



Conference Call
Vermont Agency of Education
Room 328M
219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

February 8, 2019

*Strategic Goals: (1) Ensure that Vermont's public education system operates within the framework of high expectations for every learner and ensure that there is equity in opportunity for all.
(2) Ensure that the public education system is stable, efficient, and responsive to changes and ever-changing population needs, economic and 21st century issues.*

**State Board of Education
Special Legislative Subcommittee Conference Call Meeting
Draft Minutes**

Present:

State Board of Education Members: William Mathis, Oliver Olsen (left meeting at 9:07 a.m.), Krista Huling, Peter Peltz (joined at 9:00 a.m.), John Carroll (joined at 9:00 a.m.)

Agency of Education (AOE): Suzanne Sprague

Item A: Call to Order

Chair Huling began the discussion at 8:45 a.m. She asked the State Board members to introduce themselves.

Item B: Sign In for Guests/ Callers

Chair Huling asked additional callers on the line to identify themselves. There were none.

Item C: Amendments to Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Discussion - House Bill - H.3

Chair Huling said that she and Peltz testified to the House Education Committee on House Bill 3 which is an act relating to ethnic and social equity studies standards for public schools. She said that she and Peltz testified to endorsing the intent of the legislation but expressed that the Board had reservations regarding the mechanics. Chair Huling explained to the House Education Committee the role and responsibilities of the State Board which differed in the language and she asked them to make corrections to the bill. She testified that the legislation, as written, indicates that the State Board will pick instructional materials and additionally, directs the State Board to keep data and write a report on a school-by- school basis. Chair Huling further explained to the House Education Committee that supervisory unions are responsible for curricula and the Agency of Education collects data and writes reports. She asked for this to be corrected as well.

Chair Huling said that the legislation, as written, includes confusing language around Education Quality Standards (16 V.S.A. § 165) and academic standards (16 V.S.A. § 164.9) and uses the phrases interchangeably and she addressed this in her testimony to the House Education Committee. Her

testimony explained the difference and asked that the wording be updated. Chair Huling shared with the House Education Committee that the State Board has adopted national standards for many content areas and the reason for doing so is that they are proficiency based and require no support to maintain. If there are State-created standards then there needs to be an investment in the Agency of Education. Chair Huling explained that the language in the bill creates an advisory group with no budget that makes recommendations to the State Board. The bill further proposes that the State Board would bring any recommendations that it agreed with to the Legislature and then the Legislature would determine the cost to implement and ultimately decide what to include in statute. The advisory group would meet for three years. Additionally, the legislation, as written, references Supervisory Districts instead of Supervisory Unions which creates additional confusion. Chair Huling advised the subcommittee that the charge is very unclear.

Discussion followed regarding the role of the advisory group, no student voice on advisory group, independent schools' standards, other states' practices, implicit bias with teachers, reluctance of committees to make changes, problems with reporting and "n" size, bill being on the fast track, rules versus standards, academic standards versus Education Quality Standards, technical corrections to the bill and implicit bias training.

Item H: Other

Chair Huling asked if the committee thought it would be a good idea to push implicit bias training for all educators. She said it could be done by moving this to the Licensing Standards Board and requiring the training as part of the license renewal process. Discussion followed regarding implicit bias in teachers, resources and unfunded mandates and State Board power of convening and training for curriculum directors.

The subcommittee agreed to add a discussion on implicit bias training for educators to the agenda for an upcoming meeting of the entire State Board. Discussion followed regarding implicit bias training.

Item I: Adjourn

Huling moved to adjourn; Mathis seconded. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.