



# PreKindergarten Education Implementation Committee – Initial Convening Meeting

July 14, 2023: 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual  
Meeting Call In: 802-552-  
8456  
Conference ID: 337 887 68#

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**Present:** **Heather Bouchey**, co-Chair, AOE, Secretary of Education; **Janet McLaughlin**, co-Chair, AHS, Deputy Commissioner; **Erica McLaughlin**, Vermont Principals' Association; **Jeff Francis**, Vermont Superintendents Association; **Sandra Cameron**, Vermont School Board Association; **Colin Robinson**, Vermont National Education Association; **Pam Reed**, Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators; **Theresa Pollner**, Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association; **Morgan Crossman**, Building Bright Futures; **Renee Kelly**, Head Start Collaboration Office; **Sherry Carlson**, Let's Grow Kids; **Nicole Miller**, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.; **Sharron Harrington**, Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children; **Korinne Harvey**, Building Bright Futures Appointee; **Chris Wells**, Building Bright Futures

**AOE:** Suzanne Sprague

**Others:** Jay Nichols, Vermont Principals' Association; Georgene Weisenfeld, National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), Matthew DeGroot, Action Circles, Kendal Smith, Governor Scott's Director of Policy Development and Legislative Affairs

Interim Secretary Bouchey, Agency of Education, called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. She provided a welcome and introductory remarks. Deputy Commissioner McLaughlin, Department of Children and Families, provided an introduction. Committee members introduced themselves.

Interim Secretary Bouchey reviewed the agenda and provided an explanation of each

item. Both Interim Secretary Bouchey and Deputy Commissioner McLaughlin reviewed the specific charge, legislative intent, and expected deliverables to the Committee. The Committee will follow Vermont's Open Meeting Laws. There is a small appropriation for the Committee and some of the funds will be used for meeting facilitation purposes and other work deemed necessary.

Deputy Commissioner McLaughlin introduced Georgene Weisenfeld from the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) from Rutgers University. They are the national experts on prekindergarten. Weisenfeld shared a presentation that highlighted the benefits of high-quality prekindergarten education, NIEER's preschool benchmarks, prekindergarten factors that support learning and development and the state of prekindergarten in Vermont and United States.

Interim Secretary Bouchey said that based on the recommendations required by the committee, it may be necessary to have subcommittees to work more intentionally on specific groupings to address the considerations. Both Interim Secretary Bouchey and Deputy Commissioner McLaughlin wish to be involved in the content of the meetings and hope to use some of the funds allocated to the committee for an outside facilitator. Deputy Commissioner McLaughlin to forward a committee member survey to acquire areas of expertise and interest on specific deliverables. Deadline for completion is July 31, 2023.

Interim Secretary Bouchey highlighted that the committee is awaiting four appointments. The cadence of meeting to be decided soon. Crossman to supply links to different compiled data resources and webinars that have been held over the last decade on Universal Prekindergarten in the state.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47