
State Board of Education

Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Call in Number: 1-802-828-7667
Conference ID: 784 365 723#

State Board of Education Rule Series 2000 - Education Quality Standards Public Hearing

Date: September 13, 2023

Present:

State Board Members (SBE): Kimberly Gleason, Tammy Kolbe, Jennifer Samuelson, Grey Fearon

Agency of Education (AOE): Suzanne Sprague, Maureen Gaidys

Others: Sarah Buxton, Rebecca Roisman, James Pasch, Ethan Latour, Elijah Hawkes, Jess, Ace, Justin Sherman, Amanda Garces, Lisa Thurston-Flynn, LL, Mary Katherine Stone, Penelope Wade, Rep. Elizabeth Burrows, Ryan Wiese, Ted Molnar, Laura Smith, Mike Caraco, Rabbi Tobie Weisman, Jason Gingold, Loralee Tester, Jay Nichols, Addie Lentzner, Chris Young, Erin Maguire, Judy Dow, Gianni Solorzano, Mary Gannon, Alexis Koch, Andrea Moss, and Molly Tobin.

Item A: Call to Order,

Kolbe called the public hearing to order at 6:31 p.m.

Gleason gave an overview of the Education Quality Standards (EQS) Committee's process and offered dates for the next two public hearings: Thursday, September 28, 2023, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. The deadline for public comment is October 15, 2023.

In August 2023, the State Board of Education approved proposed changes to Rules Series 2200 for Independent School Program Approval to reflect the values of Act 1 of 2019. The EQS Committee and Rules Series 2200 Committee will consider comments for both rules series to ensure alignment across these two series. She explained that the EQS Committee welcomes comments and asked that such comments be delivered respectfully and said that comments would be limited to three minutes. She explained that this is not an opportunity for dialogue, but for public comments to be offered and considered by the Committee. She expressed appreciation for all who were participating in this public hearing and said written public comment could be submitted to SBE.PublicComment@vermont.gov.

Kolbe explained the technical and logistical details of the public hearing process.

Item C: Public to be Heard

The following members of the public addressed the State Board of Education - Education Quality Standards (EQS) Rule Update Committee:

Mike Caraco, Bennington, Dean of Faculty and Math Teacher at Burr and Burton Academy

Rabbi Tobie Weisman, Executive Director, Jewish Communities of Vermont

Jason Gingold, Principal, Montpelier High School (MHS)

Loralee Tester, Alumna, Parent, Former Faculty Member, and President of the Board of Trustees for Lyndon Institute

Jay Nichols, Executive Director, Vermont Principals' Association (VPA)

Addie Lentzner, Student, Middlebury College, Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network (VSARN)

Chris Young, Principal, North Country Union High School, Parent, Equity Coordinator

Erin Maguire, Director of Equity and Inclusion, Essex-Westford School District, supporter of VSARN

Judy Dow, Executive Director of Gedakina, Educator for 38 years

Gianni Solorzano, Equity Consultant, Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union/Qualitative Researcher

Mary Gannon, Educational Equity Consultant for Vermont and New Hampshire

Alexis Koch, Essex, Music Teacher at Essex/Parent in same district

Andrea Moss, Program Coordinator for Music Education at University of Vermont

Molly Tobin, Music Educator, Advocacy Chair for Vermont Music Association

Amanda Garces, Director of Policy, Education and Outreach, Human Rights Commission/former Chair of Act 1 Advisory Council

Chair Kolbe reminded the meeting participants that there would be another public hearing on Thursday, September 28, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Adjourn

The public hearing adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Maureen Gaidys