meeting with commitment to leaving the meeting with substantive recommendations.

Chair Sparks suggested holding the in-person meeting prior to the next regularly scheduled HHB meeting on January 30. There was agreement. Canning offered the VSBIT meeting room for the location. The AOE will create a Doodle Poll and send it to the council members to determine the date and time. Suggested additions to the recommendations include research related to the intersection between Title IX and HHB, toolkits for parents and students and lessening the burden on principals. Chair Sparks will obtain a facilitator for the meeting. Any new suggestions to the recommendations should be sent to the AOE and will be included in the agenda packet once the meeting date is determined.

Chair Sparks is working on the HHB Report to the General Assembly and the State Board of Education.

The meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.