

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Agency of Education, Room 423

Address: 219 North Main Street, Barre, VT 05641

Date: Thursday, January 17, 2019 (9:30 AM – 2:30 PM)

Present: Troy McAllister, Tara Howe, Sherrie Brunelle, Joy Wilcox, Mary Barton, Karen Price, Nancy Richards, Eileen Guyette, Lauren Rhim (by phone), Danielle Howes (by phone)

Agenda

- 9:30 - 9:40 Roll Call, Assign Roles, Review/Revise Agenda as Needed
- 9:40 - 9:45 Open Meeting –Sign-in Sheet/Public Comments Approve
- 9:45 - 9:50 Minutes for December 2018 Meeting
- 9:50 - 10:20 Membership discussion
- 10:20 – 11:00 Letter to Secretary
- 11:00 - 12:20 Proficiency-based Graduation Requirements (PBGR)/ Graduation Readiness tool
- 12:20 - 2:00 Review Act 173 group minutes and discussion
- 2:00 - 2:20 Other/Updates
- 2:20 - 2:30 Determine action steps, prepare agenda for the next meeting, and wrap up

Roll Call, Assign Roles, Review/Revise Agenda as Needed

Meeting called to order at 9:40 AM. No revisions to agenda.

Open Meeting –Sign-in Sheet/Public Comments Approve

Two guests in attendance: Phil Eller and Cindy Tabor

Minutes for December 2018 Meeting

Council approved December minutes. There was discussion of June minutes to be approved. Council voted to table approval of June minutes and warn for next meeting. Discussion regarding the minutes and confusion over who was responsible. Lauren Rhim agreed to step down as Secretary. Sherrie Brunelle nominated herself. Council voted Sherrie in as secretary.

Membership Discussion

- Troy McAllister shared that he has spoken with Jason Maulucci in Governor Scott's office. They do have some pending re-applications. Troy will check in and get an update on pending applications.
- John Spinney shared that AOE had been contacted by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) regarding questions about the membership/make-up of the Council.
- Sherrie shared that she had made the call to OSEP to get an answer about the lingering questions of whether an individual could hold multiple roles, any qualifications required for individual roles and whether charter schools representation was required as there are no charter schools in Vermont.

- Troy voiced a concern that this action seems problematic and may lead to less cooperation overall.
- Several council members voiced support and thank Sherrie for making the call. As AOE responds to OSEP, the Council will receive information pertaining to membership.

Letter to Secretary

As there have been several drafts, the Council reviewed the changes made in latest draft. Overall goal was agreed to simplify language, introduce the council, share concerns about Special Education Director authority and issues related to Act 173.

Council re-worded sentences to have more positive language.

Final draft was approved, printed and signed. John Spinney, AOE liaison, will hand deliver the letter to Secretary French's office.

Proficiency-based Graduation Requirements (PBGR)/ Graduation Readiness Tool

John Spinney shared the Graduation Readiness tool and the FAQ being developed. Several council members offered feedback regarding the inclusion of more demographic data and more guidance about how, when and who should use the tool. Several council members agreed to take it back to their constituents and gather feedback to share as well.

Review Act 173 Group Minutes and Discussion

- Council reviewed the latest minutes of the Census-based Funding work group (Act 173). Council agreed that we will continue to review minutes and discuss at each of our meetings.
- Individual members can attend the other group meetings if they choose.
- Sherrie made a motion that the Council will monitor the work of the Act 173 advisory group, and the council will comment on the work of that group in the context of the statutory requirements when rules are opened and proposed. Motion was seconded and approved with Danielle Howes abstaining.
- Council did discuss and question the statement in the ACT 173 group minutes that rulemaking would be limited to special education finance.
- Several council members stated that they understood that it was not possible to limit.
- Danielle Howes questioned whether she would need to recuse herself from rules discussions as she is the Vermont Part C Coordinator.
- Troy agreed to follow up on both questions with Secretary of State's office. Danielle will also seek her legal counsel's opinion as well.

Other/Updates

- John Spinney will send the PBGR Access Plan (new multi-year plan) for Council's consideration and discussion prior to next meeting.
- Council discussed meeting schedule. Sherrie moved that the Council return to monthly ½ day meetings. Joy Wilcox seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- John Spinney will check availability of space at AOE for meetings. Troy will reach out to Susan Kimmerly regarding space at 9 East and look at the Waterbury State Office Complex.

Determine action steps, prepare agenda for the next meeting, and wrap up

Agenda for February 14, 2019:

1. AOE Updates
2. AOE Staffing updates
3. Act 173 work group review
4. Schedule of OSEP reports
5. PBGR Access Plan
6. Legislative Update
7. Review response/input regarding Council composition

Meeting Schedule (hold the dates):

February 14, March 21, April 18, May 16 and June 20