

# Task Force on Equitable and Inclusive School Environments August 30, 2021, 4:30 – 5:15 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Call In: 1-802-828-7667 Conference ID: 555 864 215#

133 State Street, Conference Room #021, Montpelier VT 05602

## **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Daniel French, Secretary, Agency of Education; Heather Bouchey, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Education; Marianna Donnally, Department of Mental Health; Sandra Cameron, Vermont School Boards Association; Darren McIntyre, Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators; Steve Perrin, Vermont Principals' Association; Wanda Otero, Vermont-National Education Association; Catherine Gallagher, Vermont Superintendents Association; Marilyn Mahusky, Legal Aid Disability Law Project; Karen Price (for Christine Kilpatrick), Vermont Family Network; Amy Wheeler-Sutton, Building Effective Strategies for Teaching Students Project at the University of Vermont; Lindsey Halman, Vermont Restorative Approaches Collaborative; Chris Sheehan, teacher, appointed by the Vermont-National Education Association; Kym Asam, Vermont Independent Schools Association; Ana Lindert-Boyes, Twinfield Union High School, Vermont Principals' Association/UP for Learning; Grace Brown, Burlington High School, Vermont Principals' Association/UP for Learning and Justin Picard, Vermont School Counselor Association.

**AOE:** Wendy Geller, David Kelley, Glenn Bailey, Maureen Gaidys **Members of the public/others:** Jeff Francis

## Call to Order/Introductions/Amendments to Agenda

Secretary French convened the meeting at 4:32 p.m. He said that Deputy Secretary Bouchey would be his designee on this Task Force. There were no amendments to the agenda.

### **Review Charge of Task Force**

Secretary French said the Task Force shall make recommendations to end suspensions and expulsions for all but the most serious student behaviors and compile data regarding school discipline in Vermont public and approved independent schools in order to inform strategic planning, guide statewide and local decision making and resource allocation, and measure the effectiveness of statewide and local policies and practices. He asked members to introduce themselves.

# Housekeeping

#### **Meeting Minutes**

Secretary French said AOE would be taking minutes for this meeting only and that going forward a Task Force member would need to take minutes. AOE will provide a template to the Task Force and assist the Task force in complying with Vermont's Open Meeting Law and getting minutes posted on the appropriate webpage.



### Reimbursement process (for 6 meetings – see 32 V.S.A. § 1010)

Any questions regarding reimbursement should be directed to AOE staff.

Secretary French gave an overview of MS Teams and explained how it will work for conducting an election.

#### **Election of Task Force Chair and Vice Chair**

Secretary French opened nominations for Chair. Catherine Gallagher and Kym Asam were nominated. Secretary French closed nominations. VOTE: The majority voted to name Gallagher as the Chair.

Francis asked for agreement from the Task Force on designating Gallagher to serves as his designee, since this was identified as a technical oversight in the law. There was agreement.

Secretary French opened nominations for Vice Chair. Marianna Donnally, Kim Asam, Grace Brown, and Ana Lindert-Boyes were nominated. Donnally and Asam declined their nomination. VOTE: The majority voted to name Brown as the Vice Chair.

Secretary French turned the meeting over to Gallagher.

# Opportunity for Public to be Heard

Jeff Naley, engineer, and volunteer autism advocate introduced the idea of a suspension/disciplinary records expungement.

# Walk through of <u>Vermont Education Dashboard (VED)</u> and the <u>Annual Snapshot</u> Review Data Collection Process - edFusion

Wendy Geller, Data Management and Analysis Division Director, and David Kelley, Research and Statistics Section Chief, walked the group through the <u>Vermont Education Dashboard (VED)</u> and the <u>Annual Snapshot</u>. Any questions on data can be emailed to Deputy Secretary Bouchey.

### Next Steps, Topics and Dates for Next Meeting

Suggested topics were familiarity with data bases, more detailed explanation of how data is collected, what is required and what it is used for, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and how questions will be answered using this data.

There was discussion and a decision that Brown, and Lindert-Boyes would serve as Vice Co-chairs. Wheeler-Sutton offered to create a list of tasks and a template of what the legislation requires. AOE staff will conduct a Doodle poll for the next meeting. Asam will be the minute take for the next meeting.

#### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Maureen Gaidys, Agency of Education

