

Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 424
January 29, 2019

Present: Tim Vincent, VSBIT; Henri Sparks, Burlington School District; Mara Iverson, Outright VT; Kathy Johnson, A World of Difference; Melissa Horwitz, Human Rights Commission; Jay Nichols, VPA; Jeff Francis, VSA; Sue Ceglowski, VSBA; Curtiss Reed, VT Partnership for Fairness and Diversity; Daniel M. French, Agency of Education

AOE: Suzanne Sprague

Agenda:

1. Work-group session on Council's goals
 - a. HHB model policies to one page
2. Selection of an HHB council chair (effective May 2019 meeting)
3. Discussion of a listening tour
4. Other?

The meeting convened at 2:35 p.m.

Secretary French asked the group for introductions. He said that Chair Garnett would not be attending the meeting and the Council required an interim chair to run the meeting. Secretary French nominated Tim Vincent to chair the meeting. Nichols seconded. The vote passed. Vincent agreed to chair the meeting.

Vincent began the discussion and reminded the Council of its goals which were discussed at the November 2018 meeting. He said one goal was to create an HHB model policies one-page document which would be layman's terms that anyone could understand. Vincent suggested that he create a Google document so all Council members can edit as necessary. Discussion followed regarding the language used to communicate the issues, working document being a legal document, offenders knowing how far they can go without repercussion, purpose and intent of the working document, minimizing the impact, reasonable consequence for wrongdoing, risk of tolerating too much, no resources for training youth, and changing the working document too much for danger of changing its meaning and purpose.

Secretary French suggested to identify the problem statement and address it in the listening tour. Further discussion followed regarding H.3 and how it extends to the Council's work, problem statement may not be addressed by H.3, asking relevant questions around climate, best practices and administrative procedures and asking educators and students what is working and what is not.

Secretary French mentioned that the Agency of Education (AOE) is currently in the bidding process of securing a vendor to administer a school climate survey. He said the power will be that responses will have an adult perception and student perception. The AOE is hoping to launch the survey sometime this fall. Discussion followed regarding the questions included in the survey, whether the model policy is working and the timing and workings of the listening tour.

Vincent asked that a working group prepare a draft proposal of a listening tour to present and discuss at the next meeting. The initial framework to be drafted includes what questions to ask, how to choose who to ask to participate, when it will take place and how to collect the data. The working group includes Iverson, Sparks and Horowitz. Discussion followed regarding the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, equity and student voice, and data the AOE collects. Secretary French shared the School Improvement Initiative which includes Integrated Field Reviews (IFRs) and the Annual Snapshot. He added that schools will then develop a continuous improvement plan based on the results from the School Improvement Initiative.

Vincent asked if there was any interest in being the chair of the HHB beginning May 2019. Vincent said he would carry on in the chair capacity since there were no other volunteers for the chair position.

Johnson shared a draft document that she and Iverson collaborated on to provide advice and recommendations and to coordinate statewide activities pertaining to the HHB Council's work. She added that the Council hadn't coordinated activities in the past and suggested that this be shared with schools. Discussion followed on highlighting the HHB Prevention Council and its work and H.3. Horowitz said the Human Rights Commission supports the H.3 legislation and asked if the HHB Prevention Council would give an advisory opinion to the Secretary on whether it supports or does not support H.3. Discussion followed regarding supporting the goal but endorsing it closer to passage. Iverson further clarified the draft document created with Johnson. Discussion followed regarding data on reported incidents, AOE report to the legislature, where the document should reside and updating resources and events. Nichols added that there is a Professional Learning Calendar on the Vermont Principals' Association web site where the information can reside. Francis suggested the HHB attending the signing of H.3 and using the opportunity to promote the work of the HHB Prevention Council.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2019. Agenda items include an update from the working group on listening tours, HHB model policies layman document, discussion on communicating the Council's activities and an update from AOE on the student survey.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.