

Montpelier High School
5 High School Drive, Library
Montpelier, VT 05602

January 13, 2020

Present: Amanda Garces (Chair); Mark Hage (Vice Chair); Asma Elhuni; Barbra Marden; Bruce Pandya; Celilo Bauman-Swain; Cynthia Reyes; Infinite Culcleasure; Mara Iverson; Maxwell Barrows; Miakoda Schultz; Vera Sheehan; Natasha Eckart Baning; Xusana Davis; Heather Thomas Lynn; Bonnie Johnson-Aten, Chelsea Myers; Amber Wylie

AOE: Heather Bouchey

Others: Kathleen Kesson/Barre Town, Karen Noone/Mooretown,

Call to Order/Amendments to Agenda/Introductions

The meeting convened at 5:15p.m.

Review and Approve Minutes from November 26, 2019

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Motion made to approve the Nov 26, 2019 minutes.

Mark Hage seconded, and the motion passed.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard

There was no Public representation.

Grounding our week, building it together

Amanda Garces (Chair) referenced “White Dominant Culture & Something Different” worksheet. The worksheet included the “Norm” of white dominant culture and the something different. The Chair asked us to think of how the norms on the left hand column would apply to each one of us, additionally the righthand column to think of how the alternatives could apply to each person and the work we are assigned to do in the workgroup.

The Chair urged each one of us to think of ourselves as actors of change, where everyone can contribute to what we need in the workgroup space.

Barrows mentioned that we need to think of how to streamline the documents shared for the meetings. For example, the documents for 1/13 meeting came from different sources which was confusing. Additionally, there was a lot of material to read prior to the meeting. Would be helpful to narrow/synthesize the documents to focus on the issues that will be discussed in the meeting. The reason being some people may not be able to conceptualize the amount of material.

A suggestion was made to use google docs as a one source of truth for the documents.

Bruce Pandya asked whether there were audio versions of the documents.

Celilo is willing to simplify the documents in a more condensed manner. (More focused/more illustrative if need).

Garces mentioned that they are working on streamlining the meeting tools. Currently working on the skype issues, sending out of meeting packets. There is a plan to use Zoom going forward.

Some of the items discussed in the "White Dominant Culture & Something Different" worksheet were;

Either/or thinking Vs. Systems and complexity thinking.

- It is important talk about issues especially where there is conflict. "Everyone is given an opportunity to speak, there is no age limit"
- It is critical to be active listeners.
- Everyone gets a turn to speak.

Paternalism Vs. Partnership

- Think of the impacted group who happen to be students, Davis commented that it would be helpful to include more student voices.

Competition Vs. Collaboration

- Building trust will be critical to the work we are assigned to do.
- Speaking up
- Sharing as much information as possible

Power hoarding Vs. Power sharing

- Need to engage all resources, teachers/educators, students. (All resources within the community)

Comfort with predominantly white leadership Vs. Leadership representatives of the communities most affected by inequity.

- Having people of different backgrounds take the lead when it comes to combating issues such as disability, injustice.

Scope of our work – Act 1 Timeline

Mark Harge presented the ACT 1 timeline.

H.3 Reports by VCESES Summary

Agency of Education – Presentation on State Standards

Heather Bouchey presented a brief overview on the State Education Standards.

Brief Overview - State Education Standards

Working Group Budget

Garces mentioned that there is no money allocated to some financial aspects for the Workgroup. The Chair stated they are working with the Agency of Education (AOE) to identify other sources or help figure what can be expensed. Garces asked the work group to brain storm on what is needed financially to make our work successful. She gave an example of note taker, moderator.

Meeting Discussion Request by Bruce Pandya

Bruce made a suggestion to increase the number of student participation on the work group. He understands the ask might require an amendment to ACT 1. Bruce made two suggestions:

1. Ask the general assembly to make an amendment to increase the number of student participation
2. Provide power of control to the work group to determine the structure of the membership of the work group.

Vera Sheehan made a recommendation to consider a student advisory group. Whereby the students meet with the group then share the feedback with the work group. Additionally, she requested to add at least one indigenous person to the work group.

Celilo Bauman-Swain made a suggestion to request 10-15 student addition.

Barrows made a comment that he appreciated Bruce and Celilo's ideas to add additional student representation. He added that usually youth are not heard as much as they should be.

Kiah Morris explained the possible options for presenting the bills at this time.

Cynthia Reyes suggested, the Chair to discuss the above asks with the house of education during her presentation on 1/14 at 3pm.

Heather Bouchey made a motion for Amanda to propose to the House of Education the need

1. to add more student body to the work group
2. at least one indigenous person.

With a backup to speak to Brian Cina about the plan.

The motion passed.

Housekeeping

The location for the February meeting has been determined. Which will be Rutland. There is no pending date. A doodle poll will go out soon to the work group.

Infinite Culcleasure asked about the pod casting option for the work group meetings while using content, notes and presentation from the meetings. The Chair made a comment that it would be a great way to obtain feed back from the communities.

Heather Bouchey made a comment that due to the open meeting laws, the pod casts option would be okay only if the work group member acted as an individual not as a work group.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Barbra Marden.

DRAFT