



Communication and Engagement Subcommittee - Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont

October 21, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Call In: 1-802-828-7667

Conference ID: 901 279 264#

[Meeting Link](#)

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Subcommittee Members: Meagan Roy, Chair; Oliver Olsen, Vermont Independent Schools Association; John Castle, Vermont Rural Education Collaborative; Jeff Fannon, VT-National Education Association; Jay Nichols, Vermont Principals' Association.

Agency of Education (AOE): Rose Neddo, Suzanne Sprague

Others: John Clifford, 978-852-4441, Elizabeth Burrows, Chester Telegraph, David S., John.

Call to Order, Introductions and Roll Call, Amendments to the Agenda

Chair Roy called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. and took roll call: Fannon, Castle, Olsen, Roy, Nichols. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Approve [Draft Minutes from October 2, 2024](#)

Fannon moved to approve the minutes; Olsen seconded. There was no discussion. Chair Roy called the vote. The motion carried.

Public to be Heard

None

Olsen acknowledged the Chester Telegraph as the only news outlet covering the work of the Commission in great detail.

Discussion of Input Session

Chair Roy reviewed the run of show for the community engagement session and shared a [presentation](#) for the committee's review and edits. She will begin with opening remarks. Superintendent Michael Clark will share a welcome. Chair Roy will review the session goals, duties of the commission, commission charge, membership, policy considerations, commission deliverables, guiding principles, four areas of work, subcommittees of the Commission, ongoing process for securing a consultant, adding pause for slides with

questions for the public to consider and engage, current context, statutory responsibility for education, overview of Vermont's education finance system, FY25 budget challenges and cost drivers, next steps of the Commission and public comment. Discussion occurred and followed regarding wordsmithing and editing the slides where needed for clarity, logistics for public engagement, decisions dependent on crowd size, sign-up sheet with discussion topics, smaller group conversations with groups sharing their thoughts, public comment for the full Commission, challenges with space, per pupil spending drives the tax rate, spending more money does not equal higher quality, turn and talk opportunities and Commission members mixing and mingling with the crowd.

Chair Roy said the meeting will be hybrid and one virtual Commission member would be dedicated to facilitating the session with virtual participants. Discussion followed regarding utilizing one or two breakout rooms, Commission members may need to take high level notes of the smaller group conversations, notes required from what is shared out, time for public discussion is important and adding a link to the Picus Report.

Confirm Next Meeting/Meeting Schedule

The next subcommittee meeting will be November 18, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

Chair Roy said the committee will review the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a community engagement consultant for the Commission's input sessions. The review may occur in executive session. Chair Roy estimates that 5 entities have submitted questions regarding the RFP. Castle asked that Community Schools be considered as a topic of discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Public to be Heard

Elizabeth Burrows asked if the RFP is a public document. Chair Roy said the proposal document is a public document and [linked here](#).

Adjourn

Olsen moved to adjourn; Castle seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Sprague.