

**Welcome to the  
Vermont State Board of Education!**

# State Board Membership

- **Jennifer Deck Samuelson, Chair** (2020 - 2/28/2026)
  - Winhall
- **Tammy Kolbe, Vice Chair** (2021 - 2/28/2027)
  - Warren
- **Mohamed Diop** (3/01/2023 - 2/28/2029)
  - Burlington
- **Grey Fearon** (7/01/2023 - 6/30/2025)
  - Panton
- **Kim Gleason** (3/01/2019 - 2/28/2025)
  - Grand Isle
- **Caleb Greenwood** (7/01/2024 - 6/30/2026)
  - Troy
- **Lyle Jepson** (3/01/2021 - 2/28/2027)
  - Rutland
- **Tom Lovett** (3/01/2021 - 2/28/2027)
  - Waterford
- **Jenna O'Farrell** (3/01/2019 - 2/28/2025)
  - St. Johnsbury
- **Richard Werner** (3/01//2024 - 2/28/2030)
  - East Dover
- **Zoie Saunders, Interim Secretary of Education**

# Relationship between AOE and SBE

## Act 98 of 2012:

- Established the Agency of Education
- Elevated the Commissioner to a cabinet-level Secretary of Education
  - Appointed by Governor
  - Reports directly to Governor
- SBE no longer responsible for overseeing AOE's policies, programs, or resources
- SBE still retains oversight with respect to rulemaking process
- AOE responsible for implementing rules and regulations adopted by the SBE

# Unique Position of SBE

- Independent Board of Citizens
- Neutral Body
  - Act consistent with legislative intent
  - Advise the General Assembly when asked
- Public Meeting Space
- Instrumentality of General Assembly
  - Ex.: School district mergers pursuant to Act 46 of 2015 implemented the legislature's vision for consolidation of school governance as a means of improving equity, excellence, and efficiency in the state's PreK-12 education system.

# Frequently Referenced Statutes

- **16 V.S.A. § 161** – State Board of Education; appointment of members; term; vacancy
- **16 V.S.A. § 162** – Removal of Board members
- **16 V.S.A. § 163** – Staff meetings
- **16 V.S.A. § 164** – State Board; general powers and duties
- **16 V.S.A. § 165** – Education quality standards; equal educational opportunities; independent school meeting education quality standards
- **16 V.S.A. § 166** – Approved and recognized independent schools

# SBE Activities

- Public Forum
  - All meetings are warned and open to the public
  - Meetings highlight successes and challenges at various schools
  - Meetings include regular presentations (updates from the field, DEI, other areas of interest)
- Independent School Approvals
- Quasi-Judicial Role
  - Rate appeals
  - Tuition appeals
- Withdrawals from SUs/SDs
- Performance and Content Standards
- Secretary Search
- Rulemaking
  - 2023: Rule Series 2000 (Education Quality Standards) and Rule Series 2200 (Independent School Program Approval)
  - 2024: Rule Series 2370 (Career & Technical Education)

# Board Activities

- Monthly meetings
  - Typically 3rd Wednesday of the month
  - Usually 3-4 hours beginning at 8:30am
  - Virtual vs. in-person
- Committee meetings
  - Independent School Approvals Committee
  - Roles & Responsibilities Committee
  - CTE Update Committee
- Special meetings

# Typical Monthly Meeting Agenda

- Public Comment
- Approval of prior meeting minutes
- Board Announcements
- Student Report
- Secretary's Report
- Committee Updates
- Independent School Approvals
- Updates from the Field
- Presentations



# Ways to Get Involved

- **Attend monthly meetings**
  - Agenda packets typically sent the Friday before the meeting
  - Notify the Chair, Maureen, and Suzanne if you are unable to attend, will be late, or need to leave early
- **Student Report**
- **Student-led projects**
  - Develop Student Surveys/Questionnaires
  - Suggest Presentation on Issues of interest
- **Join a committee**

# Questions?