



Harassment, Hazing and Bullying Prevention Advisory Council

Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 304
September 25, 2017

Draft Minutes

Present: Curtiss Reed, Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity; Bernice Garnett, UVM; Kathy Johnson, Self & Anti-Defamation League; Bor Yang, Human Rights Commission; Jay Nichols, VPA; Jeff Francis, VSA; Lucie Garand, parent/DRM; Mill Moore, VISA
AOE: Rebecca Holcombe, Suzanne Sprague

Agenda:

1. Resources for the prevention of hazing, harassment and bullying
2. Review draft of HHB Annual Report
3. Legislative Update
4. Planning for the 2017-2018 school year
5. Other?

The meeting convened at 2:32 p.m.

Chair Bernice Garnett began the meeting asking for introductions. She asked the members to share something about themselves or their organization and the work they are doing for the prevention of hazing, harassment and bullying.

Chair Garnett said that the group will skip item one and discuss item two. She shared the draft Report on Act 129 of 2012: Section 12 to the Legislature and asked the members for input on the report and in particular, the section on National Context. Secretary Holcombe said that the Agency of Education can share links that will direct those who want it to op-eds, various policies and data collections that may help in understanding the topics. She added that if the group wants to focus on prevention then this should be explicitly explained in the report to hopefully get the backing of the Legislature. Francis suggested striking the phrase "...in our schools..." from the second sentence. He said it leaves the impression that bias is worst in our schools. Francis added that his opinion on the last sentence is that the council is unwavering in its attitude, but he was not sure that the council could claim it was unwavering in its practice as an advisory council. Discussion followed. Chair Garnett asked that any additional comments, additions and deletions to the report be sent directly to her.

Secretary Holcombe asked that someone on this council or affiliated with the council take responsibility to create a list or directory for the purpose of directing people to resources on hazing, harassment and bullying. Chair Garnett mentioned that previous discussions by this council included a survey to school administrators to determine the resources currently being

accessed. Nichols said the VPA will be glad to host the survey. Chair Garnett asked that the council brainstorm the two questions for the survey. Suggested questions for the survey include:

1. Who is on your speed dial?
2. When in crisis, who do you reach out to?
3. Do you offer trainings in school?
4. Who do you access for prevention?

Discussion followed on administrators following processes and procedures and the consequences of not adhering to them. Additional discussion followed regarding the length of tenure for principals and superintendents at schools and school districts and the effects of turnover on culture. Yang left the meeting at 2:25 p.m. Chair Garnett will send sample questions for the committee to consider.

Chair Garnett moved to item 3. Secretary Holcombe said that there is a task force looking at disproportionality and juvenile justice. She said the numbers of juveniles in the justice system are so small that it is hard to evaluate disproportionality.

Chair Garnett moved to item 4. She said that the council will have some busy work in collating a list of resources. Secretary Holcombe said it is important to put in a bid to think long term. She added that the steps taken now will help lay the framework for prevention. Secretary Holcombe said that the Agency of Education is measuring school climate through the state Education Quality Standards. Discussion followed. Garand left the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 27th at the Agency of Education in room 304 from 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Adjourn:

Garnett moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.