

Session: Overview of Task Force Deliverables and Working Groups

Deputy Commissioner Kelvey Oeser thanked the chair, Mr. Tarras, and the Commissioner for their comments earlier in the day. Deputy Commissioner Oeser shared the purpose of this session was to preview working groups and deliverables that will ultimately be produced by the Task Force.

Deputy Commissioner Oeser introduced herself, her previous professional experiences, and her current role overseeing the Office of Educator Support. She previewed the types of resources and recommendations the Task Force will produce (see slide 5). She mentioned draft recommendations will be regularly published to the Task Force websites for districts, the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC), the State Board of Education (SBOE), and legislators along the way. These recommendations will be gathered into a final report.

Deputy Commissioner Oeser reviewed what will be included in the report (see slide 6). She mentioned the Task Force will focus on the prioritized challenges and recommendations related to teacher vacancies. The recommendations will likely be categorized by considering the audience, type of change, and the entity involved in making that change. These recommendations might fall into statutory changes, regulatory change, state-level practice changes, and district-level practice or policy changes.

Deputy Commissioner Oeser reviewed the role of Task Force members, TEA Staff, and the Commissioner of Education (see slide 7). She then asked participants to join breakout groups to discuss questions they had about the Task Force and additional norms, structures, and supports that would be helpful for the Task Force. Volunteers from the breakout groups shared their responses.

The first group asked about the parameters the Task Force members should consider in working together. The group representative discussed some specific challenges their district has faced (e.g., hold harmless, declines in student enrollment). The group discussed the desire for action to be taken as a result of this Task Force.

The second group commented on the diversity of their group (elementary, high school teachers, a superintendent). The group was wondering how the information from the Task Force could be shared back

The sixth group discussed several points that were surfaced by other groups, including questions they had about class sizes and compensation.

The seventh group discussed the possibility for working groups to meet more frequently. The group