



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

June 14, 2011

Dear VSBPE Colleagues,

As you prepare your materials for the June 23, 2011 VSBPE meeting please bring your calendars, as we will be creating the schedule for the upcoming year's full Board and Executive Committee meetings at our June gathering. It is important to commit to attend the VSBPE meetings throughout the year; your input is critical to creating a workable schedule. I have sent a letter to Governor Shumlin seeking his scheduling input as well so that we might be able to accommodate him at one of our fall meetings.

As per Act 20, relating to Teacher Mentoring, the VSBPE needs to appoint two representative of the VSBPE and two representatives from Higher Education to the Task Force that will be convened by Commissioner Vilaseca by August 1, 2011. This is a short-term task force charged with submitting a report to the Legislature. Please consider whether serving on this task force as a representative of the VSBPE. Although it is difficult for already busy Standard's Board members to be called upon to serve in so many capacities, it is an important recognition of the VSBPE's voice in advocating for Vermont's educators and students.

At our June meeting Marta will give us an update on the hiring of the Consultant for the VSBPE. This is a critical position that we have worked hard to procure and hope to have in place soon. Commissioner Vilaseca assured us at the Executive Committee meeting that he will be following up on the procedures for hiring someone to fill this capacity. Mark Oettinger will be discussing our proposals for Licensing changes and the next steps in the LCAR process. The Public Comment period has concluded and the Standards Board received one written comment which was addressed at our May VSBPE meeting.

A decision was made at the Executive Committee meeting to conduct our Board Survey on a semi-annual basis. The information procured from the last survey was very helpful, and we hope to gather that information again during the 2012-13 VSBPE cycle. We also recognize that the work of the Executive Committee is difficult to complete in one hour. Out of respect to both Standards Board members and DOE staff we will be scheduling our Executive Committee meetings to begin one half hour earlier in the future.

Thank you again for your commitment to the critical work of the VSBPE. I am aware that this is a busy time for all and that difficult choices are necessary to continue your service to the students and educators of the State of Vermont. There will be no meeting of the VSBPE in July; we resume our important work again in August. Looking forward to working with you on June 23, 2011.

Sincerely,

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

Janet Steward
Chair, VSBPE