



Communication and Engagement Subcommittee - Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont

August 29, 2024, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Call In: 1-802-828-7667

Conference ID: 169 535 388#

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Subcommittee Members: Meagan Roy, Chair; Oliver Olsen, Vermont Independent Schools Association; John Castle, Vermont Rural Education Collaborative; Jeff Fannon, VT-National Education Association; Jay Nichols, Vermont Principals' Association.

AOE: Rose Neddo, Maureen Gaidys.

Others: John Clifford, Stacey Peters, Clare Buckley

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

Chair Roy called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and took roll call. Chair Roy explained that This will be a work session on developing a draft to go to the full Commission on September 9, 2024.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Public to be Heard

There were none.

Discussion of the Work Plan

Chair Roy shared the [Draft Communication and Engagement Plan](#) and walked through the document with the subcommittee.

There was discussion on renaming this a “Communications Strategy” or “Framework” as a plan usually includes dates and it is too early for that, needing to think about how to utilize our time with at least windows of time, guiding principles, public engagement requirements consistent with the law, community conversations should anchor the work of the subcommittee, having an inclusive and equitable approach for meaningful engagement from the public, frontloading the conversations, community meetings need to be a chance to listen and learn, public comment is different than public discourse, having a mechanism for asking questions, important to increase public trust and balance that with doing work, standing item of public comment follow-up, creating an FAQ document, realistic expectations, most important to gather input from the public, statewide focused

sessions, having specific questions for the general public convenings, survey questions are important, need a professional/scientific survey to obtain useful data, using quantitative or qualitative survey, needing professional assistance with survey and engagement design, need to consider how Commission's work dovetails or not with the Secretary's work, social-economic equity, survey should be open ended and urban/rural considerations.

Chair Roy suggested diving into some of the expertise/attributes needed for an outside consultant that would be included in a Request for Proposal (RFP) and confirm this with the full Commission.

There was discussion on equity writ large, someone who can leverage strategies and facilitate, someone with a good understanding of public and private education in Vermont and who is not seen as an advocate, someone who can draw out thinking from the general public, need to prioritize neutrality with expertise, understanding of community engagement in Vermont, crafting RFP-type language for feedback, most important to get it right not to get it done, not expecting or wanting a rubber stamp from the Commission, hearing from stakeholders more than once, planning now for statewide meetings as that will be very challenging, consultant helping with when and where of engagement meetings, backward planning based on meeting cadence and locations needs to happen sooner rather than later, value in combining public meetings with Commission meetings and consolidated engagement session with geographic representation.

Chair Roy said we need to affirm dates and locations of Commission meetings. September will be the last meeting physically located at the AOE Office. The cadence of rotation around the state will start in October so that other areas have time to plan and prepare. She suggested having a subcommittee member summarize and give a press release on a regular basis to promote information and transparency.

Starting in October, AOE will seek locations for Commission meetings so these can be bookmarked. Chair Roy will bring back a draft RFP and reframe the document to high-level framework to subcommittee members by August 30, 2024, and members should give feedback to her by September 4, 2024 or at the full Commission discussion on September 9, 2024, at the AOE. The October 7, 2024, meeting will be the start of the rotation.

Confirm Next Meeting/Meeting Schedule

Chair Roy said it was loosely affirmed that the 3rd Mondays of the month are held for subcommittee meetings and suggested that this subcommittee to meet next on September 16, 2024, from 8-9:00 a.m. This was agreed upon by subcommittee members.

Public to be Heard

There were none.

Adjourn

Olsen moved to adjourn; Fannon seconded. Chair Roy called the vote, and the meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Maureen Gaidys.