

VPA Executive Council Meeting
January 30, 2020
Stoweflake Conference Center
Stowe, VT

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

In attendance: Chris Young, Erica LeClair, Beth O'Brien, Erica McLaughlin, Holly Rouelle, Jim Avery, Rebecca Fillion, Nate Demar, Jay Nichols, Bob Thibault, Joan Cavallo, Andy Paciulli, Steve Perrin, Sarah Merrill, Bill Olsen, Mallori Longevin

Not in attendance: Adam Bunting

- Approval of minutes (October 30, 2019)
 - See Minutes in Packet

A motion to approve the minutes from October 30, 2019 was made by Bill Olsen, the motion was seconded by Joan Cavallo, the motion passed unanimously.

9:10-9:30 Principal of the Year Discussion - All

- One New application so far

Jay gave us an update on POY applications and informed us that he would be sending another reminder out to superintendents about sending in nominees.

There was also discussion of adding a contributor award. Bill Olsen, Bob Thibault and Jay will work together to determine this criteria and process and will bring it back to the Executive Council later in the year.

9:30-9:45 EC member updates - All

- Share something of importance happening in your school

The Executive Council took some time to share something important that is currently happening in their schools.

9:45-10:00 Preparation for Secretary French-All

Due to testifying in the legislature, Secretary French joined the Executive Council after lunch instead of in the morning.

The Executive Council took time to prepare and discuss concerns and questions that they would like to bring up with Secretary French.

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

The Executive Council was joined by Secretary French. Secretary French gave us an update on what is happening at the AOE.

The Executive Council was able to address their concerns with Secretary French. Secretary French shared his thoughts on current education

priorities, the work of the AOE and commented on recent development in the general assembly.

11:00-12:00 Goals Updates

- Educator Retirement
 - Met with VT-NEA on 1/2/19
 - They requested another copy of the retirement bill I drafted
 - See copy in your packets
 - Long conversation about the merits of bill and worries about pension plan etc.
 - Communicated with Kate Webb on issue. She asked many questions ...good discussion
 - Not a high priority ...for the General Assembly
 - Best bet may be Miscellaneous Ed. Bill

Jay gave an update on the status of the retirement bill and informed us that the bill is not seen as a high priority to legislature at the current moment. He will continue his work on the bill.

- Supporting Children & Schools Around Resilience
 - Weighting Study specifically mentions trauma and need for sources of financial support to help children. I pushed to have this addressed in some way in the report (see summary with your materials)
 - Waiting to hear response from Secretary French and Secretary Smith (AHS) as to any next steps by the Administration related to meeting we had with them (Erica, Joan, Jay, with Prevent Child Abuse VT)
 - See letter sent to Secretary French and Secretary Smith

Jay gave us an update on the work that he has done and the meetings that he Joan and Erica have attended working towards the supporting children and schools around the resilience goal.

The Executive Council directed Jay to contact Sarah Squirrel (AHS) to set up a meeting to have a conversation about understanding school perspective regarding children with trauma.

- Collaborate with AOE to Support Principals
 - See 173 Convening Meeting Summary Report
 - Feb. 11 PBL Symposium
 - Venue is already completely filled
 - May look at hosting a second
 - I was part of initial reading research group
 - February 25 mtg. With Secretary French AOE
 - Need VPA Reps - 4 max
 - Coherence/Weighting Study/173/Literacy

Jay gave us an update on the AOE collaboration goal. He informed us of a meeting with Secretary French to discuss policy coherence. The VPA has been given four spots for attendees and Jay asked for volunteers to attend. Chris Young, Erica McLaughlin, Joan Cavallo and Steve Perrin would like to attend the meeting on February 25th.

- Early Learning

- Vermont Early Education Webinar
- Met with VT-NEA 1/2/20 discussed 4-year old plan concept
 - They are fully in support of this - full ADM next “push”
- Let’s Grow Kids still pushing for “more” money for out-of-school day-care providers; worry about continual targeting of Ed. Fund.
- 166 joint testimony
 - See powerpoint slides
 - Major Themes of our testimony
 - Licensed teacher roles same between privates and school program if public school money spent
 - Schools receive ADM consistent with hours of service (not just .43 weight approach)

Jay gave an update on the literacy bills and there was discussion about each bill, the merit to having a structured program and the potential cost to schools. “If you’re too focused on scores, you’re trauma indifferent” – EC member

12:00-12:30 Lunch

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

- Better Conversations Everyday Update
 - Training Superintendents on December 3, 2019
 - Went well with positive feedback and support
 - FNESU Training January 7, 2020
 - Evaluations were incredibly positive
 - Open Training January 9, 2020
 - This went great as well and we had very positive feedback
 - Licensing Update
 - Will be conducting a training in March with the North Country Supervisory Union

Jay gave an update on the Better Conversations Everyday (BCE) trainings that have been set up, completed and talked about. He also gave us a brief explanation of the licensing error made by CCL and how it is being fixed. VPA will be exclusive BCE trainers in k-12 education in Vermont.

- Waddington Leadership Initiative
 - Cohort 8 in Greensboro Feb.4-6
 - I fly down Monday afternoon and return late Thursday night

Jay gave us an update on Waddington. The cohorts that are currently going through the process and the cohorts that are currently being set up. He also gave a very brief update on the possibility of a Waddington 2.0 and his discussion with Greg Cameron.

- Mentoring Update
 - Held second training of the year
 - 20 or so participants (12/12/2020)
 - Went very well! Lots of positive feedback on the training and the leadership development focus we are implementing
 - Last one will be in March

Jay gave us an update on his and Mike's work with the VPA mentoring program. There was discussion about making changes to the mentoring policy that would make the training required every other year instead of every year. Jay and Mike will take the notes into consideration.

- Equity Coordinator
 - Decision Point
 - Discussion/Direction Future of Equity Initiative
 - Want to share decision with employee

Jay gave an update on the Equity Coordinator position, including the finances and success of the EPN network. There was discussion on how the Coordinator position will look after the current contract ending on June 30th, 2020.

Bill Olsen made a motion to continue to support the work with equity but eliminate the equity coordinator position ending on June 30th. The motion was seconded by Jim Avery. The motion passed unanimously. The Executive Council also directed Jay to thank Linda Wheatley, the current Equity Coordinator, for all her dedication and service.

- General Legislative Update
 - School Construction Aid
 - Lot of talk on it
 - Lot of folks saying it is necessary
 - Where will the money come from?
 - Some saying would we (VT) be rewarding systems that allowed their facilities to deteriorate

Jay gave an update on the school construction aid bill and informed the Executive Council that he may need support reaching out to reps to stop this bill because it will devastate our poorest schools. Jay will keep the Executive Council posted.

- Early Childhood
 - See our testimony on latest bill
 - Collaborative Testimony
- Proficiency Based-Learning
 - Senate Ed. to hear testimony in February
 - See notes from State Board testimony
- H.805 Teacher Free Agent Bill
 - Bill as Introduced in packets
 - Teacher portability after signed contracts
 - House General Affairs - NEA sneak approach
 - I've "invited myself" to testify
 - Discussion and Vote to share with Legislature

Jay gave an update on the Legislature. There was discussion of the upcoming bill # 663 (the condom bill) and Jay requested guidance on the Executive Council and their support of the bill. The Executive Council directed Jay that their support would be to provide tampons but not necessarily in every bathroom.

- Associate Executive Director
 - Year from July looks like Bob Johnson will retire
 - Discussion of process for this position
 - My recommendation is similar to how we hired Mike McGraith

Jay informed the Executive Council that Bob Johnson has informed the office that he will be retiring at the end of June 2021. There was a brief discussion of the difficulties that will surround finding a replacement and Jay will keep the Executive Council informed.

1:30-1:45 Pupil Weighting Study

- Discussion/ What is happening right now
 - Mtg. with Sec. French 1/22/20
 - Meeting again February 25
 - 4 VPA Reps: Coherence/173/Weighting Study/ Literacy
- Summary Next steps if any

Jay gave a brief explanation of the UVM weighting study.

1:45-??? Ending of Meeting

Next Meeting: March 10, 2 Prospect (Awards Selection Work)