

**AGENCY OF EDUCATION**

**Barre, Vermont**

**TEAM: School Finance**

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of independent school approval to the Lake Champlain Waldorf School, Shelburne, VT, to serve students in grades K-12, based upon the review by the Agency of Education and accreditation through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)?

**SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the State Board of Education grant renewal of independent school approval to the Lake Champlain Waldorf School, Shelburne, VT, to serve students in grades K-12, based upon the review by the Agency of Education and notification of accreditation through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). This approval is for four years, through June 30, 2021, to coincide with the NEASC accreditation period.**

**Approval is subject to the condition that the school immediately report to the Agency of Education whenever any changes occur in enrollment, programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing, or administration, during the approval period.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Title 16 V.S.A. § 166(b)

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

1. Lake Champlain Waldorf School is an independent day school serving students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The Lake Champlain Waldorf School prepares students to become creative and independent thinkers able to impart purpose and direction to their lives and to meet the world and their fellow human beings with wisdom, courage and compassion. The school's mission, philosophy and objectives are rooted in the Waldorf tradition. The Lake Champlain Waldorf School is also accredited by the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA).
2. Lake Champlain Waldorf School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC), which is recognized by the Vermont State Board of Education pursuant to State Board Rule #7320. Other than routine annual reports, the next major responsibility regarding accreditation will be the Five-Year Interim Report due in the spring of 2021.

3. NEASC, as part of its accreditation review, conducted an assessment of financial capacity. The applicant has satisfied NEASC's requirements, and the Agency recommends that the Board support NEASC's findings of adequate financial capacity, for the purposes of State Board approval.
4. Lake Champlain Waldorf School has a policy on the prevention and reporting of harassment, hazing, and bullying which is as stringent as the Agency's model policy.

**COST IMPLICATIONS:** none

**STAFF AVAILABLE:**

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