



Task Force for Universal Afterschool Access  
May 3, 2021, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

## Draft Meeting Minutes

### **Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**

**Call In: 1-802-552-8456**

**Conference ID: 408 260 131#**

*Per H.969 of 2020, Sec. B.1120.1, a [Task Force for Universal Afterschool Access](#) was created to consider and make recommendations on the framework for, the costs of, and related long-term funding sources for access to universal afterschool programs.*

Task Force (TF) Members Present: Representative Kelly Pajala; Senator Perchlik; Jess DeCarolis, Director, Agency of Education (AOE); Matthew DeBlois, (Vergennes Union Elementary School), Vermont Principals' Association (VPA); Retta Dunlap, President, VT Home Education Network; David Woolpy, Executive Director, Vermont Boys and Girls Clubs of Rutland County; Erin Maguire (Essex Westford School District), Executive Director of the Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators; Chelsea Myers, Associate Executive Director, Vermont Superintendents Association; Sandra Cameron, Director of Public Policy, Vermont School Boards Association; Heather Moore (Franklin County), Afterschool Program Representative; Christy Gallese (Chittenden County), Afterschool Program Representative; Mark Tashjian, Chair, Council of Independent Schools; and Holly Morehouse, Executive Director, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.

Others: Kendal Smith, Governor's Office; Lynne Robbins; Monica Hutt; Alison Thomas; Allison Keating, AOE.

### **Call to Order, Roll Call/ Amendments to Agenda**

Co-Chair Perchlik called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

### **Approve Minutes from March 29, 2021 Meeting**

Co-Chair Perchlik asked for a motion. Pajala moved to adopt the May 29 meeting minutes; Woolpy seconded. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

### **Opportunity for Public to be Heard**

Co-Chair Perchlik asked if there were any members of the public to be heard. There were none.

### **Finalize Report due to the Governor and the House and Senate Committees on Education**

Co-Chair Perchlik said that he, Pajala, Gallese and Morehouse worked to collect comments provided and compiled them into a final draft report and that all changes were not incorporated as some were contradictory to others. He offered to walk the TF through the document and the changes.

There was discussion on including a landscape of federal funding, adding that this one-time influx of federal funds went to several agencies and that it was braided funding. Cameron will provide a list of

agencies/departments that received funding. The next change was “participation” to “access.” There were two sentences added to page 5 to address how the plan would be monitored and supported for timely action and how the funding would work if the school district were providing special services and the receiving entity was not a school district. There was further discussion on directing set-aside funds, a suggested collaborative engagement, information sharing to ensure best supports, written agreement versus a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) due to lack of clarity in funding and who would be the administrative agency, roles, and responsibilities versus cost sharing, actively planning for sustainability, data sharing and student privacy. There was a clarifying question on whether the funds being discussed were strictly related to cannabis tax revenue and that these conversations are specific only to entities honoring open enrollment and using public funds and making public accommodations. There was continued discussion on having a statement declaring the importance of open access, use of prevention funds, specialized programming, and universal access serving the most children as possible.

Kendal Smith extended thanks to the group from the Governor for their hard work, time, and engagement on this Task Force. She acknowledged the latest version of the report and said this work needs to sustain beyond this summer and that it was hoped that we can move forward toward implementing the recommendations in the report.

Discussion continued on gaps for children and youth with disabilities, lack of access to information related to this group, barriers to children with special needs/developmental concerns (potty training), identifying other funding sources (not the Education Fund), exploring other options for long-term funding, cost calculations as an appendix, transportation costs, distributing the appendix to members for review, grantees required to follow federal legislation on the use of public dollars and anti-discrimination statutes, “required” versus “encouraged” regarding safety requirements, definition of universal design for learning, potential afterschool and summer state oversight committee membership, oversight committee versus advisory committee, conflicts of interest and recusal around funding decisions.

### **Next Steps/Other**

Co-Chair Perchlik suggested sending this final revised draft out and asking members to sign on to it, or not. He reminded the members that the product was a recommendation for a grant program (not the actual creation of a grant program) and that there will be other opportunities to weigh in on this. There was general consensus in favor of the process. Time would be given to respond, and names would be added as appropriate, and the report would be submitted. He thanked the members for their hard work and time spent across seven meetings and acknowledged the progress being made towards universal afterschool access.

### **Adjourn**

Co-Chair Perchlik adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Maureen Gaidys.