

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
Call In: 802-828-7667
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DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present: Heather Bouchey, Deputy Secretary of Education, Agency of Education; Marianna Donnally, Department of Mental Health; Sandra Cameron, Vermont School Boards Association; Meaghan Morgan-Puglisi, Vermont-National Education Association; Catherine Gallagher, Vermont Superintendents Association; Karen Price, Vermont Family Network; Amy Wheeler-Sutton, Building Effective Strategies for Teaching Students Project at the University of Vermont; Lindsey Halman, Vermont Restorative Approaches Collaborative; Chris Sheehan, teacher, appointed by the Vermont-National Education Association; Kym Asam, Vermont Independent Schools Association; Ana Lindert-Boyes, Twinfield Union High School, UP for Learning; and Justin Pinard, Vermont School Counselor Association.

AOE: Chris Case, Suzanne Sprague

Members of the public/others: Jay Nichols, Kheya Ganguly, Kate Rogers

Call to Order/Roll Call/Amendments to Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2021 Meeting

Moved by Meaghan Morgan-Puglisi; seconded by Amy Wheeler-Sutton. Unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Jay Nichols shared responses from principals around the state about when they use suspension.

Working Session

- Reports by Subcommittees and discussion of format of Initial Report
- Some discussion about who and how this committee is compensated – Will request that Maureen Gaidys to resend information about that.
- Conversation about what constitutes a safety issue. It feels somewhat subjective to some members of the task force.
- There are some schools with very high exclusionary practice rates. Those need targeted intervention perhaps.

- Subcommittee 1 Report - Amy Wheeler-Sutton
 - o Have not heard back from Ohio about how their legislation was received
 - o Discussed how mental health can be better in schools
 - o Asked legal counsel to attend next meeting to help us understand the non-negotiables
 - o How do we define Restorative Practices (RP) for the legislature? There is fear that if schools are not properly trained, RP can do harm. The subcommittee includes two definitions – one from John Kidde and one from the International Restorative Practices Organization
 - o
- Subcommittee 2 - has not met since the last full task force meeting, so no significant update
 - o Sandra reflected on crisis in staffing in the mental health field. We should be careful about recommending schools should tap into resources that are simply not there.
 - o The AOE is depending on this task force in part to come to a common understanding about what results in serious behavior that warrants exclusionary discipline
- Subcommittee 3 - Report by Heather Bouchey
 - o Met a couple of times since last full meeting.
 - o 2016 and 2017 data are available in reports that were specifically requested in laws. They took a year to put together.
 - o Data shows an uptick in exclusionary discipline, but not enough information to see a pattern as to why or if the data is reliable
 - o Hoping to have these reports available next week to the full committee
 - o Discussion of different ways to collect data
 - o Concern about our ability to identify instances of exclusionary discipline being used disproportionately in the case of students of color (due to our size as a state)

Action Steps for Subcommittees:

- We should produce an initial report that indicates what the subcommittees have been doing
- Amy will bring action items for subcommittees to complete as part of that initial report
- The task force recognizes and thanks Amy Wheeler-Sutton for her incredible work in keeping the report draft

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm

Meeting minutes submitted by: Chris Sheehan