

Location

Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust (VSBIT)
52 Pike Drive
Berlin, Vermont 05602

June 2, 2023

Present: Henri Sparks, Burlington Schools; Amanda Garces, Human Rights Commission; Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity; Jay Nichols, Vermont Principals' Association (VPA); Mill Moore, Vermont Independent Schools Association (VISA); Ken Canning, VSBIT; V. Pearson, Outright VT; Interim Secretary Heather Bouchey, Vermont Agency of Education (AOE)

AOE: Suzanne Sprague

Agenda:

1. Public to be Heard
2. Opening from Interim Secretary Bouchey
3. Working Session
4. Next Steps

The meeting convened at 9:33 a.m.

There was no public to be heard.

The members introduced themselves. Davis began the session with a prompt question for the Council members.

Davis provided an update on her view of how the Council's working sessions have progressed and what she has observed. She led a discussion on who the Council thinks should be included in the council if/when it is re-constituted. She reviewed the draft listing of stakeholders. She is hoping to sort the stakeholders into two categories: those of interest and those of influence.

Secretary Bouchey said that she has a role in determining who is on the Council and reviewed one of the Council's charges as advisory to the Secretary of Education. She is hoping that the Council is moving towards policy changes needed to improve Harassment, Hazing and Bullying (HHB) policies at the local level and processes to make sure that equity is first and foremost. She hopes that the Council will advise her office and provide partnership around solutions. Secretary Bouchey said the stakeholders currently at the table need to be considered to inform the process. She added that she is interested in hearing what is not working for the

group. She extended her commitment to supporting the Council. Secretary Bouchey said that she will be stepping back from her direct role because the Council is advisory to her. She will support the group as needed.

Discussion occurred regarding adding principals to the stakeholder list, including youth advocates and students on the Council, new process, recommending updates to existing law, making solid policy recommendations, functioning as a group, primordial prevention, addressing the broader culture, many responsibilities put on schools, and shared goals and values. Discussion continued on holding a retreat session before the next school year in a neutral space, how costs for the retreat would be covered and the challenge of finding a retreat date that works for all.

It was agreed that a Doodle Poll will be sent to the Council members for a full-day retreat in central Vermont.

Davis continued the discussion on mapping the Council to Vermont stakeholders. The Council discussed the stakeholders that should be kept informed of the work and the stakeholders that influence the work.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.