



# Task Force for Universal Afterschool Access

December 14, 2020, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## Draft Minutes

### **Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**

**Call In: 1-802-552-8456**

**Conference ID: 904 484 381#**

*Per H.969 of 2020, Sec. B.1120.1, a [Task Force for Universal Afterschool Access](#) was created to consider and make recommendations on the framework for, the costs of, and related long-term funding sources for access to universal afterschool programs.*

Task Force Members Present: Representative Kelly Pajala, Londonderry; Senator Perchlik, Washington County; Secretary French, Agency of Education (AOE); Jess DeCarolis, AOE Secretary's designee, Student Pathways Division Director; Geoffrey T. Pippenger, AHS Secretary's designee, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner, Department for Children and Families (DCF); Chelsea Myers, Associate Executive Director, Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA); Sandra Cameron, Director of Public Policy, Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA); Erin Maguire (Essex-Westford School District), Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators (VCSEA); Matthew DeBlois, Principal, Vermont Principals' Association (VPA); Retta Dunlap, Vermont Home Study Program representative; David Woolpy, Executive Director, Vermont Boys and Girls Clubs of Rutland County; Heather Moore (Franklin County), Afterschool Program Representative; Carrie McDonnell (Windsor/Orange County), Afterschool Program Representative; Christy Gallese (Chittenden County), Afterschool Program Representative; and Holly Morehouse, Executive Director, Executive Director, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.

Others: Kendal Smith, Governor's Office, Director of Policy Planning and Legislative Affairs; 802-552-8152; Maureen Gaidys, AOE.

### **Call to Order, Roll Call/Introductions/Amendments to Agenda**

Secretary French called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and explained the options associated with MS Teams and advised the group that the meeting was being recorded and the Chat function was available for questions and comments. He noted that it took a while to get this meeting scheduled and he welcomed the group and thanked them for being part of this important work. He asked Task Force (TF) members to introduce themselves.

Carrie McDonnell, Program Director for eight schools in Central Vermont (One Planet Program); Christy Gallese, Director of Expanded Learning Opportunities, Burlington School District; David Woolpy, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club of Rutland County; Chelsea Myers, Associate Executive Director, VSA; Jess DeCarolis, Student Pathways Division Director, AOE; Erin Maguire, Director of Equity and Inclusion for Essex-Westford School District/VCSEA Representative; Heather Moore, LEAPS

(Learning and Enrichment Activities that build Positive relationships and Self-esteem) Afterschool Director for Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union/Community Lead for Enosburg-Richford

VT Youth Project; Holly Moorehouse, Executive Director, VT Afterschool; Matt Dublois, Principal/VPA Representative; Senator Perchlik represents 18 towns and 2 cities in Washington county/Senate Education Committee; Representative Pajala, Londonderry and represents Weston, Stratton, Jamaica and Winhall/House Human Services Committee; Retta Dunlap, statewide Homeschool Advocate and runs VT Home Education Network; Sandra Cameron, Director of Public Policy, VSBA; Kendal Smith, Governor's Office, Director of Policy Development and Legislative Affairs (not a formal Task Force member).

Secretary French explained that this was mostly an organization meeting and invited members to raise their hand if they had questions or comments. He discussed the charges of the Task Force: 1) map existing afterschool programs and highlight gaps in access and equity, including equity for Vermonters with disabilities; 2) recommend, as part of the framework, best practices and key evidence-based strategies to maximize health and substance abuse prevention and shall consult with the Substance Misuse Prevention and Advisory Council; 3) consider the [report entitled "Closing the Gap in Vermont: The Expanded Learning Opportunities \(ELO\) Special Fund,"](#) dated November 2015, issued by the Working Group on Expanded Learning Opportunities of Vermont's PreK-16 Council; 4) review the status and results of the Afterschool for All Grant Program administered by DCF; 5) in exploring funding sources, the Task Force shall prefer solutions that do not draw upon the State's Education Fund and shall explore the possibility of using potential revenue from the taxation and regulation of cannabis; and 6) submit a written report to the Governor and the House and Senate Committees on Education with its findings and recommendations on or before April 15, 2021.

### **Reimbursement**

Secretary French spoke about reimbursement that is available for TF members who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance/participation. Gaidys further explained the process for reimbursement. She explained that expense forms are still under development and will be emailed to TF members when ready with instructions which will include submitting forms unsigned, having these queued up for electronic signature of appropriate parties (through OneSpan) and submittal to the AOE Business Office for processing.

Pippenger joined the meeting and introduced himself – he is the Senior Advisor to the DCF Commissioner and the designee for AHS.

### **Election of Chair**

Secretary French explained the role of the TF Chair (presiding over meetings, facilitating discussions and finalization of the work product, and interfacing with AOE for administrative support) and said he would entertain nominations for this position. Senator Perchlik said that he and Representative Pajala were interested in being co-chairs. Secretary French said any other nominations could be posted in the meeting Chat. There were no other nominations. Secretary French called a hand vote and announced that Senator Perchlik and Representative Pajala would serve as Co-Chairs. He offered to continue

facilitating this meeting or turn it over to the Co-Chairs. Senator Perchlik and Representative Pajala concurred that Secretary French should continue to chair the meeting.

### **Opportunity for Public to be Heard**

Secretary French asked if there were any members of the public to be heard. There were none.

### **Review Charges of the Task Force (expiration date of April 16, 2021)**

Secretary French asked for open discussion on how the work of the TF should be organized.

There was discussion on working regionally and bringing that information back to deliberations, that Vermont Afterschool has a lot of background data (program locations, enrollment numbers, numbers from this fall and unmet demand, Afterschool for All Grant Program data, and data for each state), that Vermont ranks in the top 10 for program quality and parent satisfaction but are low on access for low-income populations and youth. Moorehouse offered to share information as deemed appropriate by the TF Chairs. Secretary French reiterated the administrative support available from AOE and said AOE would also assist with the development of a dedicated webpage. There was further discussion on 21 Century funding, the complexity of the different funding streams, if the data available included non-licensed afterschool care, the broader federal landscape, rural education reform, the importance of a common definition of equity, relationships of programs, linkages to school days, and how afterschool programming is funded and best delivered.

Secretary French asked what is envisioned for the next meeting. There was discussion on adding the VT Prevention Model, the importance of relationships, the definition of afterschool/summer programs, using the Equity Impact Assessment (EIA) tool in attendance to equity, representing the full scope of afterschool and summer programs to allow for different entry points across the state, varied resources across the state, working backwards from the April deadline, identifying laps and overlays, and ensuring discussion areas and that there is appropriate work time for deliverables.

There was a question on the possibility of using potential revenue from the taxation and regulation of cannabis as a funding source and if there were competing interests for this money. Senator Perchlik spoke about some of these funds going to prevention, but not for a few years – he suggested using subcommittee meetings to address some of the work. Secretary French explained that AOE's administrative support for subcommittee meetings would be limited to warning and posting meetings but that subcommittees would need to take their own meeting minutes. There was further discussion on data subgroups, framing the work at the meta-analysis level, EIA being a useful tool, cross-benefits of afterschool, specific areas of interest, impact of the pandemic, considering the recovery phase of the state of emergency, universal access, flexibility based on regional diversity and different needs,

Secretary French said AOE would work with the Co-Chairs to schedule the next meeting and start organizing the webpage. He thanked the TF members for their efforts.

### **Adjourn**

Secretary French adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.