

Location

Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust
52 Pike Drive
Berlin, Vermont 05602

Virtual Meeting Details

Dial in Number: 802-552-8456
Conference ID: 421 835 173#

January 5, 2023

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); Sue Ceglowski, Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA); Mill Moore, Vermont Independent Schools Association (VISA); V Pearson, Upright Vermont; Jeff Fannon, Vermont National Education Association (VT-NEA); Curtiss Reed, Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity; Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity

AOE: Suzanne Sprague

Agenda:

1. Public to be Heard
2. Working Session

The meeting convened at 1:02 p.m.

Chair Sparks said the purpose of the meeting was to review the [recommendations](#) in the letter drafted by Garces. He said he read an article in VTDigger where it was mentioned that the council may be better served under new leadership. Chair Sparks said that if any member wishes to be chair, he will step aside. He added that the purpose of the council is to serve the needs of students, families, and schools.

Ed Scott, Burlington School District: Ed spoke in support of Chair Sparks. He was upset when he saw the comment in VTDigger.

Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity, Executive Director, introduced herself to the council. She asked the council members to introduce themselves. She led the working session introduction

exercise and the council's discussion. Topics included being an advisory council, diverse representation on the council, top priorities for the council, responding to the charge of the council, formal or anecdotal data, interest of the Secretary, clear recommendations for the Secretary's consideration, council coming to agreement, knowing what is happening in schools, lack of student voice on the council, prevention and the mitigation of trauma, training, the other charge of the council is to coordinate statewide activities related to the prevention of and response to harassment, hazing and bullying, subcommittee work, quantitative data versus qualitative data, schools are a microcosm of society and to continue to improve over time.

Davis said it seems unresolved to have a shared discussion on vision and goals and not to come up with any. She suggested turning the discussion to the recommendations and to visit the previous discussion at a future time. The meeting recessed at 2:02 p.m. and returned at 2:07 p.m. Davis led an exercise to gauge level of agreement within the group on key points and the draft recommendations for the Secretary's consideration. Discussion followed regarding the council's level of agreement on the draft recommendations.

Chair Sparks suggested a second meeting. A Doodle Poll will be sent to the council for consideration on the next meeting of the HHB Prevention Advisory Council.

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.