

## State Board of Education

Virtual via Microsoft Teams  
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### Special January Meeting Draft Meeting Minutes

**Date: January 4, 2024**

Present:

**State Board Members (SBE):** Jennifer Samuelson, Chair; Tammy Kolbe, Vice Chair; Tom Lovett; Jenna O'Farrell; Mohamed Diop; Grey Fearon; Richard Werner (joined at 3:42 p.m.); Kim Gleason (joined at 3:43 p.m.).

**Agency of Education (AOE):** Suzanne Sprague, Maureen Gaidys.

**Others:** Sarah Buxton, SBE Legal Counsel; Nancy Russell, Hartford School Board/Executive Board of Vermont School Boards Association; Justin Sherman, Jewish Communities of Vermont (JCVT); Rabbi Tobie Weisman; LL; Sue Ceglowski, Vermont School Boards Association; Amanda Garces, Human Rights Commission.

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

Chair Samuelson called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. and took roll call. There were no amendments to the agenda. Chair Samuelson explained that this was warned as a special meeting of the SBE because of quorum issues, but as a practical matter, it is a combined meeting of the Education Quality Standards (EQS) and Rule Series 2200 Committees to discuss common themes raised in public comment in both series.

#### **Public to be Heard**

Justin Sherman, lawyer, representing JCVT, thanked the committees for their hard work and consideration of many comments received. He highlighted a point that he made in [his December 6, 2023 letter](#): JCVT is of the view that the definition of ethnic groups in the proposed EQS must be the exact, verbatim definition of ethnic groups that was passed and legislatively enacted as part of Act 1. There is no good reason or authority to deviate from the legislatively enacted and passed definition of ethnic group in Act 1. He referred this and any other committee to the voluminous submissions on this issue.

## **Working Session to discuss common public comments received during the Education Quality Standards (Rule Series 2000) and Rule Series 2200 public comment periods that are applicable to both sets of rules**

Chair Samuelson referenced the document titled, [Common Concepts for Deliberation: Rule Series 2000 and 2200](#) that was distributed by Buxton. Chair Samuelson suggested starting with the implementation deadline and turned the meeting over to Buxton.

Buxton also referenced her document and explained that today's meeting will focus on discussing common questions, possible resolution of some issues, and/or flagging any items that need to be researched/answered.

There was discussion on current expectations regarding non-discrimination in rule series 2200 effective July 1, 2023, implementation dates, effective dates, maintaining the same organization style across both rule series to the extent possible, keeping consistent with the language in the law, reporting, accreditation process for independent schools, Quality Assurance Review (QAR) process, and nondiscrimination. Buxton will update the rules based on this discussion and will share with the AOE and Attorney General's Office for input.

Discussion followed on definitions. Buxton suggested that she will review both rule series with an eye to using more words to express what is meant in the substance of the rules while keeping within legislative intent. Buxton will provide a couple of versions for the committees to consider, including a crosswalk, linking definitions and guidance in document.

Discussion followed on Curriculum and "Learning Content Areas", instructional strategies, professional staff and resources, and ensuring that all Vermont students feel supported.

### **Adjourn**

Gleason moved to adjourn; Werner seconded. There was no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Sprague and Maureen Gaidys.