

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Montpelier Room, Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, 100 State Street,
Montpelier
January 18, 2011

*The State Board and Department of Education
provide leadership, support and oversight to ensure that the
Vermont public education system enables each student to be successful.*

Approved Minutes

The current month's meeting agenda and packet materials may be accessed electronically at:
<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#packet>

Board Members: Chair Fayneese Miller; Vice-chair Ruth Stokes; Vice-chair Kathy Larsen; Don Collins; Judy Livingston; Brian Vachon; Elizabeth Strano

DOE: Commissioner Armando Vilaseca; Deputy Commissioner Rae Ann Knopf; Jill Remick; Carol King; Mark Oettinger; Bill Talbott; Deb Quackenbush; Marta Cambra; Susan Marks; Patti Snow; Jesse Moorman; Karin Edwards

Others: Representatives Donovan, Lewis, Crawford, Buxton, Campion, Peltz, Gilbert, Stuart; Senators Mullin, Lyons, Doyle; Steve Dale, VSBA; Jeff Francis, VSA; Ken Page, VPA; Mill Moore, VISA; Sherry Gile, VTNEA; Jill Cramer, VSBPE; Cassie Major, VSBPE; John Poljacik, Peggy McKinley, Andrew West; Norm Andrews, Meg Allen, Tim Pratt, Windsor Northwest Supervisory Union; Ed Paquin, DRVT; Susan Strano, Bennington; Cindy Marshall, VT Federation of Families

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Legislative Breakfast

State Board members hosted a breakfast for members of the House and Senate Education Committees and other legislators prior to its monthly meeting. The discussion focused on the Strategic Plan, the impact of Act 153 and local budgets, and on enhanced opportunities for student learning.

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Preliminaries

Item A: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Fayneese Miller called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item B: Roll Call and Introductions (Chair, Board Members, Others)

Chair, Board Members introduced themselves, as did others in attendance.

Item C: Announcements, Board Member Updates (Chair, Board Members)

Elizabeth Strano attended a Legislative Breakfast in Bennington Monday morning.

Brian Vachon attended the Vermont Standards Board of Professional Educators meeting recently.

Chair Miller discussed the National Association of State Boards of Education meeting which she will be attending Thursday and Friday of this week.

This will be Ruth Stokes' final meeting.

Chair Miller moved agenda items since some Board members will be leaving and to accommodate the weather.

Item F: Public to be Heard

Steve Dale of the Vermont School Boards Association spoke to the Board. He just started as the executive director and was most recently the Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families.

Item D: Update on Legislative Action (Board Members, Armando Vilaseca, Mark Oettinger, Bill Talbott, Rae Ann Knopf)

Mark Oettinger, General Counsel, CFO Bill Talbott and Deputy Commissioner Rae Knopf led the discussion on what the Legislative priorities will be. House Appropriations has appropriated \$150,000 in support of the RED grants which are a part of Act 153; however, this appropriation will still have to go through the legislative budget adjustment process. The Board asked questions and the discussion centered on closing the achievement gap, changes to Act 153 and other topics expected to be discussed in the Legislature as well as topics discussed up in this morning's discussion. Chair Miller suggested the Board attend the PreK -16 Council. The idea of changing the Commissioner to Secretary will be addressed, and dual enrollment was also a point of discussion.

Chair Miller noted that today is officially Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. She noted commentary that in education we haven't done all that we can do to close the achievement gap.

Item E Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Vilaseca noted that the department is currently under a hiring freeze, and currently has 17 vacant positions. He noted Cindy Lee is leaving the department, who has served as commissioner's assistant for the past three commissioners.

He noted that Department staff are trying to provide the two Education legislative committees with as much information as possible.

Action Items

Item G– Consent Agenda

Motion: Stokes moved, seconded by Kathy Larsen, to approve the consent agenda with comment.

1. Minutes of December 21, 2010 SBE Meeting

2. Amendment to Rivendell Interstate School Districts Articles of Agreement (Mark Oettinger)

The motion was approved unanimously (6-0).

Item H: FY 2012 Budget Recommendations (Armando Vilaseca, Bill Talbott)

CFO Bill Talbott spoke to the Board about the proposed Education Budget, which is essentially level funded. The preliminary budget was sent to the Administration on January 12. The \$1 million dollar Early Education Initiative grant has been moved back to the General Fund (after one year in the Education fund). The millions of dollars of federal stimulus money will be gone as of FY2012. This budget also reflects the \$19 million Education Jobs Fund money over two years. Talbott noted the Department has 17 vacant positions which affect the budget. He also reported that districts that increase spending will see an increase in their property tax rates.

Motion: Collins moved, seconded by Stokes, that the State Board Education adopt the FY 2012 State Board of Education Budget proposal as submitted (\$1,568,353,186). The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Discussion Items

Item L – Strategic Plan Implementation (Rae Ann Knopf)

Deputy Commissioner Rae Ann Knopf briefed the Board about the latest version of the Strategic Plan's Implementation. Commissioner Vilaseca noted that if they are unable to fill the 17 vacancies, the department may need to realign its resources and reevaluate what it will or will not be able to do. Some of the vacancies are funded through federal grants and also carry out federal requirements.

Chair Miller has requested a meeting with the Governor on this topic and the topic of changing the Commissionship to a Secretary position.

Item I: Windsor Northwest SU Plan (Armando Vilaseca, Mark Oettinger, John Poljacik)

John Poljacik introduced Greg White and Ray Rice, WNWSU Executive Council members, and others to the Board to discuss the Windsor Northwest Supervisory Union Plan. He said Commissioner Vilaseca is encouraging them to be more aggressive with consolidation. They are asking for additional time for the communities to decide what to do with their schools. There are no fiscal resources and little technical support at the department to help them through this process. The WNWSU representatives agreed to come back to the March 15 meeting for more

discussion. In the interim, there will be additional discussions by local boards and the annual town meetings will have been held.

NOTE: Commissioner Vilaseca noted that a student committed suicide this morning at Mount Mansfield Union High School. The department has reached out to offer support to the school.

Chair Miller formally acknowledged Ruth Stokes, whose Board tenure ends in February.

The Board broke for lunch.

Discussion Items (continued)

Item J: Dual Enrollment Policy Draft (Board members, Rae Ann Knopf, Mark Oettinger, John Fischer)

John Fischer, Rae Ann Knopf and Tom Alderman from the department spoke to the Board about the importance of dual enrollment and some of the barriers that can be removed. It is the intent of this proposed rule that 1) all of the state's secondary schools serving publicly funded students provide access to dual enrollment opportunities for those publicly funded students, and 2) offer the opportunity for high school students to take a college course and simultaneously earn both transcribed high school credit toward meeting graduation requirements, and transcribed college credit. Board members also discussed the teacher preparation aspect of this and Advanced Placement Courses. This is the first in a series of conversations the Board will have on enhancing opportunities for students. This is a focal area of the Strategic Plan and high on the Board's list of priorities.

Item K – Rulemaking Process: Rule 4500 (Restraint & Seclusion) (Susan Marks)

Susan Marks and Karin Edwards, joined by Deputy Commissioner Knopf, spoke to the Board about the proposed rules regarding restraint and seclusion of students at school. Marks noted that , just in the past hour prior to the meeting, she had received several emails containing comments from individuals who chose not to attend the meeting due to the weather. She indicated that comments contained in those emails will be read and considered carefully. Ken Page of the Vermont Principals Association spoke to the Board and asked about training and the cost of training. Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association, praised the department for their handling of this issue, and reiterated Page's remarks. Others in attendance addressed the following areas: the reason for the August 15th date, potential property damage, and impact of these rules of students who can't speak for themselves. It is anticipated that the Board will vote on this rules at its February 15th meeting.

Item M: Commissioner's Evaluation

Item passed over.

Item N: Future Agendas (Board members, Armando Vilaseca, Carol King)

King reviewed the list of items for the February 15th agenda: Commissioner's Update
Legislative Update; Rulemaking Process: Rule 4500 (Restraint & Seclusion); Dual Enrollment
(continued); Annual High Low Spending Report, and Consent Agenda items.

Item O: Wrap Up and Adjourn

At 2:10 p.m., Chair Miller declared the January 18, 2011 meeting of the State Board of
Education adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Jill Remick

Minutes prepared by Carol King