

# BBF Professional Preparation and Development Committee

## Meeting Notes 06/16/2026

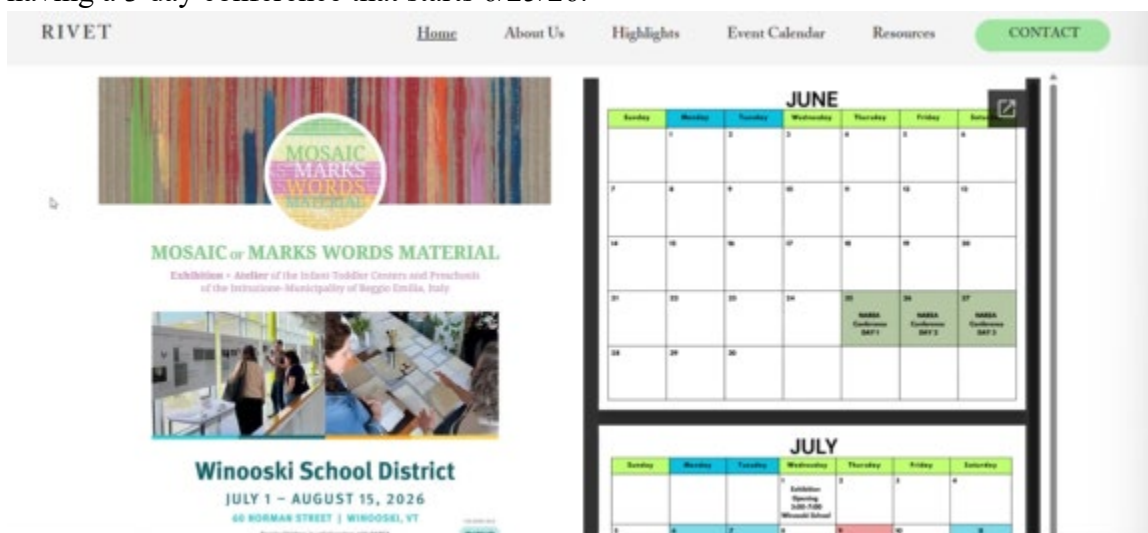
**Meeting Attendees:** Becky Millard, Hailey Paschold, Meg Atwood, Adri Taylo-Behrman, Brendon Rooney, Tia Fotion, Ammie Collins, deb Grennon, Tricia Pawlik, Margaret Bouch-Pearsall, Joanna Houston, Cathy Siggins, Tiffany Miller, Susan Torncello

### Meeting Summary:

#### I. Welcome

#### II. Summer Reggio Opportunities (Susan Torncello, RIVET)

- Learn about, interpret, and be inspired by practices of Reggio Emilio, Italy. Opportunity to bring an international exhibit to Winooski this summer. Bringing this exhibit and simultaneously having a 3 day conference that starts 6/25/26.



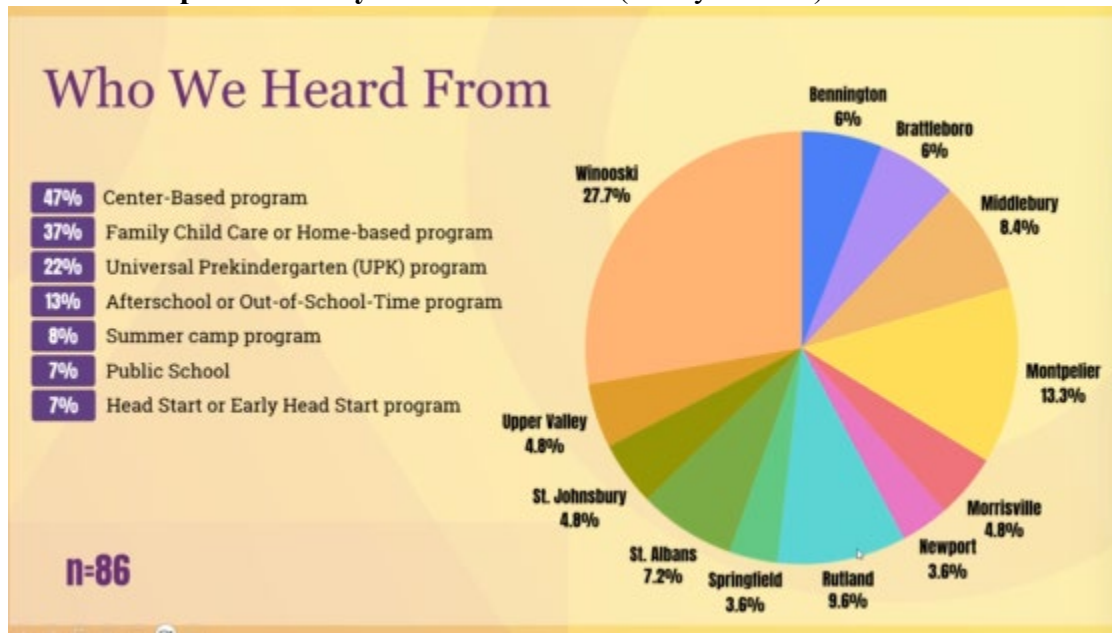
- Information for the Mosaic or Marks Words Material Exhibit and calendar available on RIVET website. Hands on experiences with the exhibit and working hands on in the atelier. P. This exhibit demonstrates different ways children, when given lots of time and open-ended materials, can present their learning and thinking. In this exhibit, it is through making marks. Attendees will have times to explore and work with the materials within the atelier. All connected to how we support children in exploring narrative and storytelling and how mark making leads to rich storying telling.
- There's been a lot of collaboration with NL and CDD, including trainings and scholarships to attend the conference. There are 300 people coming to the conference, almost 150 are from Vermont and others from all over North America. There will be specific hours that the exhibit and atelier are open to the public if not attending the conference. Guided sessions are available and offer PD hours. VTAEYC has been involved and sponsoring four sessions.
- Adri- Community of Practice designed for folks at an intermediate/advanced level of Reggio concepts, facilitated by UVM faculty member Kate Cowles, and is available to register through Northern Lights.
- Meg VTAYEC- one VTAEYC workshop is open and three are for network members.
- There are self-guided options available. The exhibit will present the context and a deeper understanding of the schools of this early childhood system and the poem of 100 languages of children (we dance, sing, draw, paint). When you go into the atelier, it is a studio where you can work with different materials. The sessions are 2 hour workshop sessions starting with viewing

the exhibit and spending time in the atelier working with the materials. Mark making tools include chalk, markers, paints, watercolors, natural materials and different surfaces you can make these marks on (cardboard, paper, asking people to bring materials). During these sessions, be thinking about how this might impact your own practice and how you would bring this to your own classrooms and how you might interpret this with young children.

- Meg- 4 events and the NAEYC celebration event, offering to current networks and those interested in the current networks. Can advertise a materials bundles
- VTSU is offering a 3 credit course, announcing day of conference including conference attendance and remote work. Offering different points for people to learn, including college course, CoP, workshops, VTAEYC sessions. Idea is to get programs around the state to come, if the hours don't work they can try and make a time that works for your school community. Regrouping in August and seeing where we go from there.
- Primarily open to public Thursdays 4-7 and some Saturdays.
- Incredible support from everyone and the collaboration—CDD, VTAEYC, Northern Lights, NAREA
- **Relevant Links:**
  - [RIVET Network](#)
  - [VTAEYC Making Marks Sessions](#)
  - [RIVET workshops on the Northern Lights Calendar](#)
  - [Northern Lights Exhibition and Atelier Community of Practice](#)

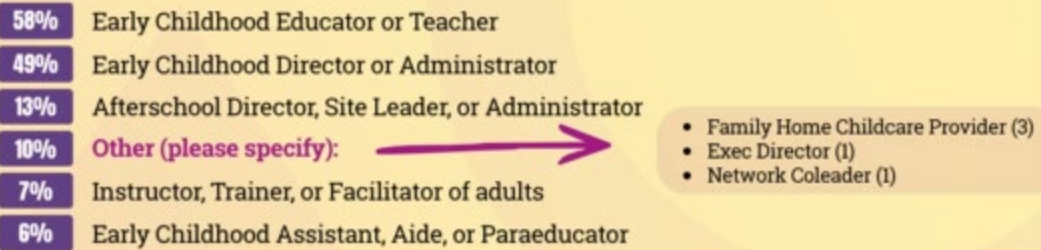
**Next Steps:** DETAIL NEXT STEPS IF IDENTIFIED

### III. Professional Development Survey Data Sneak Peek (Becky Millard)



- Working with CDD to coordinate surveys. There are programs that check many of the boxes as a center-based UPK Head Start program for example.

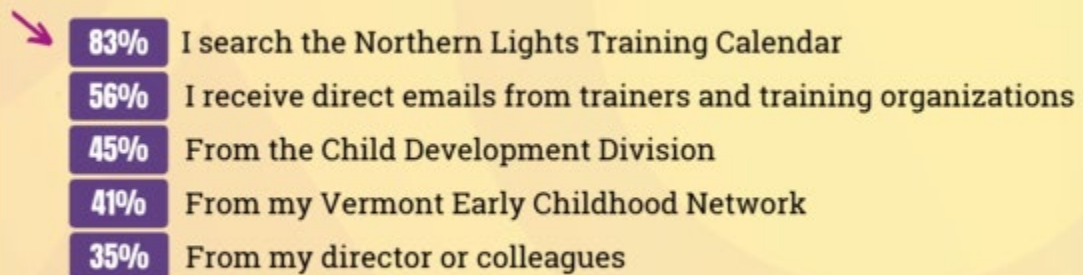
## Who We Heard From



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- People who check other like Family childcare provider check other rather than early childhood educator or teacher.

## How Do You Find PD Opportunities?



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## How Do You Choose Which PD to Take?

- 66% I look for PD on topics that are new to me
- 63% I choose PD that is available for free
- 59% I watch PD calendars and sign up when something interests me
- 58% I choose PD based on the day and/or time of the opportunity
- 56% I look for PD that focuses on the age group I teach

**NEW TOPICS**    **DAY/TIME**  
**FREE**            **ONLINE**  
**CALENDARS**    **AGE GROUP**

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## When Do You Want to Attend PD?

**Weekday evenings are still preferred...**



**...but many are interested in weekdays during the day and Saturdays.**

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- Meg Atwood- is the breakdown by region available? Becky happy to share it, it is a small sample size

How likely are you to participate in each of the following in the next year?



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- These figures are staying steady to the previous year.

How likely are you to participate in each of the following in the next year?



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- Slightly more interested in a full day in person, almost half of the survey respondents were interested in full day in person and opportunities to have this available for the field.

## For which topics do you want training at an advanced level?

- ★ Social + Emotional Learning + Development
- ★ Responding to Challenging Behaviors
- ★ Curriculum and Learning Environments
- ★ Leadership

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- Seeing a trend to curriculum and learning environments in a broad way.

## Top Training Topics Requested 2026

- 90% Responding to Challenging Behaviors
- 81% Social + Emotional Learning + Development
- 80% Strategies for Support + Inclusion of Every Child
- 75% Continuous Quality Improvement
- 73% Trainings that meet Advanced Specialized Care criteria
- 72% Trauma Informed Practices or Healing-Centered Engagement

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- The top 3 have been part of the top topics requested for the past few years. CQI can be connected with the work SPARQS for individual and program level. Hearing healing-centered engagement at the national level and looking to bring it to Vermont.
- Tricia- happy to hear more VT Afterschool respondents and exciting that people are talking about quality.
- Amelia- conversation happening in other places with data from here and data from other sources
- On our website, the data from the last few years is available. Making way through open response data now and then posting online. A key takeaway and more detailed report will be posted.
- **Relevant Links:**
  - [Northern Lights Professional Development Data](#)

#### IV. PPD Work – Reflections and Looking Ahead (Becky Millard)

**PPD Committee 2025-2026**

When you reflect on the work of the PPD Committee and our members over the past year, please consider:

1. Where do you see evidence of positive change for prospective and current early childhood and afterschool professionals?
2. What barriers are prospective and current early childhood and afterschool professionals still experiencing?
3. What are some opportunities that we can build on moving forward?

Evidence of Positive Change	Barriers that are Still Experienced
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- First question is where do you see evidence of positive change for prospective and current early childhood and afterschool professionals?
- Second- what barriers are prospective and currently early childhood and afterschool professionals still experiencing?
- What are some opportunities that we can build on moving forward?
- Meg- VTAEYC had a successful year with PD. Hub and spoke model meets people where they are at and allows for in person PD during the winter. Modality that allows for flexibility. Proud of Network over the last couple of years, they submit an action plan with 3-4 goals for their Network to get funding and there is some quality PD coming soon from the Networks, leaning into the 2+2+2+ model.
- Tricia- the Afterschool Advisory Committee active in producing tangible materials for the field. Working on short guide for nurturing positive behavior. Seeing a lot more people signing up and actually attending. Opportunities to build on are offering consistent PQA trainings to the field. Reorganizing afterschool pathways to make it easier understand and grow their skills and advance in the field.
- Becky- tune into licensing regulations review, open for revisions, providing feedback during public comment period.
- Joanna- NL has hosted a larger variety of options for connecting VELs and universal design, and neurodivergence. Meg seconds needs for VELs trainings.
- Becky- opportunity to connecting learning to putting it in place in classrooms, multiple opportunities to connect observation and evaluations to curriculum.
- Meg- Our august Hub and spoke is about Inspired by Children: Using Observation to Design Meaningful Experiences
- Cathy- As people are coming to repeated trainings, a takeaway is the different reasons why people are attending. How can I use observation more effectively and planning curriculum and environments to support social emotional development? Shift that is being seen is that people need more advanced training, and they don't know what that is.
- Joanna- increase in request for curriculum trainings shows some exciting connections to the other topics.
- Amelia- connecting with directors to be engaged with their staff's PD, increase understanding of IPDP process, observing and supporting with their PD.
- Meg- Collective sharing of in-person host sites and places that host and provide food.

- Joanna- Considering the relevant PD and college credit needs for new staff related to professionalizing.
- Tricia- Afterschool staff working under a CB license, getting the training they need to work in Afterschool. Potential implications for afterschool professionals related to professionalizing.
- Think about what PPD might do in the next year that is not yet on the opportunities moving forward list.
- Becky- Learning more about what's available from the Higher Ed Collaborative.
- Cathy- thinking of opportunities at the graduate level for folks who need particular credentials. Aligning objectives that address advanced specialized care. Opportunities for partnership with families.

Next Meeting: September 2026

[BBF PPD Committee - Northern Lights at CCV](#)