

## State Board of Education Education Quality Standards Rule Committee

### Draft Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Place: Virtual Teams Meeting/Video/Teleconference**

**Call in #: 1-802-828-7667, Conference ID: Conference ID: 442 054 973**

**Date: September 1, 2022**

**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, Patrick Halladay, Emily Simmons

**Others:** Amanda Garces, Act 1 Working Group; Mark Hage, Act 1 Working Group; Mike Martin, Act 1 Working Group; Heidi Fishman; Matt Vogel; Yoram Samets

**Call to Order, Roll Call**

Kim Gleason called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. She moved that the agenda be amended to move Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting up in the agenda so that Public Comment would be directed at the revised minutes. Tom Lovett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approve Draft Minutes from July 28, 2022, and August 11, 2022**

In discussion, it was noted that, in paragraph 1 of the minutes, “Ethnic Group” should be changed to “Social Identity Group”.

Kolbe then shared the Google doc that she had created to track the work being done on definitions (in particular “Ethnic Group”, “Ethnic Studies”, and “Social Identity Group”) in order to make sure that the document reflected what was in the minutes. She expressed the plan to transfer the document into SharePoint so that it could be made more public while limiting editing rights to one or two people. The [Working Draft](#) is posted on [this webpage](#).

She also pointed to the language in “Ethnic Group” that was added at the end of the definition’s criteria upon which group members might identify, specifically “persecution and other inhuman treatment”. She also reviewed the language in the definition of “Ethnic Studies”, specifically the addition of “persecution, or genocide” to the list of experiences suffered by ethnic groups and the referencing of other lenses through which ethnic studies might view experiences and perspectives in the term “Social

Identity Group”, a term also defined in the document. Brown suggested that the committee discuss the difference between “inhuman” and “inhumane” in regard to treatment of others.

Finally, Kolbe indicated the definition of “Social Identity Group” had been changed to add “socio-economic status” and combined and reduced the last sentence to the phrase “other characteristics and conditions that are innate, unchangeable, or fundamental to identity.”

Gleason moved to accept the minutes as amended; Lovett seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Public to be Heard**

Yoram Samets of the Jewish Communities of Vermont mentioned that it has been difficult for the Jewish community to track the discussion, as there have been conflicting messages. He advocated for a smoother process. He referenced an email in which he proposed revisions, some of which were technical, to the definitions of “Ethnic Studies”, “Ethnic Group”, and Social Identity Group.” He expressed the Jewish community’s strong preference that “genocide” be included in the definitions of both “Ethnic Studies” and “Ethnic Group”, and that the committee go back to the definitions provided in Act 1.

Matt Vogel from Ferrisburg read a written comment in support of including references to genocide and persecution and to include “religion” in the characteristics listed in “Social Identity Group”.

Heidi Fishman read a written comment in which she raised concerns about the process the Act 1 Working Group undertook to develop the definitions.

### **Updates from Act 1 Working Group regarding definitions (Amanda Garces/Mark Hage, co-chairs, invited)**

Martin shared a revised definition of “critical thinking” as well as other possible revisions to the Education Quality Standards that would make consistent the use of the terms “critical” and “critically”. In some cases, the term in question was cut as superfluous, and in others, the term was thought to clearly refer to “critical thinking.”

Martin explained the importance of defining “critical thinking” in terms of skills that were transferrable across subject areas and contexts. He showed how some definitions were too narrow, too specific, or too onerous to be implemented because of their granularity.

The committee discussed other ways to make the language consistent within the document. In particular, the committee agreed to change the word “analysis” to the broader term “examination” in the definition of “critical thinking”. The revised language will be sent to the chairs of the Act 1 Working Group for discussion.

### **Committee consideration of EQS technical corrections/recommendations for the AOE (AOE invited)**

Given time constraints, the committee agreed to table the discussion of the AOE

corrections/recommendations until the next meeting. It was noted that Emily Simmons would not be available for the committee's next meeting on September 15.

### **Future Agenda Items**

A Doodle poll will be sent out to plan the committee's work after the September 15 meeting.

### **Public to be Heard**

Matt Vogel asked for clarification on the process of handling public comments.

Gleason explained the process of receiving public comment from the committee meetings through public hearings to the full board meetings to the formal rule-making process, which involves a public comment period.

The committee agreed that it would be useful to describe this process succinctly in a document that could be translated into languages other than English.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Tom Lovett.