

State Board of Education Ripton Status Report Committee Draft Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Place: Virtual Teams Meeting/Video/Teleconference
Call in #: 1-802-828-7667, Conference ID: 288 853 14#**

Date: June 24, 2022

Present:

State Board of Education (SBE) Subcommittee Members: Oliver Olsen, Lyle Jepson, Kim Gleason, Tammy Kolbe (9:45am)

Agency of Education (AOE): Secretary Dan French, Maureen Gaidys

Others: None

Call to Order, Roll Call, Amendments to the Agenda

Oliver called the meeting to order at 9:07am. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Elect a Committee Chair

Kim nominated Oliver as committee chair; seconded by Lyle. The motion passed unanimously.

Public to be Heard

There were no public to be heard.

Logistics for Review of Ripton Status Report

Dates have been set for meeting times for the committee. Specific experts have been identified to support the timeline presented by Oliver.

The next meeting will take place on Friday July 22nd, after the July 20th deadline for Ripton to respond with a status report. On July 22nd, Ripton will be asked to present.

On July 27th the committee will hear testimony from expert witnesses. Additional witness meeting dates will include July 29th, August 2nd and August 3rd.

During the week of August 3rd, the committee will begin drafting an opinion. Donna Russo-Savage will support the committee with that draft report. One or two members of the committee will work with Donna to wordsmith the draft.

The committee will then finalize the draft within two additional meetings with a draft presentation on August 12th.

Resource Needs and Potential Witnesses

Witnesses who will be testifying include Jay Nichols – Former Principal and Superintendent, Bill Anton-Superintendent of Windham Central SU, Meagan Roy - Special Education Director, Donarae Dawson -

Retired Special Education Director, and Erin Maguire - Special Education Director. Witnesses will be asked to provide comments in writing. All input will assess the Ripton report based upon expert witness areas of expertise.

Ron Ryan will provide technical expertise from the AOE regarding Education Quality Standards (EQS), Finance – Brad James, and Special Education - John Spinney. Secretary French will offer any opinions on behalf of the AOE.

Criteria for Review of Status Report

Discussion included the reality of workforce availability for fractional staffing. Ron Ryan may be able to provide an overview of the current state of professional staff openings and how successful schools are with filling those roles in a fractional way.

The only off ramp for Ripton is if the town receives a negative opinion from the SBE. Oliver recommended that any final report from the SBE should provide a plan for the Town of Ripton to move forward.

In addition to information expected of Ripton as outlined in the May 31, 2022 memo [Expectations for status report required by section 4\(c\) of H727](#)", the committee is interested in: designations for middle and high school tuitioning, special education services, plans for Pre-K (including Early Essential Education), Career Technical Education (current designation is Hannaford Career Center), and Drivers Education.

Oliver will communicate with the Ripton School Board to alert them to the timeline, with expectations regarding their attendance and the additional reporting requirements noted above.

Expert witnesses will be provided with dates to join the committee. They will be provided with the reporting requirements of the memorandum provided to State Board members and Ripton on May 31, 2022, relating to "[Expectations for status report required by section 4\(c\) of H727.](#)" The additional items discussed at this meeting will be added to that expected outline.

Meetings will be recorded so that the experts and the public will have access to the process, discussion, and outcome. Discussion took place regarding providing PEG TV access. The voters of Ripton may find the video(s) helpful.

Maureen will provide a Doodle Poll to find dates to finalize the SBE report.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Tammy to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kim. The meeting adjourned at 10:02a.m.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Jepson.

