

State Board of Education Student Performance Standards Committee

Virtual via Microsoft Teams
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Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: December 16, 2024

Present

State Board Members (SBE): Kimberly Gleason, Co-Chair; Tammy Kolbe, Co-Chair; Mohamed Diop.

Agency of Education (AOE): Ian Burfoot-Rochford, Suzanne Sprague, Roseanne Neddo, Maureen Gaidys

Others: David Kerman, Natash Echart, Martha Deiss, Amanda Garces, Rose Neddo, Shalon Alliance, Yoram Samets, Lisa Helme, Mark Hage.

Call to Order, Roll Call, Amendments to the Agenda

Gleason called the meeting to order at 3:48 p.m. and acknowledged members present: Gleason, Kolbe, Diop. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Approval of December 2, 2024, Minutes

Diop moved to approve the [December 2, 2024, meeting minutes](#); Kolbe seconded. There was no discussion. Gleason called the vote. The motion carried.

Public to be Heard

There was none.

Review of Feedback on Physical Education (PE) and Health Standards Updates

Gleason explained that a set of questions/request for feedback was sent to several education organizations regarding the Secretary's recommendation for PE and Health standards. Gleason shared that feedback with AOE, who will provide responses to the questions and concerns raised. These standards might be able to go to the full board on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. Kolbe noted that implementation is not a consideration for the SBE but could be an important consideration for AOE. There was discussion on the PE/Health advisory panel, opportunity to query AOE on outreach to that advisory body for feedback, and national standards are silent on time spent in class. Gleason added that the feedback received from the education organizations is posted with today's meeting materials:

[Feedback Solicited from Vermont School Boards Association](#), [Feedback Solicited from Vermont - National Education Association](#), [Feedback Solicited from the Vermont Principals' Association](#) and [Feedback Solicited from Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association](#). The AOE will also provide a written response.

Ian Burfoot-Rochford, Health and PE Coordinator, reviewed highlights from the [Agency of Education's Repose to Public Feedback – SHAPE America 2024 National Health Education Standards and 2024 National PE Standards](#). He discussed how time and frequency is specific to Education Quality Standards (EQS) requirements and the rule series 2000 is not currently open for revisions, SHAPE America has their own recommendations, that the adoption of new rules does represent a change in how they would apply to non-public vs. public schools, [16 V.S.A. § 906](#) and [16 V.S.A. § 131](#), and more coordination of effort on implementation.

Discussion continued on benefit to waiting for the PE/Health advisory group to be organized and meet, taking action to move this out of the SPS committee, qualifications and tenure of PE/Health standards advisory board, input from the PE/Health standards advisory board, resources for the field, training before the implementation, and local wellness policy does not model national standards so updates will be needed, and AOE's capacity to support implementation.

Possible Committee Vote to move Physical Education and Health Standards updates to full State Board of Education for consideration and approval

Gleason called the vote; the motion carried. Gleason asked if there were any other concerns that committee members needed answered. There was discussion on AOE's capacity to support implementation.

Kolbe moved that the committee recommend adoption of the PE/Health standards to the full SBE for its consideration, without modification; Diop seconded. Gleason called the vote; the motion carried.

Presentation of IRIS Standards to Committee

Natahsa Eckert, NEA and working with Act 1 Group, Amanda Garces, Director of Policy for Human Rights Commission/Chair of Act 1 Working Group and Mark Hage, NEA and Vice Chair of Act 1 Working Group, introduced themselves.

Hage spoke about the goals of Act 1 and that they wanted to make it real in and out outside the classroom and IRIS was born of that spirit. They put out an RFP and pursued experts in ethnic studies and settled on a contract with Community Response Education (CRE); this is further detailed in Act 1's final report to the Legislature. They spoke with many throughout the vetting process – they wanted serious people, respectful of local dynamics, grounded in

research and focused on professional development. After process was completed, they worked directly with CRE for an intense 6 months. There was an Act 1 subcommittee of four that worked weekly with the CRE team and then presented to the Act 1 Working Group and reworked it until there was a solid final product. It is work that reflects the deliberations and contributions of a lot of people. The document is ground to 4 domains: identity development, resisting racism, interconnectedness, and social responsibility.

There was discussion on the IRIS standards process and when it started and its timeline, if more resources and time would have been a benefit, what other work needs to be done/continued.

Eckert spoke about the presentation posted with this meeting - [IRIS Ethnic Standards Framework Presentation](#) (slide 12) and the four domains and their competencies. She spoke from the perspective of a person of color who lives in VT, went to school here and now has children of her own in school in VT. She spoke about how this takes students from being passive learners to be active learners and allows them to see themselves in their learning and allows them to be brave and safe in their learning. Eckert went through the competencies to see where we are at with this learning and said there is a Student Learning Outcome (SLO) addressed in one or more competency. This means we are already thinking about this, and the education community is saying that this framework is giving educators something tangible to use in their local curriculum and their classrooms.

There was discussion on the [Ethnic Studies and Social Equity Standards Working Group – Vermont’s IRIS Ethnic Studies Standards Framework \(pgs. 8-9\)](#), domains and competencies, tools and resources, that this is a framework not a curriculum, why the IRIS was chosen, very limited people of color to serve as a resource and that makes it exhausting for those few who are available to serve, social emotional learning, implementation is scary when there is much understanding and many tools, live trainings with reflections are much more valuable than links to documents, intentionality of IRIS, level of expertise for these standards did not exist in this state, importance of students seeing themselves in their curriculum, these standards allow students to participate fully and authentically and already align with what VT.

Garces spoke about the hope that the SBE would adopt pages 8 and 9 of the [Ethnic Studies and Social Equity Standards Working Group – Vermont’s IRIS Ethnic Studies Standards Framework report to teh legislature \(June 2023\)](#) and said they worked to adopt a framework because people have been asking for that and she hopes it will work to ensure that students don’t feel left out. There was a lot of thought about what a framework would look like and there will be a subcommittee working on the pedagogical components. The standards board is the one in charge of overseeing licensing and training and promoting educator quality. It is really important to have this tool for educators; many are already using it. The feedback received was very important; she encouraged members to read the full report.

There was discussion on being ready and the standards from the implementation/support pieces, additional resources, this is not just for the benefit of BIPOC people but prepares all students to be career and college-ready, and being intentional about the time spent on these competencies.

Gleason said there is outreach to the field. She clarified that the framework is not the actual standards that would be requested for approval. IRIS is not a curriculum. It is tools and resources. The committee will start to take testimony and evaluate outside ability to get technical support and will get AOE's technical feedback on this workplan. The hope is to get these standards before the full SBE by the April meeting. Gleason thanked the Act 1 representatives for their discussion.

Future Agenda Planning

N/A

Public to be Heard

Yoram Samets, Shalom Alliance Vermont: he has been following this group's work since its inception; the language is overly restrictive of ethnic groups; anti-Semitic sentiments have increased dramatically over the last six months; he asked and said he would be most appreciative if he could be on a future agenda of this Committee as its work moves forward. Kolbe and Gleason acknowledged the request and asked for specific feedback from the group at a later date which would address their concerns regarding the Ethnic Studies Standards being proposed.

Adjourn

Gleason moved to adjourn; Kolbe seconded. The meeting adjourned at: 5:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Maureen Gaidys.