

State Board of Education Education Quality Standards Rule Update Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes

Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Call in Number: 1-802-828-7667
Conference ID: 630 558 43#
1 National Life Drive, Dewey 206
Montpelier, VT 05620

Date: January 26, 2023

Present:

State Board of Education (SBE) Subcommittee Members: Kim Gleason (co-Chair), Tammy Kolbe (co-Chair), Tom Lovett, & Patrick Brown

Agency of Education (AOE): Maureen Gaidys

Others: Mill Moore, Vermont Independent Schools Association (VISA)

Call to Order/ Roll Call/Amendments to Agenda

Co-Chair Tammy Kolbe called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Kim Gleason, Tom Lovett and Patrick Brown were in attendance at the meeting.

Public to be Heard

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the January 19, 2023 meeting were not available for review. This item was tabled for the next meeting.

Committee Discussion & Edits

Kolbe described the remaining substantive edits of the EQS document as falling into two categories: those related to the statement of purpose and to whom the EQS apply, and those that are related to sections 2125 & 2126, which cross reference the District Quality Standards (DQS) and Quality Assurance (QA).

- There was discussion about the intent of EQS to ensure that it is updated to reflect the mandates of Act 1, and Gleason recommended centering “all Vermont students” in the statement of purpose rather than focusing on whether the rules apply to public and/or private educational schools/districts, SU/SD. The Committee discussed this as an approach to moving the updated EQS forward and considering statutory reference to make clear what sections apply to whom.

- Lovett noted that the concern is not about referencing equity requirements for independent schools, but rather the challenges regarding governance and staffing requirements that do not currently apply to independent schools and would not be workable under the current structures of independent schools. Lovett indicated that many of the equity standards are addressed in the NEASC accreditation process. Gleason noted that not all independent schools are approved by Vermont through that NEASC accreditation, and Kolbe noted that the state of Vermont can't delegate its legal responsibility for ensuring equal educational opportunities.

- Kolbe suggested possibly referencing back to statute those sections that would apply to independent schools, and/or considering changes to the 2200 Independent School Rules. Lovett recalled that there was expected there may be a phase two revision of the 2200 series necessary, and this could possibly be addressed there.

- Brown noted the importance of transparency and accountability, so that the expectations are clear and documented to be understood by the independent schools and public at large, and so that there is accountability to how all schools are doing in meeting these standards. Kolbe referenced the DQS and QA companion rules that are specifically designed to address accountability.

- After this discussion of the statement of purpose, the Committee turned to the list of specific edits to the document and worked through edit #19. **(See attached document)** The Committee authorized the co-chairs to make other non-substantive grammar/technical edit.

- Possible additional definitions: “interdisciplinary”, “cultural competency”, “neurodivergent”.

Legal Review Update:

- There was no legal review update at this time. Attorney Lambek will continue review of the document for the time being focusing on two areas, while the EQS Committee finishes its work to get to a stable draft for further legal review and alignment with current statute references. Lambek will begin with review of the definition of discrimination for consistency with statute, and will consider the Statement of Purpose section, and the question of who is required to comply with EQS.

Future Agenda Items

- Next meetings: TBD
- Continue Resolving/integrating Committee recommendations for the full document (e.g., language consistency, etc.)
- Discussion of alignment with District Quality Standards (DQS) & Quality Assurance (QA)
- Update on legal review

Adjourn

- At 3 p.m., Brown made a motion to adjourn and Lovett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Kim Gleason, Co-Chair, EQS Committee