

## State Board of Education Education Quality Standards Rule Update Committee

### Draft Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Place: Virtual Teams Meeting/Video/Teleconference**  
**Call in #: 1-802-828-7667, Conference ID: 401 246 400#**

**Date: June 23, 2022**

**Present:**

**State Board of Education (SBE) Subcommittee Members:** Kimberly Gleason (co-Chair), Tammy Kolbe (co-Chair), Tom Lovett, Gabrielle Lucci (student representative)

**Agency of Education (AOE):** Maureen Gaidys

**Others:** Amanda Garces, Mark Hage, Infinite Culcleasure, Yoram Samets

**Call to Order, Roll Call**

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Public to be Heard**

None.

**Approve May 13, 2022 Minutes**

Lovett moved to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2022 meeting of the EQS Committee. Kolbe seconded. There was no discussion. Gleason called the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**Overview of Act 1 proposed EQS language side-by-side with current language, as provided by the Act 1 working group co-chairs, Amanda Garces and Mark Hage (invited)**

[VT State Board of Education-Manual of Rules and Practices Series- EQS Ethnic Studies & Social Equity Working Group Recommendations \(Final Version 4-14-2022\)](#)

Amanda Garces and Mark Hage, co-chairs of the Act 1 Working Group, discussed the process used to develop the Working Group's recommendations for changes to Series 2000 – Education Quality Standards (Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices). Their presentation focused on the *Act 1 – Ethnic Studies and Social Equity Working Group Supplemental Guidance to Revised EQS Manual*, which provided additional clarifications and detail on what informed and influenced the Group's thinking and recommendations, as well as how the Group arrived at its recommendations.

Subcommittee members asked questions of Garces and Hage about the process the Act 1 Working Group used to develop its recommendations. Kolbe asked if there were areas or items where there was not consensus among members of the Act 1 Working Group. Garces noted that the only point where there was not consensus at the time the Group voted on the recommendations was with respect to recommended changes to the EQS that would make the rules apply equally to Independent Schools. Lovett asked about whether there was consideration of the peer review process included in the EQS. Hage indicated that this was considered.

Gleason noted the importance of districts being able to disaggregate data to better understand potential inequities. Garces noted that the AOE has been working to develop, and support districts' efforts to develop their own, data systems, and that communities have been asking for more data of this type. Hage noted that it was not the Working Group's expectation that districts would be developing data systems and metrics for monitoring on their own, and instead that the AOE would be taking a leadership role in developing equity-related metrics.

Lovett asked whether there was involvement on the part of religious organizations in the process of developing the Working Group's recommendations. Garces and Gage responded that they would provide a list of individuals who participated in the process. Lovett noted that "Religion" was not included in the definitions.

### **Public to be Heard**

Yoram Samets, representing Jewish Communities of Vermont, addressed the Committee, noting that his group had followed the Working Group's activities closely and wanted to congratulate and commend them for their work. His group wants the work to be successful and would like to engage with the EQS Committee at its next meeting to better understand changes the Working Group made to the definitions, from what are stated in Act 1.

Infinite Culcleasure, a member of the public, asked the Committee whether there will be an option for the public to access meetings via Microsoft Teams video in the future. They noted that it was difficult to follow discussions of documents without a visual reference and asked if no video was available that the Committee use specific references to page numbers and sections in documents in its discussion.

### **Adjourn**

Lovett moved to adjourn the meeting. Kolbe seconded. Gleason called a vote; it was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Tammy Kolbe.