

Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report – December 2010

From the Chair

The State Board of Education met in Montpelier for its December 21 meeting. Action was taken on the following items:

John Nelson Honored – The State Board honored retiring VSBA Executive Director John Nelson, presenting him with a resolution in recognition of his 38-year contribution to education in Vermont. Nelson has been a teacher, a DOE consultant and attorney, and VSBA assistant executive director and executive director. The Board noted: “We commend your commitment, your character, and your accomplishments on behalf of generations of Vermont’s students, parents, school board members, and the wider community.” To read the full text of the resolution, go to http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/sbe_packet_10_1221/EDU-Resolution_to_Honor_John_Nelson.pdf

Addison Northwest Unified Union District – Upon request of the Addison Northwest Unified Union District Planning Committee, the Board approved the planning committee report, thereby allowing the committee to place the unified union district formation item on the ballot for voters at the respective March town meetings. The articles of agreement contain the necessary items to begin a planning process which may lead to the formation of a Regional Education District (RED) - pursuant to Act 153 of 2010, Section 3(a)(2) - as well as receive the incentives spelled out in the statute. To see background information on this particular request, go to http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/sbe_packet_10_1221/educ_sbe_packet_10_1221_item_K.pdf

Dual Enrollment, The VSC, and PreK-16
VSC Chancellor Tim Donovan updated the board on a number of areas where the state colleges are or will need to be working closely with the Vermont’s public education system, including the reach and impact of dual enrollment programs, pre-service and in-service teacher development. He also discussed the potential value for the newly established PreK-16 Council, of which he is chair. As a result of the discussion, the Board moved to request

Department staff to submit a proposed rule by January 2011 establishing policy supporting dual enrollment programs offered by Vermont institutions of higher education. Commissioner Vilaseca has indicated that he wants high schools to accept - and reflect on transcripts - college level credits earned by students attending an accredited higher education institution. Donovan asked the Board to advocate for these programs in the Legislature. This discussion will continue at the Board’s January 18th meeting.

From the Department

Teacher of the Year Applications Sought -

Each year a teacher from Vermont’s education community is recognized as the Vermont Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year is chosen through a thorough [application and selection process](#). In accordance with national guidelines, Vermont chooses a candidate who is "dedicated and highly skilled, a candidate proven capable of inspiring students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn." Because the Teacher of the Year will be asked to travel, speak on behalf of education and demonstrate master teaching skills, the candidate must be poised, articulate and energetic in order to meet the demanding responsibilities. Although the teacher will continue to teach full time during this year, s/he is available for speaking engagements and content consultations in her/his area of expertise when possible. The Vermont program is sponsored by the Vermont Department of Education. The Vermont Teacher of the Year also becomes a candidate for the National Teacher of the Year award ([National Teacher of the Year Program](#), [OSL](#)). The National Teacher of the Year Program is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers and sponsored by ING Foundation. Applications are due by March 15, 2011. For more information, contact DOE Communications Director Jill Remick (Jill.Remick@state.vt.us)

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For additional information on upcoming Department of Education sponsored events for Winter 2011, 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 State Board of Education Meeting Dates:

January 18; February 15; March 15; April 19; May 17; June 21

