



VERMONT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Vermont Agency of Education  
219 North Main Street, Room 419  
Barre, VT 05641

November 9, 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 Conference Call Meeting  
Draft Minutes**

**Present:**

**State Board of Education Subcommittee Members (via phone):** Peter Peltz, William Mathis, Krista Huling, John Carroll.

**Agency of Education (AOE):** Maureen Gaidys, Robert Stirewalt

**Others (via phone):** Matt Levin, Vermont Early Childhood Alliance

**Item A: Call to Order**

Chair Peltz called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

**Item B: Sign In for Guests/Callers**

Chair Peltz asked for Roll Call and for callers to identify themselves. The subcommittee members identified themselves and Matt Levin, identified himself. He was the only member of the public to call in.

**Item C: Amendments to Agenda**

Chair Peltz asked for any amendments to the agenda. There was none.

**Item D: Approve October 27, 2017 Draft Minutes**

Carroll moved and Huling seconded to approve the subcommittee meeting minutes from October 27, 2017. The vote passed unanimously.

**Item E: Report to Legislature**

Carroll suggested that the report come from the SBE and Huling clarified that has been past practice. Chair Peltz asked if Mathis would be drafting the report. Mathis was agreeable to do a first draft and circulate it to subcommittee members. Huling offered that at the last meeting it was decided to write this report through the "Three E lenses" (equity, excellence and efficiency) and that Carroll was going to prepare a first draft and keep it brief and avoid picking specific topics. Mathis stated that he wanted some level of detail. Carroll concurred with Huling that the idea was to update the Legislature on the Strategic Plan and explain the three lenses and how they will be used. Regarding topics, he recalled that they would let legislation take its course until January and then re-focus on

specific areas. Huling reiterated the plan to let the Legislature flesh out what they are going to do instead of spending time anticipating what they are going to do. Carroll said that he thinks the report would be brief and that he would use the over view of the Strategic Plan as an introduction and asked for other thoughts on what should be included. Mathis offered to send prior legislative reports to subcommittee members. Chair Peltz asked if any of the Act 46 work would be addressed. Mathis, Carroll and Huling agreed that Act 46/49 work should be outlined/reviewed. Huling also suggested a preview of what the SBE is looking at going forward. Chair Peltz asked about the SBE's position if the Legislature tried to change legislation related to Act 46/49. Huling thought it was premature to comment. She offered that the Board should be prepared to write a position paper if needed.

Stirewalt was asked if he had heard anything on that front. He replied that there would be some movement based on constituent input, but that it was hard to predict exactly what, but he thought the subcommittee's strategy was good.

Chair Peltz wondered how we could encourage districts to do this work themselves vs. having the SBE make these decisions. Carroll agreed that it would be good to put people on notice that the SBE does not want to be the architects of this plan. Carroll noted that the SBE had done some pushing back in the last two months compared to the prior eight months. Carroll suggested that Huling might be better suited to writing the part of the report related to what the SBE has accomplished over the last year; Huling concurred. Carroll will write the pieces of the report related to the lenses of equity, excellence and efficiency. Carroll asked for a timeline for drafting this report. Chair Peltz suggested having something drafted for the December SBE meeting. Huling suggested having a draft ready for November 22 and the subcommittee will meet the following week. Peltz suggested the next legislative subcommittee meeting be on November 29 at 10:30 a.m. Mathis asked for an outline to be ready by November 15. Carroll and Huling agreed to this.

#### **Item F: Protocol for Responding to Specific Legislative Requests/Issues**

Chair Peltz asked if there were any thoughts related to equity, excellence and efficiency in regards to a protocol for responding to legislative requests. Mathis thinks this can be hard to avoid. Chair Peltz stated that there was agreement last time to go to the State House when invited, but not as free agents. Carroll asked if this should be a Board norm and offered that this is important enough to discuss with the whole Board. Carroll asked Peltz to write up something that might be an adopted procedure/norm for this subcommittee. That would make it more formal and that would be helpful to the Board. Mathis asked that a sentence be added to account for task forces/committees and other formal representations of the Board, that these cases might have more freedom. Mathis asked how lobbyists should be handled. Chair Peltz responded that the mantra should be that one individual does not speak for the Board. Carroll suggested giving an outline on this protocol/norm at next week's SBE meeting.

Subcommittee communications with the entire Board will continue through presentations at monthly Board meetings. Carroll offered that there might be times when a full meeting needs to be called on short notice and suggested erring on the side of consulting with the whole Board vs. making a decision as a subcommittee.

Chair Peltz asked if Stirewalt had any new thoughts since the last legislative subcommittee meeting. Stirewalt shared that Deputy Secretary Bouchey's report on dual enrollment will be ready for the next Board meeting and that will be good information as it is enhanced over years past. In terms of how the legislative subcommittee communicates, he offered that he sees it that either they are informing each other, or the Board is advancing something. If something is being advanced, then it needs consensus, but as a subcommittee, they should know more than the SBE throughout the legislative session because of the sheer volume of information. Mathis asked about the PK letter coming from the two agencies and the Special Education report. Stirewalt said that the PK letter would break soon and there would be a decision made on the timing. Peltz asked if there were one or two Special Education reports. Stirewalt confirmed that there were two reports, a funding report and another report that assesses outcomes.

Carroll asked if they could expect weekly Legislative reports again. Stirewalt committed to getting those out weekly, (Friday) and offered that he would adjust the report to the SBE so that it would focus more on specific areas of interest unique to the SBE. Carroll asked if Stirewalt could provide reports that are more detailed. Stirewalt said he does take some detailed notes, but that typically happens as the session nears the end. Carroll asked for as much information and detail as possible, that Stirewalt could comfortably share and that this could be limited to only the legislative subcommittee. This would help if they are committed to staying out of the State House. Chair Peltz concurred with this request. Stirewalt appreciated this request and said he would provide them with whatever he thinks they need to know. Mathis reminded Stirewalt to be cautious, as anything was recoverable and discoverable.

Chair Peltz asked if Levin had any questions. Levin said no and expressed appreciation for participating by phone in this meeting.

**Item G: Other**

**Item H: Adjourn**

Carroll moved to adjourn. Mathis seconded. The vote to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Maureen Gaidys.

---