

**Vermont State Board of Education**

**Resolution of Appreciation for Jeff Francis**

WHEREAS, Jeff Francis has served the public interest in Vermont beyond the realm of education, having served as Secretary of Commerce and Rockingham Town Manager. His service was always guided by his core beliefs of equity, excellence, and support for the public good.

WHEREAS, Jeff led Vermont superintendents as Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association for 28 years. He was an ever-present supporter, mentor and advocate, bringing an impactful voice for public education and its educational leaders in the field to decision-makers and policymakers in Montpelier.

WHEREAS, Jeff was a trusted colleague among the education leadership organizations, Vermont School Boards Association, Vermont Principals’ Association and Vermont NEA. Jeff deeply understood the power of collaboration to raise a collective voice for public education, sharing an example of civility and compassion in pursuit of common good.

WHEREAS, Jeff was inspired to enter public service by his father’s example, and throughout his career Jeff has inspired the next generation. He earned a reputation for exceptional mentorship of students and young professionals in Vermont and was a constant champion of student voices.

WHEREAS, Jeff earned respect from all groups of educators, educational leaders, policymakers, and legislatures for his accuracy and clarity, especially giving thoughtful and level-headed guidance even with the most controversial conversations.

WHEREAS, policymakers relied on Jeff to provide them with well-reasoned and supported, insightful messages. Fueled by tenacity and grit, Jeff has deeply impacted the Vermont education system and will be truly missed by policymakers.

WHEREAS, Jeff shared his wit and wisdom, while “endeavoring to be brief”, and students, families, and the Vermont education community benefited from each opportunity to learn more from his “brevity.”

WHEREAS, Jeff is a tireless advocate for public education as the keystone of democracy, fighting for equity, rigor, and efficiency for all Vermont students.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED,

That the State Board of Education bestows its appreciation and commendations to Jeff Francis for his service and dedication to the State of Vermont and furthermore extends its gratitude for the support and guidance he generously shared with the State Board of education over many years.

DATED this 16th day of October 2024.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

By Jennifer Deck Samuelson, its Chair