

Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report – November 2010

From the Chair

The State Board of Education met at Hazen Union High School, Hardwick, for its November 16 meeting. Action was taken on the following items:

Federal Education Jobs Funding (\$19 M) –

Following discussion at its October 19th meeting and at this meeting, the State Board adopted the following statement on the use of the \$19M Federal Education Jobs Funding: “That the State Board of Education vote to adopt the position that the Federal Jobs Funding (\$19 Million) be distributed to the Vermont school districts to be applied towards meeting the Challenges for Change reduction target of \$23 million scheduled to go into effect for the FY 2012 school year.” Board members felt that advocating for the use of the \$19M in this way serves the best interest of students at this time. They viewed this one-time funding as a bridge to give school districts time to develop future budgets in light of anticipated reduced revenue and to have additional conversations regarding the implementation of Act 153.

RED Formation Waiver Request: Fairfax and Fletcher Town School Districts (Franklin West SU) -

Upon request of the town school districts of Fairfax and Fletcher, the Board voted to waive the requirements of Act 153 of 2010 to allow the Fairfax and Fletcher Town School Districts (Franklin West SU) to begin a planning process which may lead to the formation of a Regional Education District (RED). This action, pursuant to Act 153 of 2010, Section 3(a)(2), will allow the two local boards to begin discussions on the formation of a Regional Education District, as well as receive the incentives spelled out in the statute. The Board anticipates that it will receive other similar requests which it will contemplate on a case by case basis. To see the background information on this particular request, go to http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/sbe_packet_10_1116/educ_sbe_packet_10_1116_item_K_REV.pdf

Revisions to PreK Rules – The Board voted to approve the proposed revisions to the current PreK Rules which will provide clarity in the following areas:

- a. definition for “potentially qualified providers” [refer to section 2602 (15)],
- b. clarifying that “community” means the town or city [refer to section 2603(1)]
- c. requiring districts to notify the DOE when they decide to conduct a community needs assessment [refer to section 2603(3)],
- d. mandating that community needs assessment use a specific template [refer to section 2602(4)],
- e. requiring districts to publish and post their proposed plan for pre-K for 30 days. [refer to section 2603(7)],
- f. requiring all community needs assessments be completed 90 days prior to the start of the academic year in which it will be implemented [refer to section 2602(8), and
- g. decreasing the number of days the commissioners will render a decision on an appeal from 30 calendar days to 15 working days, [refer to section 2610(8)].

To view the rules as approved by the SBE, go to: http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/packet_archives/sbe_packet_10_1116/educ_sbe_packet_10_1116_item_L_3_REV.pdf

Hazen Union High School’s Youth and Adults Transforming Schools Together (YATST) –

Nine students and two faculty members from Hazen Union’s YATST affiliate gave a presentation to the State Board at its meeting on Tuesday. Coordinated by Helen Beattie, YATST is a network of Vermont high school teams who believe that transformed schools come about when youth and adults join together in partnership to make this happen. Their goal is to make schools places where all students are engaged in their learning and know that their thoughts and ideas matter. For more information about YATST, contact Helen Beattie (HNBeattie@gmail.com)

From the Department

Common Core Regional Meetings - In early November, five regional Common Core information/collaboration meetings were held to

describe statewide implementation goals and challenges, as well as to open a discussion in each region about what can be done to support the statewide goals. Over 450 people attended these meetings, and all but 4 SU/Ds sent at least one and in some cases 10 or more representatives. The following key ideas were emphasized at the meetings:

- NECAP – as is – is the instrument by which student performance will be measured until at least fall 2013 and on which school accountability will be based.
- Alignment of existing curriculum to the Common Core should wait until SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) provides an assessment framework and achievement descriptors.
- As the timeline progresses, schools/districts will need to make strategic decisions about balancing instruction between the Common Core and the grade expectations (where not in alignment).
- Ideally, curriculum, instruction and assessment aligned to Common Core should be implemented in classrooms in SY2013-14.
- SBAC assessment will be fully operational in SY2014-15 and will be the basis for school accountability.

The Common Core Implementation Committee and Policy Group will meet again on December 9th and will review information gathered at the regional meetings to identify next steps in supporting implementation as well as policy issues that need the most immediate focus. Following that meeting, the Department will focus on the next work day in January-February with the Vermont Professional Development Network Leaders representing mathematics, literacy, science and social studies.

A WIKI site is now available for the Common Core:

<https://sites.google.com/site/commoncoreinvermont/> and is also a link from the DOE website.

Information will be posted on the WIKI site until a new communication and collaboration site comes online in early 2011.

For more information on the Common Core and its implementation, contact Marty Gepahart (marty.Gephart@state.vt.us).

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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>

2010-2011 State Board of Education Meeting Dates: December 21; January 18; February 15; March 15; April 19; May 17; June 21

