

Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 304
July 31, 2017

Present: Kathy Johnson, Self & Anti-Defamation League; Bor Yang, Human Rights Commission; Tim Vincent, VSBIT; Lucie Garand, parent/DRM; Mike Dreiblatt, Stand Up to Bullying; Bernice Garnett, UVM; Dana Kaplan, Outright VT; Jeff Fannon, VT-NEA; Mill Moore, VISA
AOE: Rebecca Holcombe, Suzanne Sprague

Agenda:

1. Best Practices Model Cut Sheet – Outright Vermont, Dana Kaplan
2. Resources for the prevention of hazing, harassment and bullying
3. Legislative Update
4. Review draft of HHB Annual Report
5. Issue Statement regarding current events in the U.S.
6. Planning for the 2017-2018 school year
7. Other?

The meeting convened at 2:37 p.m.

Bernice Garnett began the meeting asking for introductions.

Dana Kaplan passed around the final version of the Frequently Asked Questions/Best Practice Guide created as a quick guide to the Agency of Education's [Continuing Best Practices for Schools Regarding Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students](#). Kaplan said that Outright Vermont and the Agency of Education are working closely on a dissemination plan for the upcoming school year. Garnett offered the Council's assistance with dissemination. To view the guide, please visit [FAQ Best Practice Guide](#).

Secretary Holcombe passed around 2 pages from the Agency of Education's Administrators' Handbook which contains information that should be included in school student handbooks or information that should be supplied to the parents. She said the pages specifically apply to the HHB Prevention Council and its work. It includes a link to the HHB Best Practices policy and addresses transgender and gender nonconforming students. Secretary Holcombe added that mandated reporting and the State's responsibility to New Americans is addressed as well.

Secretary Holcombe said that the Agency of Education is close to sending an assurance document to superintendents to remind them of their statutory obligations for the upcoming school year. She continued that one of the assurances is to supply 2 designated reporters per

school in their district or SU and to include the contact information for each designated reporter. The designated reporters should be listed in the school handbook as well.

Secretary Holcombe thanked the Human Rights Commission for their work in training the Agency of Education's staff on implicit bias. The hope is for all agency staff to be trained.

Garnett said that she, along with her colleagues from UVM, co-taught a course on restorative practices and youth participatory action research that included some local high school students. She continued that the students voiced that they want to be part of the process of writing the handbook. Garnett added that many of the students had no idea of some of the content listed in the handbook.

Garnett asked for the Council to brainstorm ideas on providing resources on prevention that is objective and non-biased. She said the Council needs to consider where to house the list. Secretary Holcombe said that the Agency of Education is under tight procurement regulations and cannot list them on the Agency of Education's web site as a referral without going through a competitive bidding process for all. Brainstorming and discussion followed.

The Council agreed that Mill Moore and Jay Nichols will create a survey to be e-mailed to public school principals and independent school headmasters to identify the providers the schools have worked with relating to harassment, hazing and bullying trainings to develop an initial resource list. Secretary Holcombe asked that the survey be sent in October.

Secretary Holcombe said that H.508, Trauma Informed Practices, relates to the HHB and its work. She added that a lot of the MTSS work of the Agency of Education involves trauma informed practice. Secretary Holcombe said that there is a summer study committee looking further into this topic. Fannon added that the committee is looking into the supports that are needed for the students, staff and administrators. He said it's a challenge for everyone, big and small.

Garnett asked that any additions or deletions to the Legislative Report be sent to her as soon as possible. She said she will send it to the Legislature in September.

Garnett asked Secretary Holcombe if it would be appropriate to discuss how a statement made by the Council could be of service to the Agency of Education. Secretary Holcombe said that the Agency of Education is non-partisan. She said if the Council agreed to send a statement that it should focus on HHB principles and be advisory. Discussion followed. Garnett will add to the cover letter which accompanies the Legislative Report to reinforce the Council's mission statement.

Garnett asked Secretary Holcombe for suggestions with how the Council may be helpful in the coming 2017-2018 school year. She said possibilities could include the educational quality standards and school climate, as well as specifically addressing hazing. Johnson asked about the Council doing another listening tour. Moore asked Secretary Holcombe if this would be a helpful exercise to the Agency of Education. Secretary Holcombe said she would want to know the purpose and how the information would be used once collected. Additionally, she would

like a theory of action on how the Council thinks that school culture will get better following the exercise. Garnett said further discussion is needed.

Upcoming meeting dates are September 25th and November 27th at the Agency of Education in room 304 from 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Adjourn:

Barnett moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.