

Vermont State Board of Education

Report to the Senate Education Committee on the Search for a New Permanent Secretary of Education

January 11, 2024

State Board Membership

- **Jennifer Deck Samuelson, Chair** (2020 - 2/28/2026)
 - Chair, Winhall School Board; Attorney at Law
- **Tammy Kolbe, Vice Chair** (2021 - 2/28/2027)
 - UVM Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; Principal Researcher at American Institutes for Research
- **Mohamed Diop** (2023 - 2/28/2029)
 - Director, Multilingual Learner Programs; Winooski School District
- **Grey Fearon** (2023 - 6/30/2025)
 - Student Member
- **Kim Gleason** (2019 - 2/28/2025)
 - Former Chair, Essex Westford School District; former Treasurer, VSBA; Substitute Teacher, Essex Westford School District
- **Lyle Jepson** (2021 - 2/28/2027)
 - Former teacher; former Principal, Fair Haven Union High School; former Director, Stafford Technical Center
- **Tom Lovett** (2021 - 2/28/2027)
 - Teacher and former Head of School, St. Johnsbury Academy
- **Jenna O'Farrell** (2019 - 2/28/2025)
 - Former teacher, Assistant Principal, and Principal, St. Johnsbury School
- **Richard Werner** (2022 - 2/28/2024)
 - Chair, Windham Central Supervisory Union; Chair, River Valleys School District
- **Aaliyah Wilburn** (2023 - 6/30/2024)
 - Student Member
- **Heather Bouchev, Interim Secretary of Education**

State Board of Education (SBE) Secretary Search Committee

Jennifer Deck Samuelson, Chair

Lyle Jepson

Jenna O'Farrell

Overview of Committee Meetings

- ❖ Committee met 11 times over 2 ½ months
- ❖ Steps in the Process:
 - *Establish a framework*
 - *Develop and advertise job posting*
 - *Draft questions and create scoring rubric*
 - *Review applications and interview selected candidates*
 - *Debrief after interviews*
- ❖ Objective: Recommend at least three candidates to Governor for his consideration

Establish the Framework

- ❖ What are the qualities and attributes we seek?
 - Governor's Letter to the Chair:
<https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-sbe-gov-sec-search-request-07-26-23.pdf>
 - General duties listed at 16 V.S.A. §212:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/16/005/00212>
 - What else?
- ❖ How to craft Overview, Job Description, and Preferred Qualifications?
- ❖ Where to advertise?
- ❖ Guidance from the Department of Human Resources

Develop and Advertise Job Posting

- ❖ Support from Department of Human Resources
- ❖ Review by Office of Racial Equity
- ❖ Job posting here:
<https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-state-board-item-e-09-20-2023.pdf>
- ❖ Position advertised in SuccessFactors, SchoolSpring, Education Week, Facebook, LinkedIn, DiversityJobs, Indeed, Glassdoor, CareerBuilder, and AOE press release.
- ❖ Position open 9/13/23 - 10/12/23

Draft Questions and Create Scoring Rubric

- ❖ Public Comment at beginning of each Committee meeting
- ❖ Public Comment Hearing (10/02/2023)
 - Oral and written comments submitted from over two dozen members of the public
 - Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA)/Vermont Principals' Association (VPA)/Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA) submitted responses from almost 100 superintendents, principals, and teachers regarding the qualities and attributes they are seeking in the next Secretary of Education
- ❖ Committee discussed and selected 15 questions and developed scoring rubric based on information it hoped to gain from a candidate's answer

Review Applications and Interview Selected Candidates

- ❖ 19 applicants
- ❖ 7 interviews
- ❖ Interviews conducted during week of October 30th
- ❖ Each interview lasted one hour and 15 minutes
- ❖ Committee members asked their assigned questions, with time at end for candidate questions

Debrief after Interviews

- ❖ Committee met twice in executive session after interviews were completed to debrief
- ❖ Full Board met in executive session during its monthly meeting on November 15, 2023, and submitted three candidates to the Governor for his consideration pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §2702.

Questions?