

State Board of Education

Draft Meeting Minutes

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

[Meeting link](#)

Call in #: 1-802-552-8456, Conference ID: 571 721 831#

Date: November 15, 2023

Present:

State Board Members (SBE): Jennifer Samuelson, Chair; Tammy Kolbe, Vice Chair; Tom Lovett; Lyle Jepson; Kim Gleason; Jenna O'Farrell; Mohamed Diop; Rich Werner; Grey Fearon; Aaliyah Willburn

Agency of Education (AOE): Emily Simmons, Maureen Gaidys, Suzanne Sprague

Others: Adam Walker; Representative Angela Arsenault; Pat McLaine; Morgan Daybell; Lynn Cota; Mack Gardner-Morse; Becky Phillips; Addie Lentzner; Katie Ballard, Emily Goyette, Ryan; Pat Cherry; Nancy Tips; Erin; Meredith Tips-McLaine; Ethan Latour; Nancy Russell

Call to Order/Roll Call/Amendments to the Agenda

Chair Samuelson called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. and roll call was taken. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Item A: Public to be Heard

Mack Gardner-Morse, read this [statement](#).
Emily Goyette, Windham, addressed the State Board.
Meredith Tips-McLean, Windham, addressed the State Board.
Nancy Tips, Windham, provided this written [statement](#).
Rebecca Phillips, Windham, provided this written [statement](#).

Item B: Approval of October 25, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Lovett moved to approve the [October 25, 2023 meeting minutes](#). Jepson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Item C: Board Announcements

Chair Samuelson said she, Gleason and Wilburn attended the 12th Annual Rowland Conference on October 26. She acknowledged the Rowland Foundation for hosting and bringing people together who care deeply about education in the State. Gleason said the event was inspiring and is a welcoming space for collaboration. Wilburn said it was an incredible opportunity. Jepson provided an update on the robotics competition. Gleason said that Up for Learning will be celebrating 10 years of Act 77 on December 7 at the State House in Montpelier.

Item D: Rules Series 2000 Committee Update

Kolbe said that the public comment period closed on October 25, 2023. The committee is in the process of scheduling its next series of meetings to process the comments and think through their

implications in the draft rules. The committee is hoping to have the final draft rules for the Board's review at the December meeting.

Item E: Student Report

Fearon said that musical performances have begun. The National Honor Society held its induction ceremony. Vergennes High School had its first math meet with Champlain Valley Union High School. He added that the Addison Northwest School District will be moving the 6th graders into its middle school building.

Wilburn and Lentzner provided an overview of the "Let Me Be Great" campaign. Wilburn shared the campaign's purpose and mission. Wilburn and Lentzner presented to the State Board on the VSARN (Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network) [Survey Results 2023](#) and shared information about students and their experiences with racism in their school. They addressed: 1) Data evidencing school climate across Vermont schools; 2) What students say about racism in their schools; 3) What students are experiencing at school; 4) The response to the harm; and, 5) Student suggestions to rectify the problem.

Discussion occurred regarding the number of schools that received the survey and the number that responded to the survey, resending the survey, many schools have signed up to have VSARN present at their school, geographic representation, best practices used in other schools from other states, next steps, sharing the presentation with multiple schools, having schools become anti-racist institutions, sharing resources and collaborating, and student network, Youth Risk Behavior Survey data, holding a conference, high-lighting student voice and elevating and reinforcing the work.

Wilburn presented her [Op-Ed](#).

Item F: Secretary Search Committee Update

Chair Samuelson shared a [Report from the Secretary Search Committee](#) to summarize the Secretary Search Committee's work.

Chair Samuelson made a motion to enter into executive session in order to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of candidates for the position of Secretary of Education pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). O'Farrell seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The committee entered executive session at 9:45 a.m.

The committee returned from executive session at 11:12 a.m.

Chair Samuelson made a motion to forward the three names to the Governor for consideration for the position of the Secretary. Werner seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Yea: Diop, Gleason, Kolbe, Jepson, Lovett, O'Farrell, Werner, Wilburn and Samuelson.

The Board took a break at 11:17 a.m. The Board returned from break at 11:26 a.m. Diop left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Item G: Rule Series 2200 Committee Update

Chair Samuelson reminded the Board that the rule series is open. Three public comment periods are scheduled for: Friday, November 17, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; Tuesday, November 21, from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.; and, Monday, November 27, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Public comment period is open until December 5. Written comment can be submitted to sbe.publiccomment@vermont.gov.

Item H: Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Update

Postponed until the December meeting.

Item J: Act 29 Update

Chair Samuelson said Act 29 is an act relating to school safety and requires the AOE, in consultation with various stakeholders, to develop a model policy and procedure regarding the use of Behavioral Threat Assessment. Werner represented the Board as a stakeholder. The group's work is complete, and a draft model policy was produced. The Board may submit public comment to the Agency.

Werner said there were five meetings. There was input from many stakeholder groups including many that are adversely affected if a threat is made. Werner approves of the model policy as written and said it encompassed every point that was discussed, not only by those adversely affected but by those that have to enact the policy. Werner suggested that the Board support the model policy.

Chair Samuelson reviewed the materials provided to the Board. She noted some non-substantive changes in the model policy that she will share with the Agency. Discussion followed regarding AOE training, guidance and support, requirements of teachers and that a diverse group of stakeholders were at the meetings.

Chair Samuelson moved that the Board allow the chair to follow up with the Agency of Education to acknowledge the Board's support for the model policy as written and then offer a couple of clerical errors and omissions that were caught. Werner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Item K: Future Meetings

Chair Samuelson said that the December meeting will include an update from the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), a Rule Series 2000 (EQS) update, a Rules Series 2200 update, an Act 72 presentation, postsecondary approval and an update from the AOE on independent school attestations.

Item P: Public to be Heard

None

Adjourn

Werner moved to adjourn; Kolbe seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Sprague.