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**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2024 4:01 PM  
**To:** Sprague, Suzanne <[Suzanne.Sprague@vermont.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Sprague@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Commission on the Future of Public Education

Hi, Suzanne.

Hope this finds you and yours well. Thank you for the minutes of the Commission meeting on the 15th. Is the video posted anywhere?

I looked at the Agency website yesterday to see if there were more meetings scheduled...unfortunately just a few minutes after the meeting of the steering committee had ended. On that, is it possible to get notifications when future agendas/meeting dates are set?

Also, Chair Roy said to send written comments to her, but I haven't been able to find an e-mail address for her - are you the receiver of those, or have I just not looked in the right place for Meagan Roy's address?

In any case, please consider the following concern to be shared with the commission, or simply with the chair to begin with (nothing Earth-shaking, but just something to consider):

Some time ago there was a group of citizens behaving aggressively in person and virtually at Mill River School Board meetings. One tactic was to start firing off message after message in the chat room, which quickly became a distraction to board members and amounted to co-opting the meeting to some degree. The board began including a message on agendas that the chat room was not intended for public participation throughout the meeting, and that solved that part of the issues at hand at that point.

I know this is not quite the same situation - but it still is an open meeting of a public body, as opposed to a meeting of the public. It is one thing to write things like "Please say who is speaking", or asking if steering committee meetings are in open session, or even saying "Thank you", but I see several comments - and three from one person, scattered throughout

the course of the meeting, presuming you documented them in chronological order - that are clearly promoting personal agendas or providing information that would be more appropriate in written comments *after*, not during the meeting...perhaps to be added to the agenda for the next meeting if the chair deems them noteworthy for the Commission's work.

Please know I found Chair Roy to be an extremely competent and even-handed facilitator, and I know she has an impressive list of experiences. I also know the value of inviting and documenting public input - I served on school boards for 20 years, most of those in leadership positions, including president of the Vermont School Boards Association Board. That said, even though messages in the chat room were by and large not discussed at the table, I presume commissioners were seeing them in real time on their laptops, and hence the posters could, in fact, be influencing the conversation. I submit that it would not be tolerated if somebody physically present at the meeting blurted out opinions anytime they felt the urge - I don't see a barrage of posts in the chat room as much different, just more stealthy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Ken