

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
Call In: 1-802-828-7667
Conference ID: 986 682 150#

Members: Monica Hutt, State Chief Prevention Officer; Janet McLaughlin, Commissioner for Children and Families designee; Ilisa Stalberg, Commissioner of Health designee; Laurel Omland, Commissioner of Mental Health designee; Alison Thomas; Secretary of Natural Resources designee; Nate Formalarie, Secretary of Commerce and Community Development designee; Nicole Miller, Vermont Afterschool Executive Director; and Kendal Smith, Governor's Office.

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present: Monica Hutt; Chief Prevention Officer; Janet McLaughlin, Commissioner for Children and Families designee; Laurel Omland, Commissioner of Mental Health designee; Alison Thomas; Secretary of Natural Resources designee; Nate Formalarie, Secretary of Agency of Commerce and Community Development designee; Nicole Miller, Vermont Afterschool (VAS) Executive Director; and Kendal Smith, Governor's Office.

Agency of Education (AOE): Heather Bouchey, Interim Secretary of Education; Jess DeCarolis, Student Pathways Division Director; Johannes Haensch, Extended Learning Opportunities Program Manager; and Maureen Gaidys, Administrative Services Coordinator.

Members of the public/others: Tara Howe, Vocational Rehabilitation Regional Manager; Bethany Hale, Afterschool Program Administrator, Caledonia Central Supervisory Union; Matt DeBlois, principal at Vergennes Elementary School.

Call to Order, Introductions and Roll Call, Amendments to Agenda

Secretary Bouchey called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and asked members to introduce themselves and identify their role on the Committee.

Smith proposed continuing a previous conversation with an update from the AOE on the two new positions included in the budget for grant and data management and to discuss next steps. Omland seconded. There was no discussion. Secretary Bouchey called the vote and the vote passed unanimously. The agenda was amended as proposed.

Review of Statute and Advisory Committee's Purpose

Secretary Bouchey provided background for this committee and reviewed the statute, [Act 78 of 2023](#) (page 243) and stated that the purpose of this Committee is to support the Secretary of Education in administering funds pursuant to this section.

Election of a Chair, Vice Chair and Minute Taker

Secretary Bouchey asked for nominations for Chair. Hutt nominated Smith; Miller seconded. There were no other nominations. Secretary Bouchey called the vote. The vote passed unanimously. Secretary Bouchey turned the meeting over to Chair Smith.

In lieu of a Vice Chair, Chair Smith proposed an executive committee to work outside of the full committee and bring work back to the full committee for further review and refinement. She proposed that this executive committee include herself, Miller, Bouchey, McLaughlin, and Hutt. Chair Smith moved this; Bouchey seconded. This passed unanimously. Chair Smith suggested that interns from the Governor's Office could serve in the role of minute taking. There were no issues with this suggestion. Chair Smith will include the interns going forward. A template will be provided.

Public to be Heard

Matt DeBlois, Principal, Vergennes Union Elementary School: the structures that sit within 21C and the Community Schools Grants that facilitate collaboration between and among community partners is a necessary step to meet the needs of all students in the area and he recommends that this is be an expectation of any of these grantees, such that there is a community conversation, and not exclusively the entity that is applying for the grant that is ascertaining the needs of the community as there is typically unknown needs in any organization.

Bethany Hale, Caledonia Central Supervisory Union: no comment.

Secretary Bouchey proposed to the Chair that Jess DeCarolis, Student Pathways Division Director, and Tara Howe, Vocational Rehabilitation Regional Manager - Barre/Morrisville, be added to meetings going forward. Hutt moved to add these two people to future meetings; Formalarie seconded. The vote passed unanimously. McLaughlin said she has staff from the Agency of Human Services (AHS) who she would like to include in future meetings as well and will include them at future meetings.

Chair Smith asked AOE for an update on the hiring process. DeCarolis explained that there are steps that need to be taken before the hiring process can begin. The descriptions in the legislation didn't align well with State of Vermont classifications, so there has been some work to find appropriate classifications. Requests for reclassification are being drafted and need to be completed prior to being able to post these positions. The programmatic position will be an Education Programs Coordinator II. The data position will be housed in the Data Management and Analysis Division (DMAD) to be consistent with AOE practice. This position will be classified as a Data Analyst II and will focus on data from afterschool and summer programs. This position will also need a request for reclassification.

There was discussion on the volume of new positions created in the last legislative session, roles of these positions, impact on progress, and drafting of grant competitions.

There was discussion on the \$4 million budget (cannabis sales tax revenue), projection being higher, addressing this in the Budget Adjustment Act (BAA) in the early spring, new grant competitions, technical assistance, program expansion, AOE positions are funded through appropriation, pathways for sustainability of funding, prioritizing places with low or no programming and lower funding, resources available immediately (and into the fall) for flood-

displaced/impacted families, timeline for grants, summary document of programs/criteria/calendars, reaching out to school administrators about what would be useful for flood impacted families, other mechanisms that target if the charge of the group is being met, understanding interactions between programs, flood impact on childcare centers, and statewide intervention.

Next Meeting, Meeting Cadence

Chair Smith suggested once per month meetings and said we can use Doodle polls to assist with that. There was discussion on task force subcommittees continuing to exist or being re-established, subcommittees and Open Meeting Law (OML), others who have been assisting with this group and who could assist with the work of the subcommittees.

Other

None

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Maureen Gaidys

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