

## Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report – January 2012

### ***From the Board***

#### **ESEA Flexibility Waiver Request Approved –**

Citing the proposal's Vermont approach, the State Board gave its approval to the full draft of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver (see [http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-SBE\\_2012\\_01\\_17\\_Item\\_F\\_Draft\\_Request.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-SBE_2012_01_17_Item_F_Draft_Request.pdf)) at its January 17, 2012 meeting. The Design Team will continue to solicit comments and input on the full draft of the Waiver Request, and final revisions will be made prior to its February 21st submission to USED. To broaden awareness of the Waiver and encourage participation and feedback from all interested parties, the draft is now posted for public comment - until January 31 - on the Department of Education Web site. In addition Webinars will be conducted statewide January 30 and 31. (Go to [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_esea.html#comment](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_esea.html#comment)). Waiver Coordinator John Fischer and members of the Design Team will be in Dallas January 23-25 for the CCSSO Pre-Peer Review sessions. During this process, the Board encourages involvement in this continued work.

#### **Mountain Towns (Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, Weston) Regional Education District (RED) Planning Committee Report -**

The Board approved the report of the Mountain Towns RED planning committee, which will allow the towns to move ahead with a vote of the electorate on Town Meeting Day on the formation of this regional education district. If approved, the RED will become an entity within the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union, and would leave the Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union. Representatives from the four towns cited several reasons in support of this action: a coordinated K-12 curriculum and increased educational opportunity for students; the majority of 9-12 students currently attend the Burr and Burton Academy in Manchester; financial savings projections; and, a single formula (versus five) for calculation of the local tax rate. In a related matter, the Board tabled until April consideration on the potential

regrouping of the remaining districts of the Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union and the districts of the Rutland-Windsor Supervisory Union into a new supervisory union, believing that at that time 1) the result of the Mountain Town RED will be known, and 2) there will be additional information on any legislative action on requests for funding considerations for supervisory mergers/consolidation. The Board also heard from Norm Andrews, financial consultant, on the potential savings resulting from these actions. Board members commended the respective Boards for their forward thinking efforts to provide increased opportunities for their students while working to contain costs.

**Rae Ann Knopf** - The Board recognized outgoing Deputy Commissioner Rae Ann Knopf for her work and contributions to education in Vermont. Knopf leaves Vermont to be the new Executive Director of the Connecticut Council on Education Reform.

#### **Board Member Activity**

Sean-Marie Oller and Don Collins are participating in National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) study group meetings January 20-21 in Virginia. Oller is a member of the Role of Technology in Schools and Communities study group; Collins serves on the government affairs committee.

Kathy Larsen participated in the New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) meetings and webinars.

Bill Mathis testified last week to the House Education Committee on the ESEA Waiver and the Picus legislative funding report. He also participated in the SBAC Webinar.

Fayneese Miller serves as the state representative to SBAC for higher education in Vermont.

### **Current Initiatives**

#### **ESEA Principle 2 Waiver Survey Deadline**

**Extended to January 25, 2012** - As part of Vermont's ESEA Waiver Request, information on *Principle 2 - State-Developed Differentiated Recognition, Accountability and Support* is needed. Specifically we are looking for *information about formative assessment techniques and progress monitoring tools* that are currently being used in Vermont schools. The survey is designed to be filled out by either an SU staff member representing the entire SU or by the building principal for each school within the SU. Please view and complete the survey at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P9X9H2Z>.

Contact: Karin Edwards at [karin.edwards@state.vt.us](mailto:karin.edwards@state.vt.us) or (802) 828-1622.

#### **High School Math Survey - Deadline: February 1, 2012**

Principals have been notified about a survey to help determine high school math course sequences. The Department is planning to explore the relationship between high school students' course taking and completion patterns and school level results on the 2011 grade 11 NECAP math assessment. The survey is straightforward, asking three questions addressing 1) what math courses are required for graduation in your school; 2) the percentage of juniors that successfully completed specific math courses; and 3) the percentage of juniors that did not enroll in these courses. Principals can complete the survey by visiting:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5XF8373>.

Contact: Stephen Magill at (802) 828-6565 or [stephen.magill@state.vt.us](mailto:stephen.magill@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>

**2012 State Board of Education Meeting Dates:**

February 21; March 20; April 17; May 15; June 19