

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Cornerstone Room, Jackson Gore Inn, Okemo Mountain Resort, 111 Jackson Gore Road,
Ludlow
June 27-28, 2011

The State Board of Education shall sustain a vision of high skills, creative thinking, and love of knowledge and learning for every student by setting education policy that ensures student achievement in a safe and healthy learning environment.

Approved Minutes

Present

Board Members: Fayneese Miller, Chair; Kathy Larsen, Vice-chair; Elizabeth Strano; Sean-Marie Oller; Robert Kelley; Judy Livingston (Monday only); Stephan Morse; Bill Mathis; Don Collins

DOE: Mark Oettinger; Carol King; Jill Remick; Brian Townsend; Bill Talbott; Deputy Commissioner Rae Ann Knopf; Commissioner Armando Vilaseca

Other: Brad Hull, NASBE; Jeff Renard, VTVLC; Mill Moore, VISA; Diane Muller, Ludlow (former SBE member and chair)

Monday, June 27

Preliminaries

Item A: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Fayneese Miller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:22 a.m., and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item B: Roll Call and Introductions

Chair and Board members introduced themselves, as did others in attendance.

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

Chair Miller noted that this was the final meeting for Robert Kelley, outgoing senior student member.

Item D: Public to be Heard

No one signed up to speak during this time.

Action Items

Item E: Consent Agenda

Motion: Kelley moved, seconded by Oller, to approve the consent agenda, with comment.

- 1. Minutes of May 17, 2010 SBE Meeting**
- 2. Renewal of general and special education independent school approval:**
 - Great Expectations, Manchester; grades 1-12
 - Kindle Farm Children’s Service, Newfane; grades 2-12
 - The New School, Montpelier; grades 1-12**Renewal of special education independent school approval:**
 - St. Johnsbury Academy, St. Johnsbury; grades 9-12**Renewal of tutorial approval:**
 - Mountainside House, Ludlow; ages 13-18**Amendment to general and special education independent school approval:**
 - East Valley Academy, East Randolph; add grade 12**Amendment to general independent school approval:**
 - The Stevens School, Peacham; add grade 1
- 3. Postsecondary Approval: Spark Teacher Education Institute (Educational Praxis, Inc.)**
(Cathy Hilgendorf)
- 4. Student Attendance Day Waiver Requests** (Armando Vilaseca, Mark Oettinger)
 - a. **St. Johnsbury School District**
 - b. **Caledonia Central SU (Barnet Elementary School, Danville School)**
 - c. **Lamoille North SU (Lamoille Union Middle and High Schools, GMTCC, Hyde Park Elementary School)**
 - d. **Washington Northeast SU (Cabot School, Twinfield Union School)**
 - e. **Hartford School District (White River School)**

Motion: Mathis moved to remove the minutes from the consent agenda, seconded by Oller, who withdrew her second on the earlier motion. Morse noted that he is on the Marlboro Board and that may present a conflict of interest related to the SPARKs program, so he will abstain from voting on that item. Larsen asked and discussion followed as to whether independent schools are ever not approved, and Morse questioned if need was one of the criteria in the climate of consolidation. Oettinger cited related law for the Board and noted the current work of the Department staff related to these approvals. Oller asked about the number of school attendance day waivers, which is higher than usual this year due to snow days and flooding. The consent agenda, with the 5-17-11 minutes removed, was passed by voice vote 7-0-1 (Morse abstention). The minutes were discussed by Mathis, related to Item L – Longitudinal Data System. He noted that following the meeting there was supposed to be a meeting with the governor. He did not believe the original motion made by Stephan Morse included the phrase, “if needed”. He said the minutes should be corrected: “if needed” should be removed, and therefore Mathis moved to amend the minutes to remove the phrase “if needed”. Oller seconded Mathis’ amendment to the minutes. Oller moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Larsen, as amended. The amendment passed by voice vote 8-0. The minutes with amendment were passed 8-0.

Chair Miller explained that the Governor was not available nor was a representative from his office available to meet during the week following the May Board meeting. DOE staff and Chair Miller did speak with the USDOE to get clarification on the consequences of non-compliance with SFSF requirements and this information as well as the letter received from the USDOE was communicated to the Board via email. If the VTDOE did not comply, the USDOE said that it

could request the state to return the money under SFSF, ARRA and other federal funds. This was also communicated to the Governor's Office. The Governor's office maintained that the VTDOE not collect the data, so at this point the data collection is on hold.

(Deputy Commissioner Rae Ann Knopf arrived at 10:51 a.m.)

Knopf added that the money that could have to be returned would largely impact the school districts that received it; she also stated that there are other benefits to collecting the data besides simply compliance. Morse sought an explanation for why the Governor does not want the state to be in compliance with the requirements. The Board decided to hold further discussion until Item G. Mathis noted he wanted to make a motion at that time.

Discussion Items

Item F: Vermont Virtual Learning Collaborative

Jeff Renard, Director, explained that the ARRA Title IID grant led to the advancement of the Vermont Virtual Learning Collaborative, at River Valley Technical and Career Center, Springfield. He gave the Board the background of his work and of VTVLC, and showed a presentation on the benefits of VTVLC. Board members asked about membership, fees, small schools, course offerings, grade ranges, and professional development.

(Commissioner Vilaseca arrived at 11:21 a.m.)

Item G Data-Driven Decision-Making & DASH™

CFO Bill Talbott Introduced DOE IT Director Brian Townsend. Townsend explained the use of data, including using it for improving instruction and informing policy. He explained the different tools the VTDOE is using for data collection, reporting and analysis. He demonstrated the TetraData DASH™ system. Board discussion involved the effectiveness of linking student performance to teacher effectiveness and how to use data to improve instruction. Morse suggested allocating time to further discuss the specific data collection in question after lunch. They will break for lunch until 1. At that time, 45 minutes will be allotted to discuss the particular data collection in question.

The Board recognized outgoing student Board member Robert Kelley.

The Board broke for lunch.

Talbott outlined for the Board the varied issues around data they have been discussing – the America Competes Act grants received by the state which now requires the DOE to collect data, and the fact that the Governor has asked the DOE to hold the specific collection of data related to the Longitudinal Data System requirement; the DASH™ implementation; and the overall issue of data collections. Vilaseca referenced 16 V.S.A. §212 (9) which speaks to collection of necessary information from school districts including data. Board discussion continued with DOE staff regarding the necessity of the particular data collection which would require districts

to code course offerings to be in compliance with the requirements of the acceptance of SFSF funding from the USDOE. Discussion continued about the intent of the collection, the SFSF funding received by the governor's office and the VTDOE (which is now 70% federally funded). The discussion culminated with the Board deciding that, since this funding was received by the Governor's office, it did not have a function in deciding whether or not the data collection should go forward.

Motion to recess and move into the annual meeting by Robert Kelley, seconded by Oller; passed by voice vote 8-0.

Item H: Annual Meeting

The board's annual planning meeting was facilitated by Brad Hull, Assistant Executive Director, National Association of State Boards of Education. The stated objectives included:

- Create common understanding of work as a board
- Development of a mini-strategic plan for the Board
- Institutionalizing best practice
- Next steps

Board Dinner – the four finalists for the 2012 Vermont Teacher of the Year joined the board for dinner and spoke on a topic of their choice. The candidates are:

Jeff Johnson
Physical Education
Mt. Anthony Union Middle School

Glenda Allen
Math & Literacy
Barre Town Middle and Elementary School

Tong Chen
Chinese
Leland & Gray Union Middle and High School

Mark Weikert
Physical Education
Flood Brook Union School

Tuesday, June 28

Not Present: Judy Livingston

Work Session (continued)

Brad Hull, Facilitator

Board members and senior department staff continued the work session, focusing on building a strategic plan specific to the Board.

Sean-Marie Oller left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Next Steps:

Continue annual planning discussion at August meeting

Wrap Up and Adjourn:

Motion: Robert Kelley moved, seconded by Stephan Morse, to adjourn the June 27-28 State Board annual planning meeting. Motion passed 8-0.

Minutes recorded by Jill Remick

Minutes prepared by Carol King