

Act 173 Advisory Group

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: McFarland House**Address: 5 Perry Street, Penthouse Suite, Barre, Vt 05641****Date: October 7, 2019****Present:**

Advisory Group Members: Meagan Roy, VCSEA; Nancy Richards (for Karen Price) VCDR-selected; Nicole Mace, VSBA; Daniel French, AOE; Marilyn Mahusky, DLP/VLA; Jay Nichols, VPA; Brenda Fleming, VASBO; Jeff Fannon, VT-NEA; Jeff Francis, (via phone) VSA; Sarah Baker, VCSEA, Practitioner; Lisa Bisbee, VT-NEA Practitioner; Mill Moore, VISA.

Agency of Education (AOE): Judy Cutler, Meg Porcella, Brad James, Jacqui Kelleher, Rachel Smith, Maureen Gaidys.

Others: Philip Ehler, VATR; Bridget Morris, The Mill School; Sue Ceglowski, VSBA; Greg Van Buiten, EDLaw New England; Chelsea Myers, VSA; Gabrielle Malina, VISA; Representative Larry Cupoli, Education Committee; Kimberly Gleason, State Board of Education; Susan Aranoff, VT DDC; Lola Duffort, VTDigger; JoAnne Unruh, VCSEA; Andrew Jones, President VT Curriculum Leaders Association; and Traci Sawyers, VCSEA.

Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions/Amendments to Agenda

Chair Roy called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. She asked members to introduce themselves and if there were any amendments to the agenda. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Review and Approve Minutes from September 16 Meeting

Chair Roy asked for a motion to approve the [minutes from the September 16 meeting](#). Moore moved; Mahusky seconded. There was discussion on the minutes. Fannon said the minutes were too subjective and that they should be more general in nature. Chair Roy asked for specifics; Fannon used the framing document as an example and said that the minutes gave the impression of support for the framing document and that wasn't necessarily the case. Another issue with the minutes is that they list what is discussed without giving credit to who said what. Fannon amended his request to include that going forward the minutes be less subjective and more succinct and that documents discussed be attached or linked in the minutes.

Nichols asked for clarification on the reference to Act 153 (bottom of page 1) and special education and curriculum being centralized. French said his understanding was that Act 153 required centralization of curriculum at the supervisory union level. **MOTION:** To accept the minutes with the inclusion of a link to the Agency of Education (AOE) framing document that was discussed. **VOTE:** The vote passed.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard

Chair Roy asked if there were members of the public who wished to speak. Philip Ehler, VATR asked if draft rules include series 2360 and if that series would be addressed. Greg Van Buiten, EDLaw New England, spoke about advise given at the last meeting, from State Board Chair John Carroll, to include in the draft recommendations anything that should be included with a connection to Act 173.

Moore asked about a requirement in Act 173 that the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators review the endorsement requirements for special education teachers and initiate rulemaking to ensure that the requirements are not a barrier to satisfying statewide demand. Secretary French said that he would look into this.

Cost Documentation Guidance

Secretary French introduced the cost documentation guidance document. He emphasized that it is a draft document. Judy Cutler, AOE Legal staff, introduced herself and referenced the draft document titled, "[Manual for Determining Allowable Costs for Vermont Special Education Funding and IDEA B Entitlement Grants](#)." Cutler said the AOE is open to receiving feedback on the draft manual. There was discussion that included feedback. Cutler summarized by asking for general feedback on the user-friendliness of the document, expenditures that any stakeholder group has experienced that is not on the list, any expenditures that are concerning or confusing, and if it would be helpful to have a section on coordinated early intervening services. Secretary French said he would reconcile the suggestions. He indicated that he may have a revised draft by the next meeting. Chair Roy suggested that Advisory Group members ask their organizations for feedback and that it would be addressed as a group at a future meeting.

AOE Framing Documents for Technical Assistance

Chair Roy introduced the [AOE Framing Document for Technical Assistance](#) for discussion and asked members to share reactions that they had gleaned from their respective organizations. Jones (Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association), Mace (Vermont School Boards Association), Fannon (Vermont National Education Association), Roy (Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators), Nichols (Vermont Principals Association), Richards (representing Karen Price and the Vermont Council for Disability Rights), Baker (Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators), and Francis and Myers (Vermont Superintendents Association) shared feedback from their organizations.

Chair Roy asked for any reactions from the public.

There was discussion on the [AOE Framing Document for Technical Assistance](#) and how feedback should be offered and organized. There was also discussion on how the Advisory Group should engage with this work and if they wanted to inform the creation of guidance or focus on implementation.

Chair Roy recessed for lunch at 11:48 a.m. to reconvene at 12:30 p.m.

Chair Roy called the meeting back to order at 12:44 p.m.

Chair Roy proposed to the group that lunch be one hour next month so that the meeting would not need to go beyond its end time. There was consensus on this.

Recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding Draft Rules

Chair Roy said the remainder of the meeting would be devoted to a discussion that would ready the Advisory Group to have some formal recommendations to present to the State Board of Education at their October 16 meeting at Burr and Burton Academy, Manchester. There was discussion on the [Disability Law Project's revisions to proposed Rule 1300](#), the intent of the Advisory Group and its plan and specifics to address the State Board of Education.

There was consensus to address the State Board of Education at their October meeting without any formal recommendations. Chair Roy recapped what needs to be shared with the State Board: background, areas of agreement and issues outstanding and how the Advisory Group plans to address these. Chair Roy asked who planned to attend the SBE meeting and proposed that those people (Chair Roy, Mace, Nichols and Mahusky) will work to address these three areas to be presented to the State Board. There was consensus that draft of rule revisions will not be shared with the State Board, but will be available upon request.

Chair Roy spoke about upcoming agenda items: Wilcox presenting on several AHS-related issues (Medicaid, Success by Six, etc.), the weighting study, rule revisions, an update on Professional Learning, and rule series 2360. Chair Roy asked members to come to the next meeting with thoughts on what pieces of rule series 2360 are necessary to implement Act 173. Chair Roy asked for Cutler's redlined revision of the rules to be sent to Advisory Group members in Word version.

Adjourn

Chair Roy adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Maureen Gaidys.
