

## Social Studies SFVC Minutes

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**Meeting Date and Time:** Thursday, October 24, 2024, 4:00 PM – 5:30PM

**Committee Chair/Co-chairs:** Peter Ramsey, Howard Libit

**Members:** Eve Case, Kishanna Brown, Matthew Wilson, Mariam Spalding, Jennifer McDonald, Tracy Oliver-Gary, Claire Blankenfeld, Raleigh Nelson, Caroline Weiss-Stiles, Jon Marketto

**Today's Attendees:** Peter Ramsey, Howard Libit, Eve Case, Kishanna Brown, Matthew Wilson, Jennifer McDonald, Tracy Oliver-Gary, Claire Blankenfeld, Raleigh Nelson, Jon Marketto, Mariam Spalding, Caroline Weiss-Stiles, Dana Stein, Josh Otarola

**Next Meeting (Day and Time):** Thursday, November 14, 2024, 4:00 PM – 5:00 pm

### Summary:

- The Social Studies Standards and Frameworks Validation Committee meeting focused on reviewing and voting on final revisions for each grade level. Key recommendations included adding elements for assessment limits, student-led inquiries on historical migration patterns, and revising American government indicators to address mass incarceration and racial disparities. The middle school frameworks shifted focus to geography, providing more flexibility for teachers. Elementary revisions emphasized inclusive language and equity. Concerns were raised about the feasibility of implementing new content without reducing existing material and the need for professional development. The meeting concluded with a discussion on the voting process, which was delayed until the next meeting, and next steps for drafting the final report.

### Meeting Notes:

- Call to Order
  - The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM by Peter Ramsey. The agenda was reviewed, and no amendments were made. Ten of 12 members were present, and a quorum was established.
- Roll Call and Quorum Confirmation
  - All members were present, and a quorum was confirmed
- Approval of Previous Minutes:
  - The minutes of the September 26th meeting were approved. Peter Ramsey noted that the minutes had been circulated in advance and no corrections were submitted.
- Approval of Agenda

- Agenda approved without objection
- The grade level teams presented their recommendations for each grade level.
  - Pre-K – 2: Matthew Wilson presented the recommendations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Jennifer McDonald presented the recommendations for the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Peter Ramsey presented the recommendations for pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten.
  - 3 – 5: Kishanna presented the recommendations for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Eve Case presented the recommendations for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Raleigh Nelson presented the recommendations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
  - 6 – 8: Howard Libit presented the recommendations for the 6 – 8 grade level team.
  - 9 – 12: Claire Blankenfeld presented the recommendations for the 9 – 12 grade level team.
- After presenting, the floor was opened for discussion about the recommendations. Tracy asked what the expectation of implementation would be if a new indicator was added to a framework. Peter responded that LEAs would receive a grace period similar to the 6/7 Grade Framework. Eve asked how recommendations would be enacted (if adopted) given the dense curricula. Mariam clarified the underlying rationale behind the 9 – 12 recommendations and the difficulty of including all marginalized groups given the nature of social studies instruction. Tracy shared that she met with her LEA director to create a 10-year curriculum, and any additions to curricula would be an obstacle to the curriculum writing process, as well as budgeting. Moreover, teachers would need professional development to implement any changes made to the framework.
- Caroline inquired about LEA input regarding the recommendations, and Peter shared that a draft report will be shared with LEAs after the next committee meeting on November 14, 2024. Jennifer asked about the process regarding voting today if teams would be allowed to make additional recommendations to review and vote upon in the next meeting. Kishanna inquired about the purpose of the Maryland Board of Education’s Education Policy Committee.
- Peter proposed to either vote for the recommendations today or call for a motion to delay the voting until the next meeting (November 14, 2024). Caroline called for a motion to delay the vote until November 14, 2024, and was seconded by Jennifer. Mariam shared that perhaps meeting in-person would be more beneficial for the purposes of the committee. Eve shared that she believes that the frameworks are inclusive and are being improved by adding more inclusive language, and she shared that it would be better to meet in-person. Caroline seconded the sentiment to meet in-person. Peter proposed the possibility of a workshop prior to the next meeting to discuss the recommendations.
- Howard added the possibility of having office hours for each grade level team as an alternative. Jon shared that more specific guidance by the state on what the

recommendations should look like would be helpful. Mariam asked if Peter could coordinate an opportunity for members willing to meet in person to meet and report back to the larger group in a supplemental virtual session. She also shared her concern about the short timeline given the importance of the committee's task. Peter shared that the timeline will not change.

- **Closing Discussion**

- Peter Ramsey from MSDE led the concluding part of the meeting with a focus on the next steps for the committee. The voting on the recommendations will take place during the next meeting. The grade level teams will meet, and other members can either join the office hours or include questions/comments in the working document that each grade level team will use to track recommendations. Peter shared the timeline of the SFVC process beginning with the next meeting on November 1, 2024, and reiterated the importance of voting based on personal belief. Peter and Josh can offer support as thought partners for grade level teams.
- Meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM.