

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Dial in Number: 802-552-8456

Conference ID: 689 497 295#

One National Life Drive, Davis 511

Montpelier, VT 05620

October 29, 2021

Present: Ken Canning, Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust (VSBIT); Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA); Amanda Garces, Human Rights Commission (HRC); Henri Sparks, Burlington School District; Bernice Garnett, Associate Professor, UVM; Dan French, Agency of Education (AOE); Sue Ceglowski, Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA); Jay Nichols, Vermont Principals' Association (VPA); Jeff Fannon, Vermont National Education Association (VT-NEA)

AOE: Suzanne Sprague

Agenda:

1. Discussion – other like-minded groups?
2. Future Work of the Council
3. 1162 Suspensions or Expulsions of Students and Mask in schools
4. Racism at Sporting Events
5. Other?

Chair Sparks called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. Canning made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as written. Garnett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Sparks led discussion on if the right organizations are represented on the Advisory Council and moving the Advisory Council's work forward towards COVID-19 recovery. Discussion followed regarding bullying data, strengthening prevention reporting and bias in the athletic spaces, role of the Advisory Council, intersecting with other groups, COVID-19 recovery work and state-level funding. Other like-minded groups that were named include the Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group, Task Force on Equitable and Inclusive School Environments and the Advisory Council on Wellness and Comprehensive Health. Further discussion occurred on the social emotional well-being of students and teachers, safety and well-being of students, resources for the public and other groups represented on the Advisory Council.

Chair Sparks led a brief discussion regarding mask wearing by students and isolated cases of students refusing to wear masks.

Chair Sparks led the discussion on racism in sports that many communities have been experiencing for decades. Nichols provided an update on trainings for coaches, referees and administrators as well as strategies implemented by the VPA for use during sporting events to discourage racist behavior and to address any issues in real time. Discussion followed regarding mandating trainings for coaches and referees, trainings for teams and schools, ongoing work, investigations, updating the [HHB model policy](#) to address interschool investigations, investigations harming the students that were harmed, hate speech and racism as a policy initiative, 3<sup>rd</sup> party investigations, bullying behaviors by adults and resources.

Discussion followed regarding next steps pertaining to subcommittees to build a resource collection, subcommittee to support the work on a survey that highlights the work of the Advisory Council, subcommittee to explore next steps and ways to spend the \$9 million of state-funding. Secretary French reminded the group that subcommittees need to adhere to open meeting law.

The next regular meeting is below.  
November 29, 2021

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.  
Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.