



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

October 14, 2011

Dear VSBPE Colleagues,

As I look out the window, yellow leaves are gently sifting to the ground, signaling the upcoming change in the season. Although the past summer and fall have been exquisite, as we know in Vermont, change is inevitable. Although change is not without its challenges, it can also be invigorating, bringing its own new opportunities.

As we gather together for our October Standards Board meeting, we welcome many new faces around the table. We will say good-bye to many dedicated and long time members of our Board, who have served with commitment and conviction. Our formal good-bye to those members will be at the November meeting, when we hope they will join us for a celebratory lunch, celebrating their years of service as well as celebrating the new members of the VSBPE.

When you review your agenda, please notice that new members will be attending an orientation to the VSBPE from 8:30-9:30. At 9:30 the full Board will come together for refreshments and informal conversation. At 9:45 the Standards Board will be Called to Order with more formal introductions and the chance to learn a little more about each other. Following our Call to Order, Deputy Commissioner Rae Ann Knoph will be joining us to discuss the Accountability Plan and the Waiver for ESEA, and we will have an update on InTASC. After lunch we begin our Committee work, with new members joining each of the two committees.

When you arrive, please be sure to welcome our new members as they begin their term on the VSBPE. Although glowing yellow leaves are an exquisite sight, so too is the sun glinting off a blanket of new fallen snow. As always, I thank you all for your commitment to Vermont's educators and students, and look forward to working together on important issues at the October 19, 2011 meeting, and in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

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

Janet Steward

