



VERMONT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Room 304
Barre, VT 05641

July 18, 2017

- Strategic Goals: (1) Ensure that Vermont's public education system operates within the framework of high expectations for every learner and ensure that there is equity in opportunity for all.*
- (2) Ensure that the public education system is stable, efficient, and responsive to changes and ever-changing population needs, economic and 21st century issues.*

State Board of Education Legislative Subcommittee Special Meeting Draft Minutes

Present:

State Board of Education Subcommittee Members: Peter Peltz (via phone), Krista Huling (via phone), Bill Mathis, Chair (via phone)

Agency of Education (AOE): Suzanne Sprague, Haley Dover (joined at 9:42 a.m.)

Others: Toby Howe, MMR/St. Johnsbury and Burr and Burton Academies; Matt Levin (via phone), Vermont Early Childhood Alliance; unidentified listener (via phone)

Item A: Call to Order

Chair Mathis convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. He asked if there are any changes to the agenda. Peltz asked for an update on Act 46 and 49 to strategize or discuss if possible. Chair Mathis added this to the agenda and continued that the legislative committee members can decide, at that time, if the discussion is better suited for the full State Board. He then asked for a roll call.

Item B: Approve March 10th, 2017 meeting minutes

Peltz made the motion to accept the meeting minutes. Huling seconded. No further discussion.
Vote: Passed

Item C: Discussion and Suggestions on Revamping the Legislative Subcommittee

Chair Mathis led the discussion and began by suggesting that each topic to be followed by the legislative subcommittee have assigned point people. Huling said that the legislative subcommittee needs to be more robust or there should not be a legislative subcommittee at all. She said the responsibility would be a function of the board as a whole if the legislative subcommittee dissolved. Huling continued that if the subcommittee decides to continue then there should be standing phone meetings in order to stay more current. Peltz said that he feels the State Board should have an active legislative subcommittee. He added that there is too much going on during the scheduled State Board meetings to devote time to particulars and there is no time for candid conversations amongst the board members to focus on critical issues.

Peltz added that he agrees that there should be regular subcommittee meetings to stay better informed. Discussion followed.

Chair Mathis said the legislative subcommittee should focus on 3 or 4 issues because the State Board does not have the capacity for more. He said he agrees with a weekly phone meeting to stay current and relevant. Peltz asked that the subcommittee prioritize critical issues that the board should pursue. Huling said that the board needs to come up with policy suggestions by November because January is too late for it to have any impact. She added that the topics should be important to the legislative subcommittee members.

After a lengthy discussion, Chair Mathis said the focus areas are PreK, Act 46 and Act 49 and Technical Education. Peltz asked for ½ hour discussion at the next State Board of Education meeting to propose these areas to the full board. Huling asked how will the legislative subcommittee work moving forward. Chair Mathis recommends having a subcommittee with a chair, and a point person knowledgeable in the specific area chosen, and willing to communicate with the legislature on behalf of the State Board. Peltz added that time and resources are a real concern for success of the legislative subcommittee. Further discussion followed regarding board communication.

Huling said that the Legislative Report should be ready by October and brought to the State Board for discussion. She said the board will vote to approve or not approve this report at the November meeting. Huling said that the report should be brought to the legislature in December.

Peltz made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Huling.
Vote: Passed

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.