

Minutes

VSAC Programs & Services Committee Meeting

March 21, 2022
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Zoom Videoconference Meeting

Committee Members Present: Martha Heath (Chair), Dave Larsen, Ryan Dulude, Tim Chamberlin, Clarence Davis
Committee Members Absent: Caleb Elder
Other Members Present: Dodie Mitchell, Chair
VSAC Staff Present: Scott Giles, Marilyn Cargill, Patrick Leduc, Mike Stuart, Tom Little, and Jodie Ducharme

Chair Martha Heath called meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. on the Zoom virtual meeting platform with all present able to hear one another throughout the meeting. With a quorum established, the Committee took up the first order of business.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion made by Ryan Dulude and seconded by Dave Larsen, the Committee Members voted unanimously to approve the Programs & Services Committee Minutes of January 24, 2022, as presented.

Public Comment

There were no public comments given during the public comment period.

Grant Policy – Ongoing Review

Marilyn Cargill reviewed each of the following policies, which were last reviewed in April 2019:

- **In-State School Definition** – Marilyn reviewed the policy and noted there were no proposed changes.
- **School NPI Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** – Marilyn reviewed the policy and noted there were no proposed changes. Martha Heath suggested that, since ‘NPI’ is included in the name, it might be helpful in the second line to put ‘NPI’ in parentheses after the reference to non-public information, so it is clear what NPI is.
- **Auditing a Non-Title IV School** – Marilyn reviewed the policy and pointed out revisions to update the name from Vermont Non-Degree Grant to Advancement Grant.

The Committee discussed the policies and in response to member questions, Marilyn reviewed the process to audit a non-title IV school, noting that the audit itself is conducted by Laurie Oliver, Director Internal Audit & Risk Management along with Marilyn Cargill and/or Marcia Corey.

Upon a motion made by Clarence Davis and seconded by Ryan Dulude, the Committee Members voted unanimously to recommend that the full Board approve the Auditing a Non-Title IV School

and School NPI Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) policies, as amended, and the In-State School Definition, as written.

Maximum Income Cutoff for '22-'23

Martha transitioned Members to the annual Expected Family Contribution Cutoff review. Marilyn Cargill reviewed the previously distributed Family Income Cutoff for Grant Eligibility document and responded to Member questions.

Upon a motion made by Dave Larsen and seconded by Ryan Dulude, the Committee Members voted unanimously to maintain the income cutoff for Fiscal Year 2023, as presented.

Maximum Parent/Student Contribution Cutoff for '22-'23

The Committee reviewed and discussed the previously distributed Family Contribution Cap for Grant Eligibility document.

Upon a motion made by Ryan Dulude and seconded by Clarence Davis, the Committee Members voted unanimously to approve the Parent/Student Contribution Cutoff for Fiscal Year 2023, as presented.

Special Topic – Divorce Families

Marilyn Cargill reviewed the Divorce Families policy, noting that this policy is one of the most difficult to enforce and is often seen as a significant barrier for the student. Marilyn also pointed out that schools do not have divorce policies, so it is hard for them to provide a grant estimate to students in this situation. Marilyn recommended that the Committee consider terminating this policy. The Committee engaged in a discussion, during which Marilyn responded to member questions.

Upon a motion made by Ryan Dulude and seconded by Dave Larsen, the Committee Members voted to recommend that the full Board approve to terminate the Divorce Families policy, as presented.

Operations Updates

Marilyn Cargill briefed the Committee on the following efforts:

- Grants and what we are seeing for FY'23
- Early Childhood Education Scholarship
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness Expansion
- Standing Reports

Marilyn Cargill and Mike Stuart provided an update on In-School Refinance.

Scott Giles drew the Committee's attention to the private loan volume reports, noting that the volume for out of state schools has increased while volume for Vermont schools has declined, likely as a result of the stimulus funding made available to students at Vermont schools.

Marilyn reminded the Committee that we will be seeking permission from them at the April meeting to set grant funding levels prior to the first awarding.

Federal Update

Scott Giles provided updates on the federal student loan payment pause, the Department of Education's guidance on Special Mandatory Assignment and Compensation for Guarantor activities, debt cancellation, Libor, and omnibus.

Vermont Update

Scott Giles provided an overview of the legislative session and House Appropriations bill, and he and Marilyn Cargill provided an update on the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee's House Bill No. 703, directing the Committee to the previously distributed materials. The Committee engaged in a conversation of the bill during which the Executive Committee responded to member questions.

Patrick Leduc provided an update on Student Day at the Statehouse, noting that this event has been conducted virtually for the past two years, and stating that recordings of the sessions would be made available to Board members.

Other Business

There being no other business, the Committee adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Cargill, Assistant Secretary