

February 16, 2016

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.

MINUTES

Present

State Board of Education (SBE): Stephan Morse, Chair; Sean-Marie Oller, Vice Chair; Peter Peltz; William Mathis; Mark Perrin; Bonnie Johnson-Aten; Krista Huling; Dylan McAllister, Student Member; Rainbow Chen, Student member non-voting.

Agency of Education (AOE): Rebecca Holcombe, Bill Talbot, Donna Russo Savage, Robert Stirewalt, Rebecca Plude, Emmanuel Betz, Chris Case.

Others: Tiffany Pash, VT Digger; Mill Moore, VT Independent Schools Association; Karen Taylor Mitchell, Governor's Institutes of Vermont; David Young, Superintendent South Burlington; Erica Lowe, Arts Education Program Manager, VT Arts Council; Brent Kay, Superintendent, OSSU; Brooke Dingledeen, Act 46 committee chair, OSSU.

Item A: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

Vice-Chair Oller called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM. She reminded those in attendance to sign the attendance sheet. The members of the SBE introduced themselves.

Item B: Public to be heard

Karen Taylor Mitchell, MPA, Executive Director, Governor's Institutes of Vermont distributed materials to members present.

Item C: Consent Agenda

Motion: Peltz moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Johnson-Aten.

Oller made the following corrections: Johnson-Aten was present, correction to executive session exit time.

Vote: The motion passed.

Specifically, the items approved were: Item C – Consent Agenda

1. Minutes - January 19, 2016, SBE Meeting
2. Amendment to General and Special Education Approval
 - a. Turning Points School, Morgan

3. Temporary assignment of six supervisory districts - to the supervisory union the supervisory district would replace

Item D: Board Members Announcements and Student Representatives Emails

Huling updated the Board that she brought students from her women's studies class to a STEM gathering press conference at VT Technical College.

Mathis updated the Board that he participated in a recent NASBE ESSA conference call. The NASBE staff are in the process of developing rules alongside a team of negotiators.

Holcombe added that by December 2016 the Agency will have these items fleshed out in a plan to the US DOE. The Agency plans to solicit stakeholders in the coming months for feedback on this plan. There are pieces of the current Education Quality Reviews within the ESSA.

Item E: Chair's Report

S.Morse appointed Krista Huling as the SBE representative serving the ESSA Committee and the Agency; Peter Peltz was named as an alternate.

Item F: Secretary's Report

Huling asked if the graduation requirements and proficiencies that are to be implemented in 2020, will have guidance released soon. R. Chen echoed the sentiment that schools are struggling to implement ever changing proficiencies, they need time to digest and implement the new requirements.

Secretary Holcome responded that there have been many new initiatives which need to be implemented, and have profound implications for our systems, but also have no accompanying resources to support implementation.

Secretary Holcombe stated that at the next Board meeting they will schedule time to discuss ESSA as well as time for questions.

The Agency has received preliminary budget data from 79% of the total districts. Education spending is up 1.5% versus 2.5 % last year.

On February 14th an [article was published in USA Today](#) regarding the Agency's licensing division. Vermont was labeled one of the best in the nation.

Huling asked about proposed bill H.217 in the legislature. Holcombe responded that there are many issues that would arise from the implementation of this bill.

Item: G – Committee Reports

Mathis reviewed and distributed a draft report to the Governor and the general assembly. The Board made adjustments to the draft 2/16/16 version 1341.

Motion: Oller moved to approve this report for distribution to the Governor and general assembly of the VT Legislature. The motion was seconded by Peltz.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Agency staff will distribute the report to the appropriate contacts within the legislature.

Item: H - Legislative Update - Robert Stirewalt

Robert Stirewalt gave the Board a brief update on current legislative initiatives. AOE is currently operating at capacity and does not have resources to take on any additional new legislative and regulatory mandates. The Agency has continually expressed to lawmakers that our focus is on using existing resources as efficiently as possible, and on delivering on current mandates to the best of our ability. We discourage new mandates until we and the field have successfully implemented existing initiatives.

AOE staff has reminded legislators that requiring additional studies, reports, or additional responsibilities is not advisable without additional resources. New requirements, would involve more burden, more duplication, and more work, sometimes for minimal benefit, and would erode the ability of the Agency and our schools to serve our mission

With respect to Act 46, House Education and Senate Education seem disinclined to make changes to the language passed this year, beyond the allowable growth thresholds. We appreciate this, as we feel our systems need policy stability in order to move forward with the hard work they have been given under Act 46.

Both House Education and Senate Education appear to be narrowing their focus before crossover. Special education funding and delivery, school discipline, Career and Technical Education, the yield bill and licensing and professional regulation are primary areas of concern.

Item: I - Interstate Compact on Education for Military Children - David Young, Superintendent South Burlington

Young distributed materials regarding the Interstate Compact on Education for Military Children. This is intended to support children of military families in receiving equal opportunities in receiving the highest quality education.

Item J: National Core Arts Standards - Christopher Case, AOE

Case and Erica Lowe, Arts Education Program Manager, at the VT Arts Council; presented the new revised National Core Arts Standards which will be adopted as Vermont's new fine arts standards for the 2016-2017 school year.

Lowe clarified that these Standards are not a federal initiative.

Huling noted that implementation of these standards would be difficult for school year 2016-2017 given the available resources and staff at the agency, as well as additional initiatives being implemented in school districts.

Johnson-Aten asked what training is involved in implementation, there is so much being implemented right now, this may not be practical for the 2016-2017 school year.

Motion: Oller moved that the State Board of Education approve the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) for implementation for the 2016-2017 school year. The motion was seconded by Perrin.

Huling amended the motion: that the State Board of Education approve the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) for implementation for the 2017-2018 school year. The motion was seconded by Perrin.

Vote: The motion passed as amended. (7-1)

Item K: Extended Learning, Emmanuel Betz, AOE

Betz informed the Board of the programs history. The program receives about 5.5 million dollars annually from the federal government for operation of the program. The program began in Burlington via the Integrated Arts Academy. The program is intended to complement the learning occurring in schools and is targeted for regions that are highest in poverty, 40% free and reduced lunch or higher.

Perrin remarked that he spoke with Marisa Parizi from Hunger Free VT, exciting work is being done around free meals at schools.

The Board broke for lunch at 12:15 and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Act 46 Spending Thresholds Update - Bill Talbot

Talbot gave a brief update to the Board on the recent discussion within the legislature on the amended spending thresholds, [No. 65. An act relating to amending Act 46](#) (S.233).

Item L: [Act 46 Update - Approval of Act 46 Study Committee Reports](#)

Orange Southwest Supervisory Union – Brent Kay, Superintendent, Brooke Dingledeen, Act 46 committee chair.

The OSSU Study Committee recommends creation of a unified union school district that will be its own supervisory district. Although the proposal would unify the governance structures of all districts within the existing supervisory union within a short period of time, it is not presented as an Accelerated Merger pursuant to Act 46, Sec. 6.¹ Rather, the Study Committee proposes to form a Regional Education District (RED) pursuant to Act 153 (2010), as amended. The OSSU consists of four school districts: the Brookfield Town School District, the Braintree Town School District, the Randolph Town School District (collectively, the Town Districts), and the Randolph Union High School District #2 (UHSD #2). Each of the Town Districts operates a school to educate its resident elementary students. The UHSD #2 operates grades 7-12 for students in all three member towns and hosts the regional career technical center, the Randolph Technical Career Center.

The New Unified District would be governed by an eight member school board. Board members would be nominated by and from among the electorate of the individual towns, with the number to be nominated by a single town based roughly upon the town's population as recorded in the 2010 federal census. The electorate of the entire New Unified District would elect all members. The Articles include a requirement for the apportionment of board members to be "revisited" following the release of each decennial census.

Motion: Oller moved that the State Board of Education finds that the proposed formation of a new unified union school district, which is its own supervisory district, by the member districts of the Orange Southwest Supervisory Union is "in the best interests of the State, the students, and the school districts" pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 706c(b); and That the State Board vote to approve the attached report of the OSSU Study Committee. The motion was seconded by Perrin.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Item M: 2016 Status Report Women, Work and Wages in Vermont; Krista Huling

Huling led a discussion on the State Board of Education, using data found in the [2016 Status Report: Women, Work and Wages in Vermont](#). The Board: reviewed the data from the 2016 Status Report; identified how this data connects to students in our schools; analyzed how this data connects to the achievement/opportunity gap; and considered how this data should be used while making Education Policy.

Adjourn

Motion: Mathis moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:07 PM. The motion was seconded by Johnson-Aten.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Rebecca Plude