



# Steering Group: Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont

January 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.

**Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**  
**Call In: 1-802-552-8456**  
**Conference ID: 800 830 504#**

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**Steering Group (SG) members:** Ann Cummings, Senator, Washington District; **Peter Conlon**, Representative, Addison-2 District; **Zoie Saunders**, Secretary of Education; **Jennifer Deck Samuelson**, State Board of Education; **Nicole Mace**, Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA); **Craig Bolio**, Tax Commissioner  
**Commission Member: Meagan Roy**, Chair  
**AOE:** Rose Neddo; Maureen Gaidys; Suzanne Sprague  
**Others:** Allen Gilbert, Mike Leichter, M. Kendrick, Chester Telegraph, 18023181814, Mary Gannon, Heather Bushey, 18022823133, Jeanne Albert, Chelsea Myers, DS, Sue Ceglowski

### Welcome/Introductions and Roll Call/Amendments to the Agenda

Chair Roy called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. The Steering Group members introduced themselves: Mace, Conlon, Bolio and Saunders. Chair Roy made an amendment to the agenda to confirm the date of the next Steering Group meeting since the next meeting is currently scheduled on a federal holiday. Steering Group members agreed to add the item to the agenda.

### Approval of December 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Conlon moved to approve the [December 16, 2024 meeting minutes](#); Bolio seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

### Public to be Heard

None

### Workplan Discussion

Chair Roy framed the discussion and asked the Steering Group how the Commission can be most effective in the current context. She reminded the Steering Group of its request to the General Assembly (GA) to affirm and clarify the purpose of the Commission and further recommended that the GA continue to ensure substantive equitable community

engagement. Chair Roy reminded the Steering Group that the public engagement consultant contract was signed, and the Commission is working to schedule its first meeting with the consultant. She reminded the Steering Group that the Commission still exists, and the work needs to move forward until advised otherwise. Chair Roy invited discussion on the structure and meeting cadence of the Commission and its subcommittees. She wanted this finalized so it can be discussed at the full Commission meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Discussion followed regarding a proposal from the administration which will drive legislative discussions, Commission is a highly valued resource, Governor's framework for education policy, focusing on policies that will improve educational quality, equity and sustainability, public feedback, next steps are important, Commission's charge was too broad and timeline was too aggressive, transparent conversation with different stakeholder groups, meeting more frequently, leveraging the public engagement consultant to help with public understanding, concern with parallel processes, the Commission will need to respond very specifically and in an agile way to the legislative process, making recommendations on the Commission's role to the GA, the Commission defaulting to or responding to the administration's recommendations, policy ideas that have come from public comment and other places, governance and delivery model, being intentional around thinking differently on how education is funded, delivered and governed in Vermont, the challenge to build consensus on every part of a policy proposal, a forum where multiple different stakeholder groups are part of a two way conversation, managing expectations, talking through the questions that come up from different perspectives, subcommittees meeting as needed, stakeholder input, identifying gaps and key decision points, pivoting to public engagement agenda, legislative change to the Commission's charge, capacity and prioritizing the meetings of the full Commission.

Chair Roy said that the Commission meets on the first Monday of the month and this meeting is in-person with a public engagement session that follows the meeting. She suggested that the full Commission meet virtually on the third Monday of the month. The Steering Group members agreed. Chair Roy proposed that the public engagement consultant attend the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to listen to the Commission's conversation and design an engagement strategy to use during future public engagement sessions. She said the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting could be a working session to prioritize the Commission's asks in its charge, to develop a workplan and to review the viable policy ideas. There was agreement among the Steering Group members with this approach.

Chair Roy said the next subcommittee meetings are scheduled during a federal holiday. She suggested cancelling the subcommittees that are scheduled on this date. Chair Roy will meet with the public engagement consultant in the next week. She asked the Steering Group if the Education Finance Subcommittee meeting scheduled on January 27 should be cancelled. Discussion followed regarding allowing the chair of the subcommittee to decide if the meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> should be cancelled. The location of the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting is being finalized and will be shared with members as soon as possible.

## **Public to be Heard**

Allen Gilbert addressed the Steering Committee and read [this comment](#).

---

Discussion followed regarding reinforcing that any potential change in funding would be compliant with the Brigham Decision.

Chair Roy reminded the Steering Group that the subcommittee meetings scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup> are cancelled and the next full Commission meeting is Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, with the in-person location to be shared as soon as possible.

## **Adjourn**

Chair Roy adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Sprague