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Governor Shumlin Appoints Three to State Board of Education

MONTPELIER – Governor Shumlin recently appointed three members to the State Board of Education. Sean-Marie Oller of Bennington was appointed for a six-year term. William Mathis of Goshen was appointed to complete four years of a vacated term. Stephan Morse of Newfane was reappointed to the Board for six years after completing a previously vacated term.

William J. Mathis is the Managing Director of the National Education Policy Center, University of Colorado at Boulder. Previously, he served as Superintendent of Schools for the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union, Brandon, Vermont. In this capacity, he was a National Superintendent of the Year finalist, Vermont Superintendent of the Year and president of the Vermont Superintendents' Association. Bill has published or presented over 200 national research papers, policy briefs, newspaper columns and monographs on accountability, school quality, financial equity and adequacy, assessment, school vouchers, cost-effectiveness, history, and Constitutional issues. He frequently speaks before professional, policy, legislative and lay groups across the country on the purpose of public education, equality, and federalism. His current work focuses on the financial, programmatic and assessment aspects of accountability systems.

He has worked full-time or part-time at eight colleges and universities in various teaching, research and administrative capacities. Previously, he served as Deputy Assistant Commissioner for the New Jersey Department of Education, as a guidance counselor and as a school psychologist. He is a veteran and resides in Goshen.

Sean-Marie Oller was born in Ohio and raised in New York City. She got to know her future home when she came to Bennington College, where she graduated in 1979. Oller continued her studies in early childhood education at New York University in 1983 and was the administrative director of the Washington Market Montessori school in lower Manhattan.

Oller moved to Vermont in 1990. As she and her husband Rick raised their two children here, she worked with the Bennington College Early Childhood Center. Oller has been a mentor and project coordinator since 2003 for Quantum Leap, an organization that works with teenage students who are at-risk of dropping out. She worked with Vermont youth circuses Circus Smirkus and Circus Minimus and also volunteered with Molly Stark Elementary School in Bennington. She completed mediation training at Woodbury College in 2004. Oller was also a member of the Governors Institute board from 2006 to 2008. Oller was first elected to the Mount Anthony Union School Board in 1995, and has served as chairwoman for the last six years. She has represented Mount Anthony on the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union School Board since 2000. Mount Anthony Union serves students in Bennington, North Bennington, Pownal, Shaftsbury and Woodford, and is the third largest school district in Vermont. Oller and her husband Rick have two children, Olivia and Jackson, who graduated from the Mount Anthony schools.

Stephan Morse was born in Springfield, Vermont on April 1, 1947. He served as Newfane Zoning Administrator from 1971-74; on the Board of Selectman from 1974-77 and as chairman from 1975-77. Morse served in the Vermont House of Representatives from 1977 to 1984. He was Assistant Majority Leader in the Vermont House of Representatives in 1979 and Majority Leader in 1980. He served as

Vermont Speaker of the House from 1981-84. He served as President and C.E.O. of the Windham Foundation until 2008. Most recently he served on the Next Generation Commission in 2006 and was appointed to the District #2 Environmental Commission in 2008. Previously Morse chaired the task force examining the Vermont State Colleges and University of Vermont systems to determine what academic and administrative efficiencies could be achieved through their consolidation.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier at 9 a.m. A complete agenda can be found at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#schedule_agenda.

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