

Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report – October 2011

From the Board

ESEA Flexibility Waiver– At a special meeting on October 3, the Board approved Commissioner Vilaseca moving forward with developing an ESEA Flexibility waiver proposal. A Design Team is working, through five Focus Groups, to assemble the waiver request. Requirements include measures for college and career readiness, redesigned accountability systems with multiple measures, a focus on underserved students, closing the achievement gap, and evaluating teacher effectiveness. The State Board of Education and the Department of Education are already working at the national level on the National Common Core State Standards (NCCSS), Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and at the state level on the Educator Effectiveness Task Force. The flexibility waiver requirements also allow states to make changes to how annual Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations under No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA) are calculated, and would remove requirements for Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) determinations, restructuring and corrective action. The waiver will continue to require student assessments in grades 3-8 and once in high school in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math, and states would be allowed to combine those measures with other measures to determine school progress towards closing the achievement gap. If granted, the waiver would go into effect immediately, in time for the spring 2012 AYP determinations. One of the major challenges identified is how to achieve a significant level of stakeholder engagement. A Web page has been created to host the latest public information on the ESEA Flexibility Waiver at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_esea.html. The site will be updated regularly.

Washington Central SU Superintendent Vacancy – The Washington Central Supervisory Union Executive Committee notified the Commissioner of its impending superintendent vacancy (effective July 1, 2012). Under Rule 3232 of the Vermont State Board of Education

Manual of Rules and Practices, the commissioner can either 1) inform the supervisory union that the recruitment process may proceed, or 2) recommend to the state board that the supervisory union/district be placed under consideration for a supervisory union boundary change. Affirmative action by the Board on the latter requires a study to be completed by the Department and a supervisory union may not hire a permanent superintendent until notification by the Commissioner that the State Board of Education has completed its deliberations regarding any changes, if any. The Board voted **not** to place the WCSU under consideration for a supervisory boundary change, pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §§241 (a) and 261 (a) and State Board of Education Rule 3232. As a result of this action, the Washington Central Supervisory Union may proceed with the hiring process for a new superintendent of schools.

State Board Recognition – Ann Thompson, 5th grade teacher at the Cavendish Town Elementary School, was recognized by the State Board as Vermont’s 2010 national finalist as a Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). Five Vermont educators were recognized by the Board as 2011 Vermont state PAEMST finalists: Mathematics:

- David Rome, Burlington High School
- Cathy Estes, Thetford Academy

Science:

- Ryan Becker, Woodstock Union Middle/High School
- Elizabeth Mirra, Windsor High School
- Anne Watson, Montpelier High School

Chair Miller told awardees that they epitomize the standards of excellence espoused for Vermont educators.

Board Member Activity

Don Collins attended the October 14 New England Conference on Gifted Education. He noted the move from gifted to “broader enrichment.” He also noted the close similarity between the Board’s *Opportunity to Learn* report and this organization’s mission and goals.

Brian Vachon attended the October 17 Milken Educator Award presentation to Maria Ung, chemistry teacher at Essex High School.

Sean-Marie Oller and Stephan Morse attended the September 27th Vermont Teacher of the Year award presentation to Tong Chen, Chinese Language teacher at Leland & Gray Union High School in Townsend.

Fayneese Miller attended the National Association of State Boards of Education’s annual conference in Atlanta, October 13 & 14. The conference’s primary focus was international education. She reported on the release of NASBE’s newest Study Group report, *Gearing Up: Creating a Systemic Approach to Teacher Effectiveness*. The report can be found at <http://nasbe.org>. Miller served as a member of this study group.

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For additional information on upcoming Department of Education sponsored events for Fall 2010, 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: November 15; December 20; January 17; February 21; March 20; April 17; May 15; June 19

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