

Agency of Education  
One National Life Drive, Davis 5, Room 513  
Montpelier, VT 05620

January 27, 2020

Present: Tim Vincent, VSBIT; Jeff Francis, VSA; Henri Sparks, Burlington Schools (via phone);  
Melissa Horwitz, HRC; Mill Moore, VISA; Sue Ceglowski, VSBA; Bor Yang, HRC

AOE: Suzanne Sprague

Agenda:

1. Discussion of Act 129 statutory intent
2. HHB Mission & Vision Discussion
3. Other?

The meeting convened at 2:38 p.m.

Chair Vincent asked for members present to introduce themselves.

Chair Vincent began discussion and referenced an e-mail received from an Advisory Council (AC) member suggesting that the AC be dissolved and their work forwarded to the Act 1 Working Group. He reviewed the statutory intent of Act 129. His viewpoint was that the AC does not have the authority to vote to continue or dissolve. It would need to be addressed by the Secretary of Education and the legislature. Yang said that it was her intent to advise the Secretary to inform the legislature that the AC doesn't feel the mandate is clear and has not been productive. She added that the meeting agendas are short and the AC has not mitigated hazing, harassment and bullying in schools. Francis said that the AC's purpose is a worthwhile conversation. He added that the Secretary should be present for this discussion and as many AC members as possible.

Lengthy discussion followed that the topic be an agenda item at the next meeting, lack of presence of AC members, Secretary's view of the AC's role, project focused versus conversation oriented, unclear mandate, diverse interests of AC members, lack of clear direction and frequency of meetings. Francis recommended that the members of the AC honor Yang's request with regard to the future of the AC including comments from the Secretary with respect to his view on the purpose of the AC both in its existing charge and potentially altered charge be added as the first order of business at the next meeting. Discussion continued about the actual wording for the next meeting's agenda, the potential harm in continuing to exist and doing

nothing and the authority of the AC to disband itself. Francis proposed that at the next meeting the Secretary respond to the first followed by discussion as stated below:

1. Should the authorizing statute for the Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention Advisory Council be repealed resulting in the disbanding of the AC?
2. If not, why not and how should it be worded?

Further discussion followed regarding the responsibility of the AC belonging to the Secretary, possible examples of what the AC could be doing, Secretary's opinion, ineffectiveness of the AC, addressing the Sunset Advisory Committee, process for making decisions, open meeting law and group discussions via email and a request that Secretary French provide a response to the HRC email and suggest a future direction of the AC. Chair Vincent will ask the Secretary to respond to the HRC email and if the Secretary agrees that the AC should not disband, he will ask that he provide his thoughts on the future direction of the AC. He will request that the Secretary's response provides enough time for the AC to review in advance for proper and robust discussion at the next meeting. Chair Vincent will request that all AC members be present at the next meeting.

The next meetings are below.

March 30, 2020

June 1, 2020

July 27, 2020

September 28, 2020

November 30, 2020

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.