



**Act 173 Advisory Group**  
**February 6, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

## **Draft Minutes**

### **Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**

**Call In: 1-802-828-7667**

**Conference ID: 555 865 581#**

*Purpose of the Advisory Group per [Act 173 of 2018](#): To consider and make recommendations on the implementation of a census-based model of funding for students who require additional support.*

### ***Present:***

Advisory Group (AG) Members: Meagan Roy, Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators (VCSEA), Rachel Seelig, Vermont Legal Aid; Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA); Sue Ceglowski, Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA); Peter Garrecht, Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators-selected special educator; Karen Price, Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights; Jay Nichols, Vermont Principals' Association, (VPA); Brenda Fleming, VT Association of School Business Officials (VASBO); Lisa Bisbee, Special Education Teacher/VT-NEA; Jeff Fannon, Executive Director, VT-NEA;  
AOE: Meg Porcella, Chris Case, Jennifer Perry, Bill Bates, Brad James, Maureen Gaidys.  
Others: Barbie Collette, Marianna Donnally, Susan Aranoff.

### **Call to Order, Roll Call/Introductions/Amendments to Agenda**

Chair Roy called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and took roll call. There were no amendments to the agenda.

### **Review and Approve Draft Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2023**

Fleming moved to approve the [minutes](#); Seelig seconded. Chari Roy called a roll call vote. The minutes were approved. Fannon and Price abstained.

### **Opportunity for Public to be Heard**

Chair Roy asked if there were any members of the public to be heard. There were none. Chair Roy said she would ask for public comment again at the end of the meeting.

### **Monthly Update from Stakeholder Group: Maintenance of Effort/Frequently Asked Questions (MOE/FAQ) Document**

Chair Roy reminded the AG that there was a brainstorming session with stakeholders on December 9, 2022, and the outcome of that was the development of an MOE/FAQ document for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) looking for more flexibility than what was described in the original technical assistance document to ensure that they comply. Porcella said that on January 11, 2023 representatives from the stakeholder group and the AG met with AOE (Porcella and Perry) and worked on the MOE/FAQ document. Chair Roy said proposal came from the fact that the AOE has issued a guidance document that from AOE's perspective has the safest/most

conservative method of documenting for LEAs that are looking for something different from the previous method, but still in alignment and offering more flexibility. James said that he and his team have provided Perry and Porcella with feedback on the working MOE/FAQ document, and they are revising this draft and will provide the updated draft to the AG or the stakeholder group. There was discussion on where it should go first, to the AG or stakeholder group. It was decided that it will go back to the stakeholder group first. Francis commented that this is a high stakes endeavor and parties seem to be working well together. Perry said the updated version will be provided to the stakeholder group later this week. Chair Roy offered that the guide is to augment the guidance already provided. The separation and clarity of these two issues is what helped this group move forward. There was discussion on having another meeting of the AG to discuss the changes in the draft and a possible Doodle poll.

### **Review Advisory Group Workplan**

There was discussion on the census grant being calculated on Average Daily Membership (ADM) and not on pupil weights and that pupil weights are in the process of being changed. There was discussion on having James model what the grant would look like if it was based on pupil weights instead of ADM and how useful that would be if weights are going to change. James said he will be working on using the FY24 data for the long-term weighted count with the new Act 127 weights. He added that the high-need/high-spending districts need to be analyzed. Once FY24 data is prepared (with new Act 127 weights), the modeling can be provided to the AG. There was discussion that this modeling information would be helpful.

Chair Roy reviewed the [Act 173 AG Workplan](#) and recapped upcoming agenda items:

**March 13, 2023:** Professional Development - update from AOE regarding Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and Rule Implementation; MOE/Technical Guidance – update regarding implementation of MOE documentation; and Impact of Rules Series 2200 on Census Grant – testimony from LEAs and update from AOE on rate setting work.

It was suggested that feedback from LEAs on Professional Development might be a good idea. Porcella will inquire about this. Fannon said he would also like to hear about staffing issues because this impacts the work of the field; that is the reality, and it is not going away anytime soon. Porcella will check with her team on this. Fannon requested a copy of the [Act 173 AG Workplan](#). Chair Roy will provide this.

### **Adjourn**

Chair Roy adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Maureen Gaidys