

Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report – December 2011

From the Board

ESEA Flexibility Waiver Request – In a unanimous vote, the State Board of Education endorsed the concepts of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver request being developed for submission to the US Education Department in mid-February. The Board took the vote after hearing from Deputy Commissioner Rae Ann Kopf and members of the Waiver Design Team. Speaking in support of the proposal were Dan French, Superintendent, Bennington Rutland SU; Jeanne Collins, Superintendent, Burlington SD, Martha Allen, President, VT NEA; Janet Steward, Chair, Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE); Ken Page, Vermont Principals Association executive director, among others. The proposal calls for assessments to be administered on a balanced non graded continuum, and included the use of state of the art technology in student assessment technology. To view the proposal as of December 20, go to

<http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU>

- [SBE 2011 12 20 Item E Proposal Plan Draft.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-SBE_2011_12_20_Item_E_Proposal_Plan_Draft.pdf).

The State Board will give further consideration to the proposal at its January 17th meeting in Montpelier

([http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-SBE 2012 01 17 Agenda.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-SBE_2012_01_17_Agenda.pdf)).

Essex Caledonia Supervisory Union

Superintendent Vacancy – the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union Board notified the Commissioner that as of July 1, 2012, the position of superintendent of schools will be vacant. Pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §261 and SBE Rule 3232, the commissioner recommended that a study be conducted on the feasibility of regrouping the Essex Caledonia SU with another neighboring supervisory union or district. At this time there are 520 students in the eight town supervisory union. The Board concurred with the commissioner's recommendation. The study will be conducted during the coming months. See XXXX. In the interim, the commissioner has given permission for the S.U. to hire a superintendent for one to two years while

options are studied. The Commissioner and Board continue to consider superintendent vacancy requests on a case by case basis, using parameters as established in Act 153: 1250 students, educational achievement and opportunities to be gained and cost benefit analysis.

Act 153 Recommendations from a Task Force of Superintendents, School Business Officials and Directors of Special Education

– The Board endorsed the recommendations of the task force of superintendents, school business officials and directors of special education on adjustments to Act 153 as presented by Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association, joined by task force members David Bickford, David Adams, Tom O'Brien, Julie Regimbal, and Rick Pembroke. To view the recommendations, go to:

<http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU>

- [SBE 2011 12 20 Item F Estimated Act 153 Recommendations.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-SBE_2011_12_20_Item_F_Estimated_Act_153_Recommendations.pdf) .

Board Member Activity

Brian Vachon, the SBE's liaison to the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) reported on that board's last two meetings.

Kathy Larsen represents the Board on the New England Secondary School Consortium Board. At the last meeting the group focused on its future goals.

Don Collins, Sean-Marie Oller, and Miller will serve on NASBE study groups for the coming year: Donald Collins, Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC); Sean-Marie Oller, Technology Study Group; and Fayneese Miller, Social/Emotional Study Group.

Current Initiatives

League of Innovative Schools Proposals Sought

- The Vermont Department of Education invites secondary schools interested in joining the League of Innovative Schools to submit proposals expressing that interest. The League

is an essential component of the New England Secondary School Consortium. There is an opportunity for six additional schools to join the original cohort of six from this past fall. Proposals must be received at the DOE no later than February 1, 2012. Inductees will be notified by February 10th and an induction meeting will be held March 8th. Representatives of all League member schools will be invited to attend the “High School Redesign in Action” conference to be held March 21-23 in Norwood, MA. Proposals should also be submitted via email to Tom Alderman, Assistant Director, High School and Adult Division. For more information, go to http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_nessc.html#invitation.

Contact: Tom Alderman (tom.alderman@state.vt.us) or (802) 828-3134

Notice: Vermont Licensed Educators -The 2012 Renewal Packets went out on December 8th. Educators up for renewal this year should have received their packet by now. Educators who did not receive their packet should wait until after the holidays to call the Licensing Office to request a new packet. This way, renewal packets will have time to be returned to the Office and can then be sent out to their updated address. Educators who have moved should send in a change of name/address form. When their renewal packet is returned we will check the database for a new address and resend it. The Change of Address/Name Form can be found at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/licensing/forms/name_address_change.pdf

Contact: Educator Licensing Office at (802) 828-2445

Praxis Multi-state Standards Setting Panelists Sought - Multi-state standard setting panels are being convened by Educational Testing Service (ETS) for two updated Praxis exams – Special Education: Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities Assessment and Professional School Counselor. This service will be considered content specific professional development for relicensure. Nominees should be expert special educators or school counselors with 3-10 years

experience in their field. Names and contact information (including email) should be sent to David.Hough@state.vt.us no later than January 16, 2012. For more information, go to <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maincert.html#panelists>.

Contact: David Hough at (802) 828-0449 or david.hough@state.vt.us

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For additional information on upcoming Department of Education sponsored events for Fall and Winter 2011-2012, visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>. The calendar is updated regularly.

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For more information on the Vermont State Board of Education, visit: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html>.

To view approved minutes of SBE meetings: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#approved>.

To view State Board of Education’s Monthly Reports: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly-reports>

2011-2012 State Board of Education Meeting Dates: January 17; February 21; March 20; April 17; May 15; June 19