



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

September 16, 2024, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Call In: 1-802-552-8456

Conference ID: 902 628 388#

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DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Steering Group (SG) Members: Peter Conlon, Representative Addison-2 District; Ann Cummings, Senator Washington District; Zoie Saunders, Interim Secretary of Education (joined at 10:48 a.m.); Jennifer Deck Samuelson, State Board of Education; Nicole Mace, Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) (joined at 10:56 a.m.); Craig Bolio, Tax Commissioner.

Commission Member: Meagan Roy, Chair

AOE: Roseanne Neddo; Jill Briggs Campbell; Maureen Gaidys; Suzanne Sprague

Others: John Clifford; Julia Richter; Megan K; Elizabeth St. James; Jeff Francis; Elaine Bellavance; Heather Bushey; Clare Buckley; Jeanne Albert; Chelsea Myers; Emma Fedorchuk; Allen Gilbert; Jay Nichols; Maggie Lenz; Andrew McKeever; Meg Fuerst; Austin Davis; Jeff Fannon; Elizabeth Burrows

Call to Order, Introductions and Roll Call, Amendments to the Agenda and Approval of the September 5th Meeting Minutes

Chair Roy called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. She took roll call: Cummings, Bolio, Conlon, Deck-Samuelson and Roy. Chair Roy mentioned that Saunders and Mace would be arriving late to the meeting due to conflicts. Conlon moved to approve the [meeting minutes from September 5th](#); Deck-Samuelson seconded. The motion carried. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Public to be Heard

None

Agenda Planning for the October 7, 2024, Full Commission Meeting

Chair Roy mentioned that the regular full commission meeting scheduled for October 7th falls on a significant anniversary for some members. She said holding the meeting on this date may impact public participation. Discussion followed establishing continuity, no objection to moving the meeting to remain accessible to the public, October 14th is Indigenous' Peoples Day, using a Doodle Poll to determine a new date, and moving the meeting to October 21st. Following discussion, Chair Roy said that the full Commission meeting date will be October 21st and if Commission members have conflicts with October 21st, a Doodle Poll can be sent to determine another date. She added that changing the date allows additional time to determine the location of the meeting and allows the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee (CES) to plan the input session since a consultant

has not been procured. She reminded the Steering Group of the December deadline in adopting the Education Finance Subcommittee's (EFS) recommendations. Chair Roy asked for an update on the next meeting of the EFS. The meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Chair Roy said that at the next full Commission meeting there will be standing subcommittee updates and a more in-depth update from the EFS, that will hopefully have had a chance to meet a couple of times. Discussion followed regarding EFS discussing and reviewing prior policy proposals, necessary data required, Commission charge is complex, wondering if the EFS will have preliminary recommendations for the full Commission by October 21, October 21 seems to be an aggressive timeline, presentation on past recommendations and why not implemented, educating the full Commission and public, reviewing new ideas, disagreement within the Commission, agenda item will take multiple discussions, inviting EFS Chair Kornheiser to the full Commission meeting on the 21st to benefit from the full discussion and building consensus takes time.

Steering Group members asked that the agenda include an in-depth presentation from the EFS on its review of past policy proposals and other past proposed recommendations and the various discussions around them as well as new ideas being considered. This would include the EFS producing preliminary recommendations for the Commission to begin discussing, so that the Commission does not miss the opportunity to influence the local budgeting process if the recommendations come to the full Commission later than October 21st. The discussion will include cost containment strategies from the EFS, ground-up input from the Listen and Learn Tour to date, updates on any input sessions with stakeholders, identifying the cost containment levers to be pulled and the support provided at the local level, how short-term cost containment strategies will impact longer term structural reform and aligning recommendations with the Commission's guiding principles.

Chair Roy will reach out to Chair Kornheiser with the Steering Group's ask of the EFS and to provide documents that will be helpful. The documents will include the joint memo from the education stakeholders, and the text of Act 46 and Act 127. Chair Roy asked for other suggestions on documentation to provide to the EFS for a document review. Discussion followed regarding adding the Governor's letter to the field, the full Commission should review the major pieces of legislation, focusing on budgeting cycle, the potential for additional data requests and posting materials to the web site.

Confirm Next Meeting

Chair Roy asked if there was anything else that needed to be discussed at the next full Commission meeting scheduled for October 21. Discussion followed regarding an update from the School Construction Working Group, an update from the Prekindergarten Education Implementation Committee and hearing from other stakeholders.

Interim Secretary Saunders left the meeting at 11:32 a.m. Senator Cummings let the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Public to be Heard

Elaine Bellavance, Walden, addressed the Steering Group. She said that there have been several items brought to the Steering Group's attention that are the core of budget building. She suggested, as another agenda item, the process on how supervisory union budgets are built and voted on in different towns and school districts.

Representative Elizabeth Burrows addressed the Steering Group. She wondered when the Steering

Group would take into consideration what other states are doing. She said it might be helpful to know what best practices all across our great nation are. Chair Roy responded and said yes, the Steering Group is considering this.

Adjourn

Deck-Samuels moved to adjourn the meeting; Mace seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:36 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Sprague.