

Call in Details:

Call in Number: 1-802-552-8456

Conference ID: 721 147 67#

January 31, 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; Dan French, Agency of Education (AOE); Sue Ceglowski, Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA); Ken Canning, Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust (VSBIT); V. Pearson, Upright Vermont; Mill Moore, Vermont Independent Schools Association; Jeff Fannon, Vermont-National Education Association (VT-NEA)

AOE: Suzanne Sprague

Agenda:

1. \$95 million fund from the Department of Education
2. Advisory Council ideas to provide to Secretary French to develop resources and support to the voiceless/marginalized Global Majority youth.
3. Committee Updates
4. Amanda (Please be prepared to provide an update)
5. Report to the legislature from Advisory Council
6. Other Committees

The meeting convened at 2:34 p.m.

Chair Sparks made a correction to the agenda and noted that the first agenda item should refer to \$9 million of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds and not \$95 million.

Discussion began on the \$9 million of ESSER funds and pivoting to education recovery, cumulative impact on students, funds reserved for learning loss, academics and mental health, system cannot sustain more initiatives, public engagement requirements, AOE staffing of program, local control process, multiyear programs through 2024, risk of keeping students out of school and the impact on their education.

Chair Sparks combined agenda items 2 and 3. There was no discussion.

Garces provided an update on the Building a Resource Collection Subcommittee. She said: 1) available materials are geared towards administrators; 2) there are not enough neutral independent investigators; 3) there is not enough information for parents and caregivers; 4) data is insufficient; 5) prevention is lacking; 6) not enough advocacy for students and caregivers; and, 7) there are no tools for accountability. Garces said the subcommittee agreed that a solution would be that the AOE hire a full-time person whose specific job would be to create a statewide marketing campaign on Harassment, Hazing and Bullying (HHB) Prevention. The purpose of the campaign is to make HHB information available to students using social media, translating when required, work with education justice groups and student groups, train school staff on data systems related to HHB Policies and Procedures, and train new neutral independent investigators.

Discussion followed regarding resources pertaining to rights and responsibilities for students, parents and caregivers, including students in the work, access to counsel to support students, systemic approach to improve the system, model and teach appropriate behavior, hold schools accountable by providing tools for parents, protecting privacy, toolkit for students and parents, professional development related to Combined Incident Reporting System (CIRS) data input, recommendation to the Secretary voted on by the group, students to self-report, voice for students with disabilities, adult to student bullying and professional conduct of teachers, challenge to understand cultural change, well-articulated procedures and rules, adult behavior and respect and civility.

Garces volunteered to start the first draft and HHB members can send any edits to be included. The final draft will be presented to Secretary French and the entire HHB Prevention Advisory Council for a vote.

Chair Sparks said he will write the report to the legislature. He will share with the group.

Next meetings:

March 28, 2022

May 30, 2022

July 25, 2022

September 26, 2022

November 28, 2022

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.