

State Board of Education Education Quality Standards Rule Update Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Virtual Teams Meeting/Video/Teleconference

Call in #: 1-802-828-7667, Conference ID: 675 680 541#

Date: November 30, 2022

Present:

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

Agency of Education (AOE): Maureen Gaidys

Others: Erin Hurley, Waterbury; Heather Lawler, Asst. Supt of Orange Southwest, Barnard; Katie Ballard, Chair State Special Education Advisory Panel; Susan Aranoff, Vermont Developmental Disability Council; Robin Morgan, Susana White, Rutland NE, Equity Coach, V. Pearson, Director of Organizing of Outright Vermont; Sara Kane, Marshfield; Christa Sarong, Bristol, Mt. Abe Unified Union School Board; Erin MaGuire, Dir of Equity and Inclusion, EWSD; Megan Rugali, New Roots Program; Jamie Contois, Putney; Leif Legurois, Harwood; Liz Curry, Burlington; Mia Schultz, NAACP, Bennington; Charles Dabritz, School Library Association; Madison Aiken, Clariden, Alyssa Chen, Education Justice Coalition; Emily Gilmore, Winooski, Great Schools Partnership; Nicole Hanson, Essex; Cynthia Reyes, UVM/Act 1 Working Group; Hannah Miller, Morristown; Christine Told, Waterbury, South Burlington Teacher; Judy Dowd, Executive Director, Gedakina, Essex; Carley Bennet, Burlington; Ina Kaluna, DEI coach, Hinesburg; Britta Fisher, Burlington, Franklin County educator; Rabbi Eileen Hague, Woodstock; Ivan Brown, Montpelier; Dana Decker, Equity Coordinator, White River Supervisory Union; Jennifer Samuelson, Chair State Board of Education

Call to Order/ Roll Call/Amendments to Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

Co-chair Gleason reviewed the EQS Update Committee process to date (*see attachment*), indicated that the committee had held 11 meetings to date to consider the Act 1 proposed changes to the Education Quality Standards (EQS). The Committee heard from the field and public focusing attention on the definitions and instructional practices sections, with the greatest proposed changes. The Public Listening

session was to hear from others regarding the proposed updates to the rules to inform the work of the Committee in advance of bringing a draft to the full board for approval to move into the administrative rules process.

Gleason reminded attendees of the need to keep comments respectful, directed to the Committee and to keep comments to two minutes to allow for as many participants as possible.

Public to be Heard

The Committee heard comment from 31 participants in the call. All those testifying offered support for the updating of the EQS in alignment with the mandates of Act 1. The feedback generally offered support for the Act 1 proposed changes to the EQS. Parents, educators and community members spoke of the need to ensure that "...all students in Vermont schools are afforded opportunities that are equity, anti-racist, culturally responsive, anti-discriminatory, and inclusive..." Many felt these proposed standards went a long way to ensuring that Vermont students experience a welcoming, inclusive, safe environment that reflects their lived experiences, allowing students to see themselves and the world through "windows and mirrors". The Special Education Advisory Panel offered specific recommended changes (*see attached testimony*) and the Jewish community advocated for inclusion of reference to Holocaust and anti-semitism education, and to include those who have historically been subject to persecution and genocide. (These considerations had already been reflected in the most recent Committee draft of the proposed EQS.) Those testifying expressed gratitude for the efforts and inclusive process of the Act 1 working group and the continuing work of the EQS Update Committee.

The EQS Committee expressed gratitude for the time that community members took to share their feedback with the committee.

Adjourn

At 8:02pm, Tammy Kolbe made a motion to adjourn and Patrick Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by..... Kim Gleason, Co-Chair, EQS Update Committee of the State Board of Education