

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
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DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Heather Bouchey, Chelsea Myers, Xusana Davis, Maureen Gaidys, Amanda Garces, Heather Thomas Lynn, Meghan Laird, Jay Nichols, Morgaine Wilde, Rueben McNeil, Henry Sparks, Rebecca McBroom, Lynn Currier Stanley, Sarah Robinson, V Pearson, Cammie Naylor.

AOE: Maureen Gaidys

Members of the public/others: Gail Zatz, Rep. Elizabeth Burrows

Call to Order/Amendments to Agenda/Introductions

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 1 PM.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard.

Karen Price of the Vermont Family Network. VFN works with families of children with disabilities and special health needs and operates a helpline. Ms. Price provided examples of calls that have been received, including many related to bullying and harassment. Ms. Price noted that children with disabilities often lack the social ability to be covert regarding bullying and harassment and end up in disciplinary proceedings related to this at higher rates than peers without disabilities. Children with disabilities also get bullied by kids who do not have disabilities. VFN sees a lot of suspension and removal of students with disabilities. Ms. Price noted the lack of independent reviewers for schools. Some families have had to wait at least a year for an independent review. Children who have invisible disabilities and who do not have IEPs or 504s do not have anything in place for protection. When kids with disabilities are being interviewed, they do not have any supports. There is an online form that AOE has built on their webpage. The information provided by the AOE has been inconsistent about the purpose of the form. VFN had heard that there were supposed to be updates to the HHB policy that are overdue and have been on hold, and they are concerned about this.

Approval of [November 6, 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes](#)

Motion to approve the minutes by Amanda Garces. Seconded by Chelsea Myers.

Approved by vote of 8 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstentions.

Idea-Generating Exercise

Chair Davis asked working group members to share something that they have seen in a Vermont school that they liked.

General Discussion and Work Plan

The working group continued to discuss potential recommendations using a Miro board. Recommendations were grouped according to the charge of the Working Group.

The group decided to attempt to finalize recommendations at the next meeting on December 4th and work on finalizing the report at the meetings on December 18th and January 8th. Several subcommittees will work to advance specific recommendations before the next meeting, within Open Meeting Law requirements.

Jay Nichols agreed to present his survey of school administrators at the next meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Sarah Robinson

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