

Draft Minutes

Meeting Place: Agency of Education
Address: 219 North Main Street, Suite 304
Date: September 26, 2016

Present: Ken Page, Vermont Principals' Association; Chris Killoran, Student; Bor Yang, Human Rights Commission; Bernice Garnett, University of Vermont; Henri Sparks, Burlington School District; Dana Kaplan, Outright Vermont; Jeff Fannon, Vermont NEA; Kathy Johnson, Vermont Equity; Rebecca Holcombe
AOE: Suzanne Sprague
Visitors: Lisa Bedinger, South Burlington Community Justice Center, Director

Agenda:

1. October – Bullying Prevention Awareness Month: plans for the council to raise awareness and highlight schools doing great work
2. Update on ESSA implementation plans and school climate measurement
3. Community Conversation on Restorative Justice – Burlington School District
4. Other?

The meeting convened at 2:37 P.M.

Garnett convened the meeting and reminded the group that October is the federally designated month for Bullying, Prevention and Awareness. She asked the group to brainstorm ideas about the Council high-lighting schools in some way or by putting out a statement to help raise awareness. Garnett recommended taking a positive approach and high-lighting schools doing great work as opposed to negative attention. Secretary Holcombe suggested that the Council's student member write an Op-ed about anti-bullying at his school. She advised that the AOE would proof, format and help place it in the media for state-wide exposure. Killoran said he would write one. Secretary Holcombe suggested he also address the things that schools can do to make them a healthy environment.

Page added that a few years ago, the VPA conducted a listening tour. He remembered one in particular and wants to go back and interview her again. Page will ask her to put it in her own words and write an Op-Ed. Garnett asked Sparks if he could ask someone to write on the restorative practice transformation. Secretary Holcombe asked Sparks to nominate a student and the AOE will assist. Garnett asked Kaplan if someone from Outright Vermont may be willing to contribute too.

Sparks asked if there are any new posters available now. Page will resend the VPA poster from last year. Secretary Holcombe advised that the AOE will resend its revised bullying policy in the coming weeks to put back on everyone's radar and will attach the posters to the bullying paperwork. Garnett will share additional information related to the <https://www.stopbullying.gov/> web site that may have something that may be useful and appropriate.

Kaplan advised that a badge is being created that will be sent to the 12 priority school districts. He said there may be some extra that can be shared if people contact Outright Vermont. Garnett suggested that we collate several posters from different advocacy groups.

Sparks asked if there is a simplified version of the transgender policy that is easy to understand and that is not geared towards professionals and if not, could one be created. He continued that it is needed not only for layman use but also for help with New American parents that do not want the discussion of transgender issues with their children because of reasons like religious beliefs. Sparks said a cheat sheet will be very helpful. Secretary Holcombe said that the AOE focuses at the district level and maybe there is another school doing great work that has this to share.

Kaplan advised that the author of the four "Dummy" books is interning at Outright. He said that he would ask if the document can be cut to 1 or 2 pages. Secretary Holcombe said that the reason why the AOE wrote the best practices the way it did was because it is an emerging legal environment. Kaplan will bring the cut sheet to the November HHB meeting.

Garnett asked Secretary Holcombe for an update on where the AOE stands on writing the Vermont plan to comply with ESSA related to school climate measurements. Secretary Holcombe said that the state has to come up with indicators and use them to drive the federal formula for awarding resources and evaluating schools. She stated that ESSA is a Civil Rights Act with the goal of making sure that the dollars are used to fund our underserved populations. Secretary Holcombe said that we are not able to report on achievement gaps of many of our schools because they are too small to report out. She added they can see the inequity at the state level and it's pretty hard to get a handle on it except in about 8 districts state-wide. Secretary Holcombe added it's not possible to report on issues of racial inequalities at the school level when most schools cannot report data because the subgroups are so small and doing so would be a privacy violation. She added that one of the most profound gaps is for students with disabilities. Secretary Holcombe said that the AOE is only able to report out for students with disabilities in about 14 of 215 elementary schools. Any individual level climate indicators might have the same limitations.

Secretary Holcombe said that because of this the AOE is considering reporting at the supervisory union or district level and not the school level. The AOE has gotten extensive feedback from the field. The AOE hopes to have a plan finalized in November and bring the final version to the U.S. Department of Education in March 2017. Secretary Holcombe said that they are looking at a survey on school climate that they can include in the state plan. Secretary Holcombe continued that the AOE is piloting Integrated Field Reviews which take a look at

more qualitative issues. Secretary Holcombe said the goal is to isolate, document, describe and share solutions to shared problems and elevate promising practices.

Garnett introduced Lisa Bedinger, the Director of the South Burlington Justice Center. She said that this is the first of many presentations regarding restorative justice/practices. Garnett added that the goal is to ask a different community to share their good work at upcoming HHB meetings. Bedinger shared a Power Point Presentation on what is going on specifically in South Burlington. Bedinger and Sparks presented to the Council a presentation called Community Conversation on Restorative Justice/Practice in South Burlington. The two led the Council into break-out work groups.

Adjourn:

Garnett moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:08 PM.

DRAFT