



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

April 16, 2011

Dear Fellow VSBPE Members,

As the relentless winter wears on with more snow falling today, the Standards Board remains relentless in its efforts to improve opportunities for educator and student success in Vermont. This past month saw many of our Action Plan goals addressed, particularly as related to Goal 2, Strategy 1 and Goal 4, Strategies 1 and 3. Heather, Brian and I, as well as Marta, spent many hours at the Legislature, introducing and explaining the roles and responsibilities of the VSBPE to Senate and House Education leaders and Committees, as well as testifying about H. 430, a bill relating to Teacher, Principal and Technical Director mentoring and induction. We were able to clarify several issues and concerns from the VSBPE's perspective, and several changes were made that hopefully will make the bill more effective and appropriate. Things do change quickly at this stage of lawmaking, so we will see what occurs as this bill moves forward.

We will be welcoming Susan Bartlett from Governor Shumlin's office at our April 26, 2011 meeting. She will be joining us for the morning agenda, and before we break for lunch will share information about Governor Shumlin's education initiatives and take questions from VSBPE members. In the afternoon we will have our Committee work and the opportunity to get an update on the Common Core as it relates to approved Higher Ed. Programs. Mary Beth will be leading that discussion as well as helping us begin our work regarding Action Plan Revisions, which was delayed from last month's meeting. Please bring your copy of the VSBPE Action Plan as noted on the Agenda. Relating to the Common Core, we are in need of a volunteer willing to serve on the Policy component of this committee representing the VSBPE. The Committee generally meets every 4-6 weeks--the next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2011. Please examine your schedule and see if this is a commitment you might be interested in making.

We again have a full agenda--as the needs for improving education are as relentless as our persistent winter. Looking forward to working with you on April 26th.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Steward".

Janet Steward
Chair, VSBPE