

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: December 15, 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): Suzanne Sprague

Others: Wichie Artu; Katie Ballard, Chair, Special Education Advisor Panel; Rene Sanchez, Superintendent, CVSD; Dana Lesperance, Interim Head of School, Corrections Education, CHSVT; Amanda Garces, Vermont HRC, Co-Chair, Act 1 Working Group; Chelsea Myers, Vermont Superintendents Association, Act 1 Working Group

Call to Order/ Roll Call/Amendments to Agenda

Co-Chair Kim Gleason called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m. Patrick Brown, Tom Lovett and Tammy Kolbe were in attendance at the meeting. Gleason amended the agenda to include approval of the minutes from the 11/15/22 meeting, which were on the agenda from the 12/8/22 meeting, but had been tabled.

Public to be Heard

Wichie Artu, health equity and data systems professional, continued his presentation to share information, statistics and context for the need to approve standards. At the last meeting he had focused his information around LGBTQ considerations. At this meeting, he focused on the race concept through a lens that is not currently typically taught, the evolution of the census and housing policy, and impact on wealth in America. (see attached presentation)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kolbe made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, November 30, and December 8 meetings. Brown seconded. Lovett recognized that it had been some time since reviewing those minutes and requested that they be tabled for review and approval at the next meeting. Kolbe amended her

motion and Brown seconded the amendment. **The motion to approve the minutes of November 30 and December 8 passed unanimously.** The minutes of November 15 will be taken up at the next Committee meeting.

Invited Testimony and Committee Discussion

- **Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)**

- **Katie Ballard, Rene Sanchez, Dana Lesperance**

- Kolbe moved through the submitted recommendations from the Special Education Advisory Panel, and the Committee sought clarification from Ballard, Sanchez and Lesperance where needed. (*See attached recommendations from the SEAP*)
- Ballard explained that their panel was not certain that they were working from the most recent Committee working draft. The Panel offered general feedback, but is happy to provide more specific recommended changes, upon review of the most current draft.
- Generally, the SEAP would like to ensure that culturally responsive curriculum and instruction is clearly inclusive of the disability culture (e.g., deaf culture). There is interest in seeing intentional language addressing the populations of those who have been historically marginalized due to their disabilities.
- The SEAP wants to ensure that MTSS is clearly available to all students, including those who are on IEPs or 504 plans. (Section 2121.5 - The updated language in the most current working draft seems to have already addressed this issue.)
- The SEAP feels strongly that the EQS should apply to all publicly funded Vermont students (to include those independent schools receiving public tuition).
 - Ballard provided examples of lack of accountability to ensure adequate reporting and parental engagement in special education programming and concerns when working with outside independent schools to ensure students have access to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). (*See attached written testimony*)
- The SEAP will also have feedback on the Teacher Qualification section with their next round of more specific recommendations.
- Lesperance expressed gratitude for the responsiveness of the Committee and the Act 1 working group in reflecting the important updates to the EQS that will meeting the needs of all students. After careful review with the special education

staff at the Community High School of Vermont, they are very supportive of the proposed changes to EQS.

- Ballard expressed gratitude for the time and attention of the EQS committee and the continued support of the Act 1 working group.

- Act 1 Working Group feedback on AOE recommendations:

- Amanda Garces and Chelsea Myers walked the committee through the changes that they recommend from the AOE technical updates to the EQS. (*See attached memo from the Act 1 Working Group*)
- In addition to the updates to Civic and Community Engagement definition, there is a reminder to review the document for inclusion of the new language by reference throughout the full set of EQS rules.

Public Listening Session Reflections:

- The committee shared their reflections from the November 30, 2022 public listening session.

- Brown noted that the two hour duration worked well and expected that as we move through the process there will be greater interest in the community in being able to respond to our work, and that we should consider offering the future opportunities at different times.

- Gleason explained that while we may not have time or opportunity for another public listening session before the full board approves the EQS for movement in the formal Administrative Rules process, there will be multiple opportunities for public hearings during that formal process, and that we can be mindful of ensuring that those occasions are diverse in the time of day they are offered.

- There was note that we have not had the opportunity to hear directly from students and consideration of potential learning that could be done in outreach to high schools and the community more broadly.

- Gleason expressed curiosity regarding the lack of negative feedback on the proposed updates to the EQS and recognized the need to be thoughtful and disciplined in our process when that push back presents itself.

- Kolbe identified that challenge as well and recognized that there will be feedback that will be productive in improving the document and that obstruction to updating these rules in response to the mandates of Act 1 won't lend itself to improving the document at this point.

- Lovett identified a potential lack of awareness among many that this work is happening and that we are like have much more feedback as the formal process unfolds.

Planning:

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- Kolbe and Gleason will put together a presentation/package for the full state board meeting next week to include the most current draft, the Act 1 side by side, and Guidance document and a summary of the EQS Committee work to date. That will provide the full board with the opportunity to review the materials and suggest others whom the committee should hear from, in addition to adding their feedback as important stakeholders in the process. Chair Samuelson and the Attorney General's office are in contract negotiations with an attorney qualified to provide independent legal review. We expect to have the person working with us in the beginning of January.

- The DQS and Quality Assurance rules are separately working their way through the AOE, and there will need to be coordination to ensure that the all regulations appropriately reference one another.

- Kolbe and Gleason will offer potential meeting dates for the Committee for the beginning of January. There will be independent Committee member homework necessary to review the full document.

- We would expect to be able to ask the full board for approval of a final draft in February or March.

Public to be Heard

- There was no additional public to be heard.

Adjourn

- At 1:31p.m., Brown made a motion to adjourn and Kolbe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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