

## Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report – January-February 2011

### **From the Chair**

The State Board of Education met in Montpelier for its January and February meetings. Action and discussion occurred on the following items:

**Restraint and Seclusion Rules** - The Board voted to initiate the rulemaking process with respect to the appropriate use of restraint and seclusion in schools at its meeting in August 17, 2010. Following that vote, a public comment period was held, including two public hearings; comments received through that process were reviewed and revisions made to the proposed rules. At its January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board reviewed revised proposed rules as of the end of the comment period in preparation for a vote at this February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Additional revisions were made to the proposed rules as a result of comments received at the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and subsequently. The final proposed rules – see

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/packet\\_archives/2011/02-15/EDU-SBE\\_Item\\_H\\_Use\\_of\\_Restraint\\_and\\_Seclusion\\_in\\_Schools\\_February\\_15\\_2011.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/packet_archives/2011/02-15/EDU-SBE_Item_H_Use_of_Restraint_and_Seclusion_in_Schools_February_15_2011.pdf) – were approved by the Board on February 15<sup>th</sup>, to become effective August 15, 2011, with local district training to be completed by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Information on training sessions to be held during May will be forthcoming. For additional information, contact Susan Marks ([susan.marks@state.vt.us](mailto:susan.marks@state.vt.us))

**Dual Enrollment**- Following a discussion at the December 21 meeting with VSC Chancellor Tim Donovan, the Board asked the Department to come back with a proposed rule that would require dual enrollment programs to be uniformly accessible and applicable in all high schools in the state (see [http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/packet\\_archives/2011/01-18/EDU-SBE\\_Item\\_J\\_Expansion\\_of\\_Support\\_for\\_Dual\\_Enrollment\\_January\\_18\\_2010.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/packet_archives/2011/01-18/EDU-SBE_Item_J_Expansion_of_Support_for_Dual_Enrollment_January_18_2010.pdf) ), essentially establishing policy supporting dual enrollment programs offered by Vermont institutions of higher education. It is the intent of this proposed rule that high schools – statewide -

accept - and reflect on transcripts - college level credits earned by students attending an accredited higher education institution. Discussion will continue at the March 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. In the meantime, stakeholders will be contacted to provide preliminary input and comment on the proposed rule.

### **From the Board**

**Legislative Breakfast** – at its January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, Board members hosted a breakfast for members of the House and Senate Education Committees and representatives from other committees. Topics of discussion included the implementation of Acts 153 and 146, local budgets, dual enrollment and activities/purview of the State Board.

**Brian Vachon** serves as the State Board’s liaison to the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE).

**Fayneese Miller** is a member of the National Association of State Boards of Education’s (NASBE) task force on *Preparation, Evaluation, Continuation and Compensation: A State Policy Agenda to Enhance the Teaching Profession*.

**Kathy Larsen** participated in a Webinar on research-based best practices for improving Vermont Schools. Speakers included Sam Redding, Center on Innovation and Improvement, and Susan Hayes, WestEd.

**Don Collins** participated in a Webinar about school-based technologies.

**Elizabeth Strano** attended a regional legislative breakfast in Bennington.

### **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](mailto:Jill.Remick@state.vt.us) )

**Early Education Initiative (EEI) Grant Proposals**

The Department of Education is seeking Early Education Initiative (EEI) grant proposals for the 2011-2012 academic year. Applications must be submitted by partnerships comprised of school districts and community early childhood providers. Letters of Intent are due no later than March 28, 2011 and applications for this competitive grant process are due April 29, 2011. Please note that the maximum EEI award is \$30,000. In addition, grants are CONTINGENT upon legislative approval of the proposed budget. For more information, go to [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_earlyed.html#grant\\_proposal](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_earlyed.html#grant_proposal)

**[UPDATE: Amendment to State Definition of English Language Learner, Program Exit Criteria, and Annual Measurement Achievement Objectives \(AMAOs\) PDF](#)**

The department has recently submitted an amendment of the Consolidated State Application to the US Department of Education

in order to reflect the Title III (English Language Acquisition) assessment and accountability system currently being implemented in Vermont. This amendment describes important changes in Vermont’s Definition of English Language Learner (ELL), Exit Criteria from Title III and Title I Language Support Programs, and the Title III accountability system (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives known as AMAOs). NOTE: The department makes AMAO determinations for ALL districts. However, the consequences for not meeting Title III AMAOs for two or four consecutive years only apply to districts/consortia which receive Title III funds. Use the link above to view the memo about the amendment and the full amendment proposal. For questions or information, contact [Jim McCobb](#).

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**For additional information on upcoming Department of Education sponsored events for Winter/Spring 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:**  
March 15; April 19; May 17; June 21

