



# PreKindergarten Education Implementation Committee – Meeting

October 24, 2023: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual  
Meeting Call In: 802-552-8456  
Conference ID: 852 995 676#  
[Meeting Link](#)

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**Present:** **Heather Bouchey**, co-Chair, AOE, Interim Secretary of Education; **Janet McLaughlin**, co-Chair, AHS, DCF Deputy Commissioner; **Erica McLaughlin**, Vermont Principals' Association; **Sandra Cameron**, Vermont School Boards Association; **Colin Robinson**, Vermont National Education Association; **Pam Reed**, Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators; **Theresa Pollner**, Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association; **Morgan Crossman**, Building Bright Futures; **Renee Kelly**, Head Start Collaboration Office; **Sherry Carlson**, Let's Grow Kids; **Nicole Miller**, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.; **Korinne Harvey**, Building Bright Futures Appointee; **Chris Wells**, Building Bright Futures Appointee; **Sheila Quenneville**, Committee on Committees Appointee; **Rebecca Webb**, Regional Prekindergarten Coordinator

**AOE:** Suzanne Sprague, Meg Porcella, Leslie Freedman, Tammy Bates, Amy Murphy, Michele Johnson, Katie McCarthy, Wendy Scott; Teresa Haskins; Gaidys, Maureen

**Others:** Matt Levin; Kendal Smith, Governor Scott's Director of Policy Development and Legislative Affairs; Tanya LaChapelle; Bethany Hale; Summer Spaulding; Kristen Watrous; Renée Hinton; Victoria Ward; Kyle Hibbard; Meg Baker; Wendy Cunningham; Melissa Wood; Jolie Frechette, Morris Strategies; Jennifer Brown; Janice Stockman; Mary Lundeen; Sarah Tousignant; Sarah; Kit H; Kerri and Brandy

Deputy Commissioner McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. She asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. There were none. The committee members introduced themselves. Reed made a motion to approve the [minutes from the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting](#). Webb seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Members of the public were present and invited to be heard. No comments were offered.

Deputy Commissioner McLaughlin, Tammy Bates, Early Education Program Manager, and Katie McCarthy, Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator, presented an overview titled, "[Vermont UPK: Universal PreKindergarten](#)" and the key changes requested in Act 76

of 2023. Discussion occurred regarding what is considered full time Average Daily Membership (ADM), number of children not served, difficulty collecting data and data on the number of children on Individual Education Programs (IEPs) attending public and private schools.

Becca Webb, UPK Coordinator, presented an overview on [Act 166/Universal Preschool Roles and Responsibilities](#).

Deputy Commissioner McLaughlin asked committee members to send follow-up questions or further suggestions on background materials that may be useful to both her and Interim Secretary Bouchey. Meg Porcella, Director of Student Support Services, provided an update on the meeting facilitator, note taker and project manager contract. An announcement will be made soon. Deputy Commissioner McLaughlin mentioned that there is a Doodle Poll pending for the November meeting. A regular meeting time will be established once the facilitator is on board. She reminded committee members that an Agency of Education report, in consultation with the committee, on the cost of educating a prekindergarten student versus a kindergarten student in the context of a full day, is due to the legislature on December 1, 2023. The draft report will be sent to committee members prior to the November meeting. Discussion followed regarding the weighting study.

Interim Secretary Bouchey and Deputy Commissioner McLaughlin updated the members on the vacant prequalified private provider member seat that is to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the vacant School Construction Aid Task Force member seat to be appointed by the Secretary of Education.

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.