

VPA Executive Council Meeting
October 30, 2019
2 Prospect Street Montpelier

9:00-9:10 Welcome and Opening of Meeting - President Bob Thibault

Bob Thibault called the meeting to order at 9:00. In attendance, Joan Cavallo, Rebecca Fillion, Nate DeMar, Erica LeClair, Erica McLaughlin, Jay Nichols, Adam Bunting, Chris Young, Bill Olsen, Bob Thibault, Holly Rouelle and Mallori Longevin. Not in attendance, Beth O'Brien, Steve Perrin, Jim Avery, Sarah Merrill and Andy Paculli.

9:10-9:20 VPA Finances/Audit

Jay gave a brief update on end of year finances and beginning of the year finances. He then passed around an official copy of the audit and asked for any comments or concerns. There were none. Budget for 2018-2019 fiscal year came out with just over \$15,000 surplus.

9:20-9:30 EC Member Update

Jay gave a brief update on missing EC members and the reasons they were not in attendance.

9:30-9:45 Annual Principal Survey discussion

- PL&S using this to help develop Academy and workshops

Jay gave a brief overview of how the annual principal survey is used to help form professional learning both at the Academy and throughout the year. There was discussion of some of the key topics for the upcoming (and past) academy. There was also a question about the feedback from the Stowflake Academy 2019. Jay shared the concerns that were most prominent on the surveys.

9:45-10:00 Preparation for Secretary French

There was discussion of concerns and questions that the EC would like to ask and talk about with Secretary French.

10:00-11:00 Secretary of Education Dan French

The Executive Council was joined by Secretary of Education, Dan French at 10:07 and a quick round of introductions was made. Dan gave us a brief overview of where the AOE is currently and what they are focusing on with moving offices, legislative policies and state budget. There was discussion about act 77, act 173, and the status of pre-k (act 166). Principals made it clear that for them to effectively implement 173 they would need the flexibility the law intended and sufficient resources to meet the intent of the law.

Secretary French left the Executive Council and the Council took a quick break at 11:08.

Once back from break, the Executive Council had a quick debrief of the discussion with Secretary French.

11:00-12:00 Goals Updates

Jay gave us an overview of the current Executive Council goals and the work he has completed towards achieving them.

- Educator Retirement
 - I've talked to a few legislators about this

- Waiting to hear back from VT-NEA about helping push this during upcoming legislative session
- Supporting Children & Schools Around Resilience
 - Equity Practitioner Network
 - Sub-Committee Mtg. at Governor's Office
 - Joan, Jay, Erica with Steve Dale and Linda Johnson from Prevent Child Abuse VT met with Ethan Lantour from the Governor's Staff
 - Act 173 Update
 - Update memo to field
 - Jessica Minahan Day Long Workshop
 - May be doing strand at 2020 Leadership Academy
 - Update on Yale/Harvard Fellowship (Joan and Erica)

Jay gave an update on the Equity Practitioners, the Yale/Harvard partnership meeting and network, our work towards meeting with other state-wide organizations and breaking down the silos, our workshop with Jessica Minahan and potentially bringing her back to work with us at the Academy.

- Collaborate with AOE to Support Principals
 - Rob Ryan being very supportive in licensing
 - Jess DeCarolis working with us on PBL
 - Working with many on 173 (results in question)
 - Good result on one issue Monday night
 - Specialized schools update

Jay presented a memo he wrote to the field on act 173, the EC provided their feedback and Jay will rework the memo before sending. A law-firm was consulted by the VPA and other educational organizations for help in supporting collaboration with the AOE in the Act 173 rule making process.

Jay gave a brief update on the meeting with Rob Ryan and his support in working with us.

Jay gave an update on Jess DeCarolis and the work on PBL. The Executive Council directed Jay and Mike to throw together something that will highlight systems that are working well and get the information out to the field.

- Early Learning
 - Meeting of the "coalitions"
 - Building Bright Futures Facilitating meeting

Jay gave an update on the Early Learning meeting and his belief that Morgan Crossman is coming in with the right picture.

12:00-12:30 Lunch

Lunch was called at 12:01 – we will be doing a working lunch

12:30-1:00 Executive Directors Report: Items not on regular agenda

- Employee vs. Independent Contractor Situation
 - Linda Wheatley
 - Memo Agenda
- Building Update
 - New Carpets
 - Painting
 - Junk Removal
 - Financial Picture 2 Prospect
- Better Conversations Everyday
 - Trainers: Bob Johnson, Mike McRaith, Sarah Merrill, Steve Perron, Holly Rouelle, Rebecca Fillion, Jay Nichols

- Cost \$400 per person for training if we host \$350 per person if we are on the road (plus mileage)
- Training Superintendents on December 3, 2019
- Mentoring Update
 - Held first training of the year
 - 12 participants
 - Went very well!

Jay gave his Executive Director's report, including the building renovations that have been made to 2 Prospect, an update on the CCL Better Conversations Every Day workshop and training, an update on the mentoring training and discussion of employee versus contractor issue and the equity initiative going forward.

1:00-1:30 Other

Jay brought forth a request that had been received asking for support for a potential bill for mandatory 20 minutes of supervised recess. The Executive Council has decided not to support the potential bill because they do not think there is a problem and are unaware of any places that don't have recess. They don't think we need to fix something that isn't broken.

Jay gave an overview of a meeting in which the major items that are believed to be facing the legislature this session were discussed.

The Executive Council directed Jay to put the AOE success Beyond Six website out in Leads when it is completed.

1:30-??? Ending of Meeting

Bob Thibault adjourned the Executive Council meeting at 1:05.

Next Meeting: January 30, 2020 @ Stoweflake Resort