

State Board of Education

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Virtual Teams Meeting/Video/Teleconference

Call in #: 1-802-552-8456, Conference ID: 280 570 679#

Date: October 19, 2022

Present:

State Board Members (SBE): Jennifer Samuelson, Chair; Tammy Kolbe, Vice-Chair; Patrick Brown; Kim Gleason, Lyle Jepson; Gabrielle Lucci; Jenna O'Farrell; Secretary Dan French

Agency of Education (AOE): Emily Simmons; Donna Russo-Savage; Maureen Gaidys; Suzanne Sprague

Others:

Katie Ballard, Chair, State Special Education Advisory Panel; Wilmer Chavarria, Director of Equity and Education Support Systems, Milton Town School District; Mike Abbott, Milton High School Director of Student Engagement; Lynne Manley, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Milton Town School District

Introductions and roll call

Chair Samuelson called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. A roll call was called. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Public to Be Heard

None

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from September 28, 2022

Gleason made a motion to approve the [minutes](#) from the September 28th meeting. Jepson seconded the motion. Gleason asked that Katie Ballard be added to the list of attendees at the September meeting. There was no additional discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Announcements

Chair Samuelson said that Olsen was unable to attend the meeting. She thanked him for his service to the State Board.

Student Report

Lucci said kids are excited to be back to school and things are going well.

Education Quality Standards (EQS) Rule Update Committee Report

Gleason said that the committee continues to meet. They have invited members from the field to review the proposed rules for clarity of the language; decide if the rules, as written, are best practice; and consider if they can envision the rules implemented in the field. The committee has completed work on definitions. Their focus is now on instructional practice. At its next meeting, the committee will hear from the AOE regarding any technical corrections and hear from students. A future meeting will include feedback from the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA), Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA) and the Vermont Principals' Association (VPA).

The committee will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 14th. The committee will make any modifications to the final draft of the EQS rules following the hearing and then share it with the full State Board for its consideration. The co-chairs have drafted a letter to Chair Samuelson to solicit a legal review of the document. The working document is posted on the website. Discussion followed on how changes are tracked in the document, District Quality Standards and the engagement plan, Quality Assurance Process, and the final draft of the rules to be presented to the full State Board at its December 21st meeting.

Special Education State Advisory Panel

Katie Ballard, Chair of the Special Education State Advisory Panel, addressed the State Board. She spoke about the role of the panel and the desire to reconnect with the State Board. The Advisory Panel has worked hard to be in compliance with its membership requirements according to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The panel now has a majority of parents of students with disabilities. The panel has a healthy, collaborative and effective dynamic.

Ballard said the Advisory Panel would like regular communication with the State Board on the panel's role to advise on areas of unmet needs and to also comment publicly on proposed rules and regulation changes as they relate to students with disabilities. The panel continues to be focused on discipline and Rule 4500 and the impact it has on students and families of children with disabilities. Discussion followed regarding inviting the panel to provide feedback on the EQS rules, ongoing dialogue to inform the work and the panel providing an update to the State Board every three months.

Recording 2018 Certificates re: Union School District Formation

Russo-Savage said that this was a housekeeping matter. It arose when the State Board created eleven new school districts in 2018 under Act 46. Secretary French and then-State Board Chair Huling attempted to file certificates of the creation of those new union school districts with the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA). VSARA did not feel that it was able to record those certificates because there was nothing in Act 46 about these State Board-created school districts that would authorize the certificates to be filed.

Russo-Savage said that, in order to have all of these certificates filed in a central location, both those that are for school districts that were created by the vote of the electorate and those that were created by the vote of the State Board, the Legislature included a provision in Act 176 that would authorize the certification to be filed. Russo-Savage said the item was warned as a vote, but she did not think it

was necessary. Chair Samuelson agreed that there does not appear to be any action required of the State Board.

Planning: Meeting Agendas and Location

Chair Samuelson said that the September 28th meeting was the first in-person State Board meeting she has attended. She asked State Board members for their input on whether future meetings should be remote, in-person or hybrid. Discussion followed that the remote option is best for public access, preference for either in-person or remote, keep hybrid option open for those who have conflicts, remote option is best, work out technology issues in advance of in-person meetings, twice a year or quarterly in-person meetings, strategize about topics for public engagement as well as geographic locations, hybrid for public comment, different schools have varying levels of technology, disruption to the school day for many schools, create a work plan and no school visits in summer months. The State Board tentatively decided to have in-person meeting in March and October.

Chair Samuelson called for a recess at 9:57 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:16 a.m.

Milton Town School District: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Presentation

Lynne Manley, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Milton Town School District, Wilmer Chavarria, Director of Equity and Education Support Systems, Milton Town School District, and Mike Abbott, Milton High School Director of Student Engagement, presented to the State Board of Education regarding the [Milton Town School District's Ongoing Efforts Towards Belonging, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Agency, and Access](#).

Continued - Planning: Meeting Agendas and Location

Chair Samuelson said that agenda topics for the November meeting will include revisiting the Lincoln assignment, update on DQS, update on EQS, Ripton, Independent School Approvals, and a School Safety presentation. She said the meeting will be remote and a half-day meeting.

Public to Be Heard

None

Adjourn

Gleason moved to adjourn; Kolbe seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Sprague