



Harassment, Hazing and Bullying Prevention Advisory Council – Building a Resource Collection Subcommittee

Call in Details:

Call in Number: 1-802-552-8456

Conference ID: 467 091 710#

January 26, 2022

Present: Henri Sparks, Burlington Schools; Amanda Garces, Human Rights Commission; Curtiss Reed, Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity, Bernice Garnett, University of Vermont

Agency of Education (AOE): Allison Keating

Others: Charity Wright, Burlington Schools

Agenda:

1. Intended Audience(s) for HHB resource collection
2. Virtual Home and ongoing maintenance
3. Topics to organize HHB resource collection
4. AOE resources? Support?

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.

There was a recap of the previous meeting held on January 11 to help decide on the direction of the subcommittee. The focus will be on making sure that families and students know their rights and holding schools accountable in following through with investigations. If schools violate the rights of students and families, it is important to identify the next steps for students and families. Discussion followed regarding high-quality resources, prevention, using a portion of the 9 million dollars to create a position at the AOE with a focus on school climate and HHB-related issues, cultural shift in schools, schools not adhering to policies pertaining to HHB and enforcement and consequences.

Chair Sparks led the group discussion on creating concrete suggestions to bring back to the full HHB for its consideration at the next meeting. Discussion topics were: propose a team of independent ombudsmen or investigators to work with parents and students; training for independent investigators; if Secretary French would support using funds from the 9 million dollars to support a new position; independent reviews are paid by school districts or the AOE; funding for a youth driven informational campaign; professional development for new school administrators on HHB policies and procedures; connect HHB recommendations to the

recommendations of the Act 35 task force; and, training and professional development on (Combined Incident Reporting Software) CIRS data input.

Chair Sparks recapped that some of the 9 million dollars should be dedicated and devoted to a statewide HHB campaign. Further discussion followed regarding data input in CIRS, inviting a Burlington School District representative to provide a data presentation on what and how it collects HHB data at an upcoming HHB meeting, increasing the number of independent investigators based on HHB criteria, paying students for assistance with media campaign, funding for an AOE position to support schools to do the right thing pertaining to HHB, strengthen the current HHB policies, social media campaign should focus on adults too and a subcommittee focus to address bullying reporting when it is adult-to-student.

Garces will give the subcommittee update at the next full HHB Advisory Council meeting.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.

DRAFT