



**Task Force on Equitable and Inclusive School
Environments – Subcommittee #3
AOE Dashboard
November 17, 2021, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
Call In: 1-802-828-7667
Conference ID: 424 760 718#
1 National Life Drive, David 4, Room #514
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present: Heather Bouchey, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Education; Catherine Gallagher, Vermont Superintendents Association designee; Marilyn Mahusky, Legal Aid Disability Law Project.
Not Present: Marianna Donnally, Department of Mental Health
Members of the public/others: Susan Aranoff
AOE: Maureen Gaidys

Call to Order/Roll Call/Amendments to Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes from November 3, 2021, Meeting

Prior Meeting Minutes approved unanimously.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard

Susan Aranoff noted that she was thankful for the AOE Dashboard but was wondering why it did not track students on IEPs. Deputy Secretary Bouchey later responded that her question was going to be addressed and that the AOE would be adding that information to the Dashboard in the near future. Susan also pointed out that the Dashboard was user friendly.

Vermont Education Dashboard (VED) and Working Session

Deputy Secretary Bouchey reiterated that more information is forthcoming on students who have IEPs and face exclusionary discipline and referred the group to the “Read Me for Exclusionary Discipline Dashboard.” This document, prepared by the AOE, will be posted on the Task Force website.

The team discussed how we wanted to present data. Deputy Secretary Bouchey offered the ability to use pivot tables in Excel to assist. The team discussed grouping data by grades Prek – 3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12. We may later want to look at pre-k alone instead of in a larger group. We could then look at regional categorization within the grade level groups aforementioned. Deputy Secretary Bouchey will first

check with her team to see if they can populate this work on our behalf and will get back to us with information.

The team also discussed that we are likely not going to have some data in response to some of the questions we are charged with answering. Our thought is to bring it back to the Legislature for their review and either they refine certain questions or suggest another avenue to research.

The committee spent time reviewing the AOE Dashboard at the state level for years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 to identify any patterns or trends regarding exclusionary discipline by infraction and how many occurrences there were in areas of free and reduced lunch (FRL), gender, and race/ethnicity, as several examples.

We noted that there are many definitions on the Dashboard that fall under Disorderly Conduct that seem to be lumped together ineffectively/incorrectly. An example would be dress code violations being grouped with forgery, extortion and embezzlement when they are clearly very different in severity. We also talked about how “truancy” may impact exclusionary discipline. Are students being excluded who are not attending school because parents cannot get them to school? There are many reasons students may not attend school and we need to tighten up the definition of truancy so that we do not attribute it to a student inaccurately. The team also looked at definitions of infractions that are almost nonexistent in our state. We are reviewing whether we will use some of the definitions if they are not relevant to associated infractions in Vermont.

Marilyn agreed to report out around the work of this committee to the full Task Force on Friday.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Catherine Gallagher