

From: Samuelson, Jennifer <Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 8:02 AM
To: sceglowski <sceglowski@vtsba.org>
Subject: Re: VSBA Weekly Newsletter

Good morning, Sue. As I'm sure you are aware, this information is protected by executive privilege.

Kind regards,
Jennifer

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From: Sue Ceglowski <sceglowski@vtsba.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 8:00:00 AM
To: Samuelson, Jennifer <Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov>
Cc: Diop, Mohamed <Mohamed.Diop@vermont.gov>; Fearon, Grey <Grey.Fearon@partner.vermont.gov>; Gleason, Kimberly G <Kimberly.G.Gleason@vermont.gov>; Jepson, Lyle <Lyle.Jepson@vermont.gov>; Kolbe, Tammy <Tammy.Kolbe@vermont.gov>; Lovett, Tom <Tom.Lovett@vermont.gov>; O'Farrell, Jennifer <Jennifer.OFarrell@vermont.gov>; Werner, Richard <Richard.Werner@vermont.gov>; Wilburn, Aaliyah <Aaliyah.Wilburn@partner.vermont.gov>; Sprague, Suzanne <Suzanne.Sprague@vermont.gov>; Gaidys, Maureen <Maureen.Gaidys@vermont.gov>; scameron <scameron@vtsba.org>; Clare Wool <cwool@bsdvt.org>
Subject: Re: VSBA Weekly Newsletter

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Chair Samuelson,

Thank you for your email. VSBA values the State Board's role in Vermont's education system and in the Secretary search process.

It appears we may have different definitions of an inclusive and transparent search process. This may be a topic that the Task Force covers in its report as a way to inform the process for the next Secretary search.

Please send us the names of the three people who the State Board recommended to the Governor. We have received questions from school board members asking for the names of the three finalists and would like to be able to provide the information.

Thank you,

Sue

Sue Ceglowski, Esq.

Executive Director, Vermont School Boards Association
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Pronouns: she/her/hers ([why](#))

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On Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 2:25 PM Samuelson, Jennifer <Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hello, Sue. I call your attention to the most recent weekly update from the Vermont School Boards Association, in which you state "It's unclear whether the State Board took into account this feedback from almost 100 administrators and school board members" and later "The question is whether the State Board and the Governor considered the survey results in the appointment process."

Knowing how closely you follow the activities of the State Board of Education, it is incredible that you were unaware that, not only did the Secretary Search Committee members read all of the comments that the VSBA/VSA/VPA compiled and then incorporate the comments into our interview questions, we publicly expressed our appreciation to all three organizations for sending out the questionnaire and compiling the responses. If you were unaware, it would have been simple to check the public record prior to writing your post; you also could have emailed or called me to ask.

I am including below links to various public records where, on behalf of the Board, I reference the Committee's reliance on and gratitude for the public comments that the VSBA/VSA/VPA compiled:

1. The Board's monthly meeting on October 25, 2023; Item H (Secretary Search Committee Update) begins at approximately 14:38: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_upca-YTlrY. It is worth noting that, not only were the VSBA/VSA/VPA's comments posted on the website with all other public comment received regarding the search for the next Secretary of Education, they were also included in the Board's October 25th agenda packet.

2. The Board's monthly meeting on November 15, 2023; Item F (Secretary Search Committee Update) begins at approximately 1:05:44:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_PqS-gloMQ and my comments regarding the VSBA/VSA/VPA survey begin at 1:11:11.

3. The slide deck referenced at the November 15, 2023 meeting was posted as part of the agenda packet and can be found here:
<https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/Secretary%20Search%202023.pdf>

4. My presentation to the Senate Education Committee on January 11, 2024 are linked here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_Dtdpchpd0 and my comments regarding the VSBA/VSA/VPA survey begin at 8:44.

5. The slide deck referenced at the January 11th meeting was posted on the Senate Education website and can be found here:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/WorkGroups/Senate%20Education/Secretary%20Search/W~Jennifer%20Samuelson~Secretary%20Search%202023~1-11-2024.pdf>

6. My remarks during the Governor's March 22, 2024 Press Conference are linked here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1B9QbbY_-E and my comments regarding the VSBA/VSA/VPA survey begin at 9:34.

Not only were your comments in the VSBA's weekly update untrue, they undermine the partnership between the Board and the VSBA. I know that I have referenced many times in our Board meetings the fact that the Board considers the VSBA/VSA/VPA to be our educational partners, and, based upon my March 15th phone call with Sandra Cameron and Clare Wool to discuss the VSBA's Resolution Proposal #3, my understanding is that the VSBA desires this as well.

Considering your leadership role of the VSBA and the reliance that your members place upon you to accurately inform them, I would appreciate you correcting your weekly update and noting that Board members not only considered the comments received, but we also wove them into our interview questions and thanked you, on multiple occasions, for your work. The Board takes its

responsibilities very seriously, and we worked hard to create the most robust, transparent, and inclusive search selection process that has ever been conducted.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Deck Samuelson
Chair, Vermont State Board of Education