

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Dial in Number: 802-552-8456

Conference ID: 528 477 481#

June 6, 2022

Present: Henri Sparks, Burlington Schools; Amanda Garces, Human Rights Commission; Curtiss Reed, Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity; Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA); Bernice Garnett, Associate Professor, UVM; Ken Canning, Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust (VSBIT); Jeff Fannon, Vermont-National Education Association (VT-NEA); Jay Nichols, Vermont Principals' Association (VPA)

AOE: Suzanne Sprague

Others: Jonathan Phipps, Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union Equity Coordinator

Agenda:

1. Concrete Actionable Work Plan
2. Truancy
3. Draft Legislative Report
4. Other Items

The meeting convened at 2:33 p.m.

The group members introduced themselves.

Chair Sparks lead the group discussion on a concrete actionable work plan for the HHB. He said the HHB is advisory to the Secretary of Education to help mitigate hazing, harassment and bullying throughout Vermont. He doesn't feel that is what the HHB was doing.

Discussion followed regarding the Secretary making the decision to follow-up on the HHB ideas, making clear/concrete/formal recommendations for the Secretary for consideration, not engaged in actionable steps, purpose of the HHB, shouldn't exist if the HHB Council is not productive, powerful members on the HHB can make changes in other ways, need to get serious about dealing with social media and creating a recommendation as a priority to Secretary French, all recommendations should include a budget, oversight and an enforcement mechanism, prevention and risk management, statutorily mandated group, including other AOE staff, embedding and requiring HHB prevention into existing continuous improvement, listening tours, creating a toolkit for parents and students, sustained public service campaign

directed to parents, turnover of administrators, responsibility as adults to make changes and a formal process for making recommendations to Secretary French.

Chair Sparks will find out from Secretary French how to present formal recommendations for his consideration. Garces said she would work to formalize a document that contains a recommendation. Nichols made a motion that Garces share the document and any other information with the HHB. Reed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Sparks began the discussion pertaining to truancy. He said there is a group in his district with a focus on finding truant students and reconnecting them back to schools. He heard that the court systems are not taking on truancy cases. He wondered why the letters sent to families threaten that a court system may be involved if the students do not return to school. He wondered if any school districts are having success in reconnecting with students. Discussion followed on other groups similar to the group mentioned, state law and that truancy is a big issue since the pandemic.

Chair Sparks said he will share the draft HHB Legislative Report with Secretary French. He struggled with it because there was not a lot to add to the report. He will share the report after Secretary French has reviewed it.

There was no other business.

The next meetings are below.

July 25, 2022
September 26, 2022
November 28, 2022

The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.
Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.