

## **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: 827 067 144#**

**Date: October 28, 2022**

**Present:**

**State Board of Education (SBE) Subcommittee Members:** Kimberly Gleason (co-Chair), Tammy Kolbe (co-Chair), Patrick Brown

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

**Others:** Michael Clark, Chelsea Myers

### **Call to Order/Roll Call/Amendments to Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 11:55 a.m.

### **Public to be Heard**

No member of the public asked to be heard.

### **Approve Draft Minutes – October 20, 2022**

Review and approval of the October 20, 2022 minutes was deferred to the November 3, 2022 subcommittee meeting.

### **Invited Testimony on Proposed Education Quality Standards (EQS) Rules**

**Chelsea Myers** (Member Act 1 Working Group & EQS Subcommittee; Associate Executive Direct, Vermont Superintendents Association)

Ms. Myers read a prepared joint statement on behalf of the Vermont Superintendents Association, Vermont School Boards Association, and the Vermont Principals Association. The

statement offered support for the work undertaken by the Act 1 Working Group and the recommendations for revising the EQS that were made by that group.

After having read the statement, the Committee engaged in discussion with Ms. Myers Kolbe asked Ms. Myers if her organization felt the proposed rules changes were something that could be implemented by the Vermont education community. Ms. Myers indicated that they were, while also noting that the EQS is a “framing document” that defines the values and goals for the system. This document represents the “what,” but not the “how to” - it will be up to local education agencies and their constituents to develop context-specific plans for their implementation. She noted that the biggest challenge facing implementation will be the need for systems change with respect to climate and culture.

Gleason asked if there were any points of disagreement on the part of the EQS committee that remained unresolved. Ms. Myers noted that there was considerable discussion regarding the framework articulated for literacy instruction and that the current language reflects a compromise among different groups.

**Michael Clark** (Superintendent, Grand Isle Supervisory Union).

Mr. Clark read a prepared statement in support of the work undertaken by the Act 1 Working Group and the recommendations for revising the EQS that were made by that group. He shared that he felt as if the document provided much-needed clarity and provides a workable framework that will allow schools to take concrete actions. He noted that if these rules had been in place the last 3 years, this level of clarity would have helped him and his SU be more efficient with the work they are doing related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In discussion with the subcommittee, Mr. Clark noted that he was pleased to see that proposed revisions would require the EQS be extended to independent schools. He noted that it is important that families are able to choose schools that best meet their students’ needs; however, if independent schools are going to accept public dollars, there needs to be a minimum, or floor, for parent and taxpayer expectations for quality – i.e., the EQS.

### **Public to be Heard**

No member of the public asked to be heard.

## **Future Agenda Items**

The Committee's next meeting will focus on discussing the changes propose by the AOE (presented to the Subcommittee on October 20).

## **Adjourn**

Kolbe moved to adjourn the meeting. Lovett seconded. Gleason called a vote; it was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Tammy Kolbe.