

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
Call In: 1-802-828-7667
Conference ID: 541 861 187#
1 National Life Drive, Davis 5, Room 532
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present: Rosie Krueger, Chair, State Director of Child Nutrition Programs, Agency of Education; Sean Brown, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families; and Alyson Eastman, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Agriculture
AOE: Anne Bordonaro, Maureen Gaidys
Members of the public/others: None

Call to Order/Roll Call/Amendments to Agenda

Chair Krueger called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. She said there would be an amendment to the agenda because Bordonaro needed to leave at 1:30 p.m. and she was going to address the topic of the draft legislative report. Chair Krueger said she would add an item on meeting with the delegation and the funding section of the report.

Review and Approve Minutes from October 20, 2021 Meeting

Eastman moved to approve the minutes; Brown seconded. The vote passed and the minutes were approved.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard

There were no members of the public to be heard.

Update on Draft Legislative Report – Anne Bordonaro

Bordonaro spoke about the draft being almost complete; sections needing completion are stakeholder feedback and funding source recommendations. Secretary French will review the draft report early next week and an approved draft will be provided to Task Force members by December 15, 2021. She said there was language built in with consideration to proposed changes in federal law. There was discussion on another meeting before the report goes to the Legislature (January 15, 2022 due date), finalizing the report, time for review, and meeting again before the holidays or the first week in January.

Update on stakeholder input

Krueger reached out to stakeholders and asked for comments to be provided by November 19, 2021. There were [comments received from Hunger Free Vermont](#) and [combined comments received from](#)

[the Vermont Superintendents Association, Vermont Principals' Association and Vermont School Boards Association.](#) There was discussion on recommending a specific funding source or giving the Legislature several options, summarizing feedback for Legislature to frame options, making another attempt to get written comments from those who did not respond the first time, what universal meals looks like in Vermont, that universal meals is already happening some places in Vermont and that should be acknowledged, this is an equity issue, and getting data from AOE on universal meals.

Other

Chair Krueger spoke about requirement to meet with federal delegation and provisions in the Build Back Better bill that has passed the House that would allow statewide participation and increase the multiplier (greater share of meal costs would be covered). She said that if the changes were enacted, the high-end estimate of contribution for state/local funds for Universal Meals in Vermont would be \$23.3 million and low-end estimate would \$18.4 million. Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) estimate under current circumstances was \$24-40 million. She said a meeting should be scheduled with the congressional delegation or their staff. Chair Krueger will reach out to delegation staff to schedule a meeting in December. There was discussion and both Brown and Eastman agreed they did not need to be included in the meeting with congressional delegation staff. Krueger will report back on that meeting at the next Task Force meeting.

Chair Krueger suggested enlisting Brad James, AOE Finance Manager, to address recommendation of funding sources. Both Brown and Eastman concurred with this idea. Chair Krueger spoke about presenting the impacts of Build Back Better changes on funding needs. She asked if members were comfortable with her analysis or if JFO should be consulted. Members agreed that her analysis would be sufficient. She shared the [current draft estimation](#) to be included in funding section as well.

Chair Krueger said there would be communication about the next meeting (to be scheduled after December 15) and that the draft report would be shared in advance of the next meeting and that at the next meeting there would be a report on funding sources and a discussion on the meeting with congressional delegation staff.

Adjourn

Chair Krueger asked for a motion to adjourn. Brown moved and Eastman seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Maureen Gaidys