

State Board of Education
Education Quality Standards Rule Update Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes

Present: Kim Gleason, Tammy Kolbe, Richard Werner, Mohamed Diop

Others: Sarah Buxton, Attorney

Agency of Education (AOE): Maureen Gaidys

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

Kolbe called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. and took roll call. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Approval of the [January 30, 2024 Meeting Minutes](#) and [February 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes](#)

Werner moved to approve the [January 30, 2024 Meeting Minutes](#); Kolbe seconded. Gleason called the vote. The motion carried. Kolbe moved to approve the [February 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes](#); Diop seconded. Gleason called the vote. The motion carried.

Public to be Heard

There were no members of the public to be heard.

Working Session - Consideration/review of the following

- *use of supervisory union/supervisory district (SU/SD)/school throughout*
- *reference to approved independent schools who elect to comply with Education Quality Standards (EQS) as appropriate*
- *other language changes to working draft in response to public comment, as time permits*

Gleason recapped the topics reviewed at the last meeting and the agenda for this meeting. Gleason said there was agreement to have these rules apply at the highest possible governance level, when possible. Kolbe added that the legislative intent is for most of the governance issues to be handled at the SU/SD level and not at the school level. She added that it would be unfortunate to assign different responsibilities to schools and SUs/SDs and potentially put these two entities in conflict with each other. Buxton was asked to research places where SU/SD/schools are used to assist the Committee in creating a coherent framework that is consistent with statute.

Gleason shared that the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) deadline has been extended to June 15, 2024. This does not put any less urgency on bringing this work to closure and the Committee will need to continue to work hard to ensure full Board approval prior to the deadline.

Buxton referenced a document/flow chart that she used to identify where “SU, SD, school, and local district” were used and how this guided her general analysis and her recommendation to the Committee on which entity should perform the task. She recommended using the full words and not SU/SD and explained that “supervisory union” is defined in statute and this definition includes a supervisory district. Buxton walked the group through options and assured them that that the decision on what language to use rests with Committee members.

The legislature in past years has preferred the SU governance structure, however there are a few places where they can change or remove responsibilities from local districts. [Section 261\(a\)](#) states that one of the duties of SU boards is to provide special education services; this same provision directs SU boards to provide or coordinate the provision of other educational services as directed by the SBE or local boards. There was discussion on jargon used, using hyperlinks to definitions and a glossary, having AOE work to make the rules interactive, doing so for all rules not just this one, and accessibility compliance.

Buxton said her analysis has four areas of statute to determine if the duty is assigned to the school board or local district expressly/directly or one of four other places the duty is assigned: SU, superintendent, principal, or school board. She said there is inconsistency on who determines graduation compliance – local school boards or SUs. She suggested that the Committee make a recommendation on this.

There was discussion on [Vermont Portrait of a Graduate](#), compliance with EQS, application to independent schools, and lack of reference to publicly-elected boards. It was suggested by the Rule 2200 Committee that language addressing nondiscriminatory protections be made stronger by replacing, “does not align with the Board’s goal...” with, “is contrary to the Board’s intent...” The committee agreed this language was stronger and improved.

Buxton continued walking the Committee through her reviewed document and asked for Committee members to stop her for items that warranted discussion or clarification. There was discussion on state/federal entitlements, federal law, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that are not an SU/SD and vice versa, using bullets for consistency/clarity advising AOE to create a concise checklist, permanent maintenance of academic records, flexible pathways, personalized learning plans (PLPs), flagging parts that do not apply to independent schools, curriculum coordination/quality, equity, requirements for disaggregating student-level data, that independent schools can be required to provide this data to the State Education Agency (SEA), the SEA is required to provide this data to the LEAs, cell size impacting disaggregation of data, need for clarity on graduation requirements, and removing “local” from graduation requirements and combining requirements.

Gleason said the next meeting will likely be from 4-6:00 p.m. on either March 6 or 7, 2024. Kolbe will confirm the next meeting date and provide meeting agenda/materials to AOE.

Adjourn

Kolbe moved to adjourn; Werner seconded. There was no discussion. Gleason called the vote; the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by: Maureen Gaidys