

Agency of Education  
219 North Main Street, Suite 306  
July 29, 2019

Present: Tim Vincent, VSBIT; Mara Iverson, Outright VT; Henri Sparks, Burlington Schools; Melissa Horwitz, Human Rights Commission; Curtiss Reed, Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity

AOE: Suzanne Sprague

Agenda:

1. Finalizing listening tours
2. Act 1
3. H.3 update
4. Finalizing the HHB Model Policies one-page document
5. Other?

The meeting convened at 2:37 p.m. Chair Vincent asked for introductions.

Chair Vincent reviewed the working document “2019 Recommended Plan of Action for the Listening Tour”. He wondered if the October 2019 time-frame is too aggressive. Discussion followed regarding Council members’ commitment to the listening tour, what the Council will do with the results of the listening tour and Secretary French’s plan for results. The Council members discussed the recommended plan of action and identified areas in the plan that may need editing which included designated reporters, including adults/parents in the listening tour, confidential student information, gathering information and making recommendations to the Secretary, and the Clery Act, a consumer protection law that ensures transparency on crime policy and statistics at higher education institutions.

Chair Vincent further reviewed the recommended plan of action for the listening tour regarding logistics and number of visits. Discussion followed regarding including parents. Chair Vincent suggested that the group make comments to the existing working document to include the meeting’s discussion and possible edits to the text. He will send it out to all Council members for an additional review and possible edits and to gauge commitment to the listening tour. Chair Vincent will collate all responses to create the final plan of action which will be discussed at the September 2019 meeting. Additional discussion followed regarding which schools to visit.

Chair Vincent tabled action item on Act 1 - Prevent Child Abuse and Sexual Violence.

Chair Vincent asked for discussion on H.3 or Act 1 of 2019. Iverson said that the first Act 1 Working Group meeting has not been convened. She added the Vermont Coalition for Ethnic and Social Equity in Schools is in the process of accepting applications for their seats on the working group in the hopes of getting more people involved. This item was tabled until after the first meeting is convened.

Chair Vincent said he asked for feedback on the HHB model policies one-page document which he sent to the Council. He received no feedback. Reed said the lack of definition of the term “hostile environment” is problematic. Additionally, he did not approve of the last sentence under the harassment section. It was agreed by the members to strike the line from the document. Discussion followed regarding the definition of hostile environment and using the Office of Civil Right’s definition. Sparks asked if the document will be translated to different languages. Chair Vincent asked the members to provide a list of languages that would be most beneficial.

Discussion occurred regarding reporting and trainings.

Chair Vincent said that long-time HHB Prevention Council member, Kathy Johnson, has resigned. Horwitz asked that the web site be updated to show active members.

The remaining meetings are below.

September 30<sup>th</sup>

November 25<sup>th</sup>

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.