

January 17, 2018

- 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.*

Draft Minutes

Present:

State Board of Education (SBE): Krista Huling, Chair; William Mathis, Vice Chair; Connor Solimano; Mark Perrin; Peter Peltz; John Carroll; Stacy Weinberger; Callahan Beck; Rebecca Holcombe

Agency of Education (AOE): Donna Russo-Savage; Heather Bouchey; Emily Simmons; Molly Bachman; Cassandra Ryan; Jay Ramsey; Oscar Aliaga; Pat Fitzsimmons; Martha Deiss; Michael Hock; Linda Moreno; Glenn Bailey; Doug Webster; Greg Jones; Gabriel McGann; Haley Jones; Suzanne Sprague

Others: Tiffany Pache, VTDigger; Juliette Longchamp, Vermont NEA; Mill Moore, VISA; John Pelletier, Champlain College; Justin Norris, Essex Junction; Courtney Poquette, Winooski High School; David Lamberti, Burlington High School; Peter Clarke, Act 46 Coordinator, WSE; David Baker, Superintendent, WSESU; Amy McMullen, Windsor; Sean Whalen, Weathersfield; Elizabeth Burrows, West Windsor; Ellen Mercer Fallon, Langrock, Sperry and Wool; Jeffrey Caron, Becket Family of Services; Karen Langley, Becket Family of Services

Item A: Call to Order

Chair Huling convened the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Item B: Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Huling asked the State Board of Education members to introduce themselves.

Item C: Public to be Heard

Juliette Longchamp, Director of Professional Programs at Vermont NEA, advised that there are 18 new board certified teachers in Vermont making it the largest cohort ever to achieve board certification. She said the Vermont NEA will host an accomplished teacher reception to honor the group and State Board members will receive an invitation to attend.

Item D: Consent Agenda

Carroll made a request to separate from the consent agenda items D1 and D3. Carroll made a motion to approve the consent agenda as modified. Weinberger seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

Carroll shared an amendment to D1 under agenda item G and asked that it replace the language as initially drafted. Carroll moved that that D1 be adopted with the proposed amendment. Mathis seconded. Chair Huling explained that a title was incorrect in the initial draft and a sentence was confusing. Secretary Holcombe said that one of the challenges the support team has is determining the level of detail to be included in the minutes. She continued that unless it transcribed every word that is said, it is possible that some things will be omitted. Secretary Holcombe wanted to be careful and respectful to the people taking the minutes and understand that a common practice in minute-taking is to be parsimonious. She reminded the Board that the meeting is recorded for people who require further detail. Chair Huling added that the topic was a bit controversial and needed a little clarification. Secretary Holcombe said that what is controversial to the State Board may not be seen as controversial to someone else.

Weinberger asked for further clarification on the amended language. Carroll said that Senator Baruth's title was incorrectly cited; language that was accurately reported but provocative; and, an additional sentence was confusing and required additional clarification. Solimano asked if the amendment was for clarification only and included no substantive change. Carroll said the amendment included no substantive changes.

Vote passed unanimously to adopt D1 with amended language.

Chair Huling asked Carroll to explain his reasoning behind the request that D3 be separated from the consent agenda. Carroll said that he is concerned with D3 and noted that the wording and characterizations are not enthusiastic or favorable. He noted that the independent reviewer indicated that the academic course of study is barely adequate and the institution is on the margin in a number of respects. Carroll said he is uneasy approving a term of 5 years. He added there are concerns and the Board should know that these concerns are being addressed. Carroll suggested that the motion be amended to 18 months to 2 years. Chair Huling said that she had the same reaction to length of the renewal. Secretary Holcombe suggested that the item be tabled until an Agency of Education representative could address the Board and can speak to the specific issues raised by the board.

Peltz made a motion to table the discussion on item D3. Carroll seconded.

Item E: Board Announcements

Peltz said that he, Governor Scott, Secretary Holcombe and Melissa Bailey, Agency of Human Services, visited Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union to hear testimony regarding trauma and behavioral issues at this district's schools. He said the issues are distressing and impact teachers, students and parents. Peltz said the SU is in a difficult position by having to hire clinicians or mental health personnel versus teachers for handling the desperate situations.

Secretary Holcombe said there is a statewide increase in poverty, extreme economic adversity, and an increase in mental health issues often related to family trauma. She said systems are working to respond and resolve the issues. Secretary Holcombe said that many schools are trying to figure out how to offer wrap-around services to address the issues. She said a problem with some of the smaller schools is that they are not big enough to offer daily full-time support and therefore, must think differently about how to support the children. Secretary Holcombe

said that school systems are looking for different strategies and that there is no doubt that there is an increase in stress and mental health issues, and that schools are directly beginning to feel the impact of trauma associated with the opiate crisis. Discussion followed regarding counselors versus clinicians and female counselors.

Secretary Holcombe said when families experience trauma, there may be challenges to support the younger generation and that two-generation strategies may be necessary for supporting families.

Item F: Chair's Report

Chair Huling requested that Board members take extra time when filling out their expense reports.

Chair Huling said that at the next meeting the Board will be voting on the strategic vision. She said that a committee will be needed to complete work on State Board goals. Chair Huling asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. She said that Carroll will serve as chair of the committee.

Chair Huling said that the Legislative Subcommittee was able to meet with the House and Senate Education committees and a representative of the Senate Pro Tempore's Office on January 10th. She said Peltz will give a full update during his committee report.

Mathis said that he visited approximately 7 schools last month. He noticed that the schools looked empty due to declining enrollments. Mathis said he appreciated the effort put forth by superintendents, principals and school boards to create responsible budgets.

Item G: Committee Reports

Peltz summarized the legislative subcommittee work from December 2017 – January 2018. He said the annual report was distributed and well received by the State House. The legislative subcommittee met with House and Senate Education committees and a representative from the Senate Pro Tem's office. He said that special education was high-lighted. Peltz said that the House Education committee was particularly concerned with special education, proficiency-based learning and the lack of guidance from the state, whether a civics test should be a graduation requirement and Act 46 and alternative governance structure submittals. He said that Representative Sharpe asked for State Board feedback on the two special education reports and to look at ineffective legislation that may need to be changed. Mathis and Peltz will take the lead on special education as a legislative priority. Chair Huling and Solimano will take the lead on proficiency-based learning as a legislative priority. Peltz said the Legislative Subcommittee took a neutral stance on the Approved Independent Schools Study Committee Report.

Carroll said that he observed the Senate Education committee's understanding of the challenges faced by Act 46 and 49. He said Senator Baruth extended his support for the hard work that is ahead of the State Board. Chair Huling said that there was a commitment from Senate Education not to address Act 46 in the current Legislative Session and that there is no plan to change the rules.

Item H: Student Reports

Solimano said that the Burlington Free Press has acknowledged their 2017 Vermonter of the Year. He said the award went to Isaiah Hines, a former South Burlington High School student. Solimano said Hines was the student representative of the South Burlington School Board. He said Hines was recognized for his work in advocating for the name and mascot change. Solimano was encouraged that he was recognized for his work because regardless of personal views, he set a great example of a student seeing a problem and speaking out. He said it would have been easier for Hines to say nothing. Solimano said that this is a prime example of a student sticking to what he believes in and making a change a reality.

Chair Huling said that Hines was true grace under fire. He was personally attacked by adults and rose above it. She said that Hines embodied taking the high road at all times and fighting for what he thought was right.

Chair Huling addressed the Education Summit. She said it was supposed to focus on financing but instead turned to focus on opportunity. Mathis said it was a positive meeting which was the opposite of what he was expecting. Carroll said that one panel included superintendents who volunteered their experience with merging districts and consolidation. He said they spoke of improving access and equity as well as efficiency and laying the groundwork for better utilization of resources.

Item K: 2017 Smarter Balanced Results Presentation

Chair Huling referenced a handout dated March 17, 2015. She explained it was the State Board's statement and resolution on the appropriate use of SBAC standardized tests and school accountability. Chair Huling said the document gives insight on the State Board's view on standardized tests. Carroll asked if there was intent to revise the State Board's position on standardized tests. Chair Huling said there would be discussion at the end of the presentation to determine the State Board's view.

Jon Cohen, President of AIR Assessment, presented to the Board. He addressed four issues in his presentation: 1) Should we trust the results? 2) What are the results telling us? 3) How can we use test results to improve? and 4) What resources are we providing to educators and students to help target instruction? Cohen shared his thoughts and additionally, provided and reviewed data from Vermont and around the country.

In summary, Cohen said that the test results are stable, valid, reliable, and accurately reflect learning. He said Vermont's results are pretty typical and Vermont is not seeing the improvement that it would like to see. Cohen said Vermont can use the testing data for a strong accountability system, to target audits for its educational improvement programs, to evaluate the efficacy of programs such as professional development offerings and other educational improvement initiatives. He suggested that the State use the reported results to evaluate curricula, teaching methods, etc. to see what works and replace things that do not and to use the data to identify groups of students with specific skills or deficits to target instruction more effectively.

Michael Hock, Assessment Director for Vermont, referred the State Board to a memo that was shared by the Smarter Balanced Consortium regarding ongoing due diligence analysis of the

summative assessment results. He said that Smarter Balanced has just begun analyzing the data from the states. Secretary Holcombe said the delay in getting data from states to Smarter Balanced was related making sure to expose student confidentiality. Discussion followed regarding interpretation of data, typical result patterns, equating error, accountability hiatus, NAEP, IFR and continuous improvement. Hock said that most assumed the test results went down for the entire state, which was not the case. He added that one-third of the state schools made considerable progress and had an increase in the test results and the schools that had lower scores went down substantially. Carroll wondered if the state really took a hiatus from accountability. Hock said that the federal government relaxed accountability requirements and allowed two years to develop a new accountability system under ESSA. He added that this year was the baseline year.

Chair Huling asked the State Board if further discussion is required on the topic and if there are substantial changes to the Board statement. Carroll said that it should be reviewed/updated to reconsider some of the outdated language.

Item J: Secretary's Report

Secretary Holcombe said that through the testing portal, AIR identified a student at risk who indicated that they were depressed or suicidal. AIR notified the Agency of Education who in turn reached out to the school, which was able to provide support to the student.

Secretary Holcombe said that the Agency of Education is in the process of replacing the current online grants management system, partly due to technical challenges, which were interfering in the Agency's ability to process the grants in a timely manner. She said the new system should reduce work by the supervisory unions and enable the Agency of Education to monitor the process through the platform.

Secretary Holcombe said that the Agency of Education testified to the Legislature several times on the Common Chart of Accounts. She said the topic was driven by concerns that there were no standard accounting practices district to district. Secretary Holcombe said that with the assistance of the Vermont Association of School Business Officers, the Common Chart of Accounts was developed and we are now reviewing bids for a state-wide affordable platform with defined categories to provide greater consistency and accountability across all school business systems.

Secretary Holcombe said that the Teacher Regulation Branch of the Ministry of Education in British Columbia reached out to the Agency's Educator Quality Division to praise and recognize the ROPA (Results Oriented Program Approval) work. She said that British Columbia will be building their ROPA program to model Vermont's program.

Secretary Holcombe said that the Agency of Education supports adult education state-wide and were made aware that on two separate occasions students leaving an adult education facility have been detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. She said this was a reason of concern because any minor child has a right to an education whether they are a documented citizen or not.

Secretary Holcombe gave a presentation on budgets and tax rates to assist in understanding when districts talk about budgets at the local level. She said that there are two questions that are always asked, 1) What drives tax rates, and; 2) What do we spend our money on? Secretary Holcombe explained baseline tax rates and the different variables involved. Chair Huling asked how the Act 46 tax cuts play into the tax rates. Secretary Holcombe said that the Education Fund is designed to be self-balancing and the Act 46 transition dollars are built into it. She added that it will be harder to raise revenue this year than it was last year and should signal to the districts to be more cautious in budgeting. Secretary Holcombe said that a high tax rate is one way the Education Fund indicates that a district's budget is out of line with its numbers of students. She added that total local expenditures are not the same as per pupil spending and that a district's operations should be in line with student population or its ability to pay. Secretary Holcombe said that budget talks which focus on expenditures and not spending per pupil suggest there is not an understanding of fundamentals. Secretary Holcombe said that about 73% of education dollars are spent on most costs in public schools, tuition payments to other public, independent and out-of-state schools, supervisory union costs and prekindergarten. She continued that about 19% is spent on special education costs in public and independent schools. The remaining monies are spent on subsidies to small schools, education of children in state custody, supporting technology, flexible pathways, transportation, Community High School of Vermont, teacher pensions and other administrative costs.

Item L: Ratios

Secretary Holcombe said there has been a significant and pronounced decline in student enrollment and that some correction in the number of teachers in some of the larger systems is taking place. Secretary Holcombe said that the state is seeing stability in other staff beyond the educator workforce area such as paraprofessionals. She added when thinking about budgets, systems must be intentional when filling a position and fill the position with skilled people who can effectively support the students who need help so the students won't have such an intense need for support later in life. With the education transformation currently taking place, systems can use attrition to reduce the number of staff and repurpose positions while making sure that the needs of the students are being met. Secretary Holcombe said that the student to teacher ratio is about 4:1 and is an expensive way to educate kids. She continued that the administrator to teacher ratio is high as well and in some places, mean proportionally more is spent on administrators rather than direct services for the kids. Secretary Holcombe said that the decisions in regards to managing ratios need to be thoughtful, intentional and in line with the system's needs and resources.

Secretary Holcombe said that the District Management Group report suggests that in many cases, school systems are relying on paraprofessionals for primary instruction. She said this is a real concern because paraprofessionals do not always have the instructional skill and expertise of an educator. Discussion followed regarding reporting data, staff reductions and staff turnover.

Chair Huling called for a recess at 11:03 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:17 a.m.

Item M: Financial Literacy Standards

Pat Fitzsimmons introduced the Agency of Education STEM Specialist, Greg Young, to the State Board. She said with his hiring, the Proficiency-Based Learning team is full for the first time.

Martha Deiss, the Agency of Education's Global Citizen Specialist, said that financial literacy is viewed from multiple lenses. She reviewed the mandate to investigate the adoption of new standards to address financial literacy. Deiss shared a crosswalk of the C3 standards and the Family Consumer Sciences Education grade expectations with the Common Core Math for grades K-8 and 9-12. She explained that there are some holes in terms of risk management, insurance and some aspects of credit and debt which led her to believe in the need for more current and robust standards. Deiss reviewed the survey results with curriculum directors which included that financial literacy be taught within multiple disciplines, taught not only at the high school level, include an early education foundation to be built upon and not be another expense. Deiss said that Jump\$tart was the financial literacy standards of choice mainly because of its K-12 classroom perspective and that it can be used as a guide for post-secondary and adult education and outside the classroom experiences which lends itself well to flexible pathways. Jump\$tart is written so that a math, social studies or a business teacher can use them. She added that 5% of the survey respondents were already using the Jump\$tart standards with 90% of respondents not answering the question to identify the standards they currently use. Deiss said that there are free resources for both educators and students.

Deiss said that if the financial literacy standards are approved, she will notify the field through the Agency of Education's Weekly Field Memo and list serves. She has been working with the Agency's Math Specialist to reach the math teachers regarding financial literacy. Deiss mentioned that Vermont State Treasurer, Beth Pearce, will be presenting financial literacy standards to the U.S. Department of Education.

Discussion followed.

Chair Huling invited public comment. The following people addressed the State Board of Education:

Dave Lamberti, Burlington High School Business and Technology Teacher
John Pelletier, Champlain College and the Financial Literacy Commission
Courtney Poquette, Winooski High School Business and Personal Finance Teacher
Justin Norris, Essex High School Math Teacher

Perrin made a motion to adopt the Jump\$tart National Standards. Carroll seconded. No discussion. Vote passed unanimously.

Item N: Cross-Walk: Vital Results and Transferable Skills

Pat Fitzsimmons asked the State Board to refer to the document which shows a the crosswalk between the vital results and the standards. She said that the last vital results were released in 2000 and a lot has changed since then. Fitzsimmons said the standards now have a much broader effect on learning than the content.

Fitzsimmons said that the request is to replace the framework of standards with the new transferable skills, content standards, technology standards and the Jump\$Start standards. Secretary Holcombe said that the State Board has adopted a series of standards but an audit of what was in place prior to the new adoptions had not taken place. Chair Huling said the Board is voting to replace the vital results from 2000.

Carroll made a motion to adopt the Secretary of Education's recommendation. Perrin seconded. Discussion followed regarding transferable skills. Vote passed unanimously.

Item O: Mapping Out of Next 6-9 Months

Chair Huling said that she would like the State Board to be mindful of its work and upcoming due dates. She shared a document and asked the Board members to review and advise if there are any additions. Chair Huling said the document will be addressed again at the end of the meeting. Discussion followed on the State Board work, calendar, the vision of the Board through the lenses of the three Es (Equity, Excellence and Efficiency) and the state plan. Chair Huling said that there will be a State Board of Education meeting in July and to hold the date so there is a quorum. She additionally said there may be a need for a second meeting in November. The State Board agreed to meet in November on 14 and 28, 2018.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:35 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:13 p.m.

Item Q: Career Pathways Presentation/Discussion

Jay Ramsey, State Director, Career and Technical Education, and Oscar Aliaga, Career Pathways Coordinator, presented on Career Pathways: A Vision for a System in Vermont. Ramsey said that Aliaga's position with the Agency of Education is new and is a state funded position authorized by bill S.135.

Ramsey and Aliaga jointly presented on: career pathways, what career pathways must have, core issues, levels of operation, components from the Work Investment Opportunity Act, multiple entry points, postsecondary pathways, career pathways as programs and specific options for students, and, career clusters and pathways.

Discussion followed regarding understanding the skills that are needed, involving employers, low yield industry, global industries, broader opportunities, experimenting with career and academics, funding high schools and CTE.

Chair Huling asked if the CTE rules were outdated and if the rules should be updated. Ramsey said the rules are outdated and the standards have not been updated since 1998 and there is nothing in the rules that addresses career pathways. He continued that with the creation of Aliaga's position, the state is signaling that career pathways is important. Discussion followed regarding transferable skills and the old vocational model.

Ramsey said that he is beginning a strategic visioning process for CTE that will involve a lot of stakeholders to determine what could and should be changed and to make recommendations to the State Board. He said the state has contracted with Advanced CTE and this summer, at a one-day event, they will lead the stakeholders through the process to develop a strategic vision.

Ramsey said that at the end of the process they will have reviewed all the rules and statutes and use it as a springboard for the next state plan for Perkins. He said they are trying to position Perkins to support the state initiatives. Chair Huling asked Ramsey for an update on this work in the fall.

Item R: Update Act 49, Section 9 Proposals

Donna Russo-Savage gave a governance update. She said that there are two reconsideration votes in February so the numbers will remain the same for a month or so. Russo-Savage shared a draft document that lists SU name, district names, and whether or not a Section 9 proposal had been received. She said the proposals received to date are very different with some districts requesting to be merged and some asking to remain as single-town districts; some are lengthy and some are two-page letters. Russo-Savage said that this next phase would involve review of approximately 40 proposals from approximately 73 – 80 districts in about 70 towns. She added that almost everyone has responded. The districts in two SUs have asked for more time because they are in the process of preparing new merger proposals.

Russo-Savage said that the Secretary will be scheduling meetings with school boards over the next couple of months. She added some decisions will be simpler than others. Russo-Savage said she is still working on how to organize and approach the project and how the Secretary’s proposal and the State Board’s final document might potentially look.

Item S: Update SU Size

Russo-Savage shared a FY 2018 ADM report with FY 2019 SU configuration. She said there is nothing in law that provides an absolute requirement in regards to SU size. Long-standing statute gives the State Board the authority to redraw SU boundaries and only mentions doing so “to afford increased efficiency or greater convenience and economy” with no mention of numbers or size. Russo-Savage said that when Act 46 was enacted in 2015, it gave guidance that listed 1100 ADM as viable and with the Legislature’s 2017 amendment, guidance regarding a viable size was adjusted to 900 ADM. Secretary Holcombe said that she is hearing from smaller struggling districts and there is a growing understanding of the efficiency advantages of being larger and the opportunities of scale.

Item T: West Windsor and Windsor Merger Proposal

Russo-Savage introduced the West Windsor and Windsor merger proposal. The proposal was presented by David Baker, Superintendent, Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union, Amy McMullan, Windsor School Board, Elizabeth Burrows, West Windsor School Board Chair, Sean Walin, Weathersfield School Board Chair, Peter Clarke, Act 46 Consultant. Baker said that this was a bit difficult because Windsor Southwest SU has three different operating structures. He said that included in the report are alternative governance proposals and that the State Board is considering the merger of West Windsor and Windsor only.

Carroll moved to approve the Secretary of Education’s recommendation. Weinberger seconded. No discussion. The vote passed unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 3:10 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 3:25 p.m.

Item V: SU Records Retention

Russo-Savage said that with the dissolving of supervisory unions and the changing of supervisory union boundaries, records of the dissolved supervisory unions still need to be maintained. She said the supervisory union records include audits, board minutes, warnings, contracts and records of supervisory union employees. Russo-Savage said that conversations have taken place with the Public Records office and the Archives Division of the Secretary of State's Office and also with attorneys representing new supervisory unions. She said it makes sense for new supervisory unions to become the custodian of the documents and be responsible for closing financials and supporting final audits.

Russo-Savage asked that a State Board vote be postponed until next month. She said there is an upcoming meeting with superintendents to discuss other issues that have arisen around SU creation and dissolution and there may be more issues that the State Board will have to consider, review and resolve. Russo-Savage said that if there are more items needing attention, the State Board can address and vote on all them at one time. Discussion followed regarding supervisory union records, district records and student records.

This item was tabled until the February 21st, 2018 meeting.

Item W: Connecticut River Academy

Molly Bachman, General Counsel for the Agency of Education, walked through the recommendation for renewal and approval of the Connecticut River Academy. She said that representatives of the academy are in attendance and available to address any questions. Bachman said the question is whether the State Board of Education will grant renewal of general and special education independent school approval to serve students in grades 6-12 within the disability categories of Emotional Disturbance, Specific Learning Disability and Other Health Impairment to the Connecticut River Academy (CRA). She said that CRA applied for additional approval of special education categories Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Delay, Intellectual Disability and Multiple Disabilities.

Bachman said that Connecticut River Academy is an independent school privately owned by the Beckett Family of Services. She added that there were three reviewers. The recommendation of the general education approval was for a 3-year approval with conditions to develop an improvement plan to address the high rate of staff turnover and develop a plan to address capital improvements which the review found barely adequate. She said the special education reviewers also commented on the high staff turnover rate and that there was not enough special education staff to provide the services required by the students' IEPs. Bachman said the record keeping was sub-par and indicated that staff working hours were insufficient to supply the services required. The recommendation of that team was to deny special education approval.

Bachman said CRA acknowledged deficiencies and shortcomings and generally agreed with the reports. She continued that CRA have taken steps to address deficiencies and consulted with a special education expert to look at special education compliance on a weekly basis. Bachman said the Council of Independent Schools report recommends a 12-month approval with conditions.

The Secretary of Education's recommendation recognizes the serious deficiencies but allows the school to continue to avoid interruption for the students through June 30, 2019 during which time improvements can continue to be made by CRA. Bachman said that the Secretary of Education's recommendation is to deny expansion of other special education categories. She said there is nothing, however, to prevent CRA from re-applying for approval of additional special education categories.

Chair Huling said that she was bothered by these reports especially that the evidence suggests students are not getting their required services and additionally that it is too costly to monitor. Carroll expressed that the leadership and governance of CRA should, proactively address and take more responsibility for driving improvement in the operation of CRA. Discussion followed regarding leadership and governance of the school and the facility being barely adequate.

Carroll made a motion to accept the Secretary of Education's recommended action. Perrin seconded.

Chair Huling invited representatives from the Connecticut River Academy to address the Board. Ellen Mercer Fallon, CRA legal representative from Langrock, Sperry and Wool, said that CRA received the Secretary's recommendation on Friday, January 12 at 4:50 p.m. She said that enough time was not given to prepare for the meeting. Mercer Fallon said that if the State Board acts favorably on the Secretary's recommended action then everything comes out alright in the end but for the record, due to the lack of notice and the CRA's inability to substantively respond to the report, if the approval does not pass by the State Board, CRA will request a hearing. She said that she does not want to give the impression that CRA is anything but a fine program for an extremely challenging group of individuals. CRA has dedicated and long term teachers. The school struggles to maintain special educators. Mercer Fallon said that she wants the record to reflect that CRA is a premiere program and other programs seek them out for training of their staff.

Mathis asked Bachman if the complaint about timeline is correct and fair. Bachman said CRA has had notice of the reports for months. She said CRA was notified that they were on the State Board agenda on Thursday, January 11. Carroll asked if it was the preference of CRA to postpone the vote until the next meeting. Fallon said that CRA can live with the Secretary's recommendation.

Mathis moved to table CRA approval until the February 21, 2018 meeting. Carroll seconded. Solimano asked why the Agency of Education did not move the meeting to February meeting. Bachman said the request had to do with the Autism Spectrum Disorder and was not pertinent to the entire green sheet.

Jeff Carron, President of Vermont Permanency Initiative, addressed the State Board. He said that the Vermont Permanency Initiative agreed to take over the CRA. Carron said it has a full board, president and board of directors. Chair Huling said that her concern is that students with IEPs are not getting services in buildings that are barely adequate. Mercer Fallon said that this was a record keeping error. Secretary Holcombe asked Bachman for clarification. Bachman said that the paperwork was not clear but looking at the staffing reports, it was not possible that

services were provided based on the hours worked by the special education staff. Carron explained the history of the Vermont Permanency Initiative and how CRA came to be housed out of a restaurant. Carron said that the school is running at a deficit and that the other companies front resources. Discussion followed regarding record keeping, leadership and the Beckett Family of Services' board of directors.

Mathis called the question. Carroll said that it must be a 2/3 majority. Chair Huling did a roll call vote.

Vote:

Weinberger – No

Solimano – No

Peltz – No

Mathis – Yes

Perrin – No

Carroll – Yes

Motion to table failed.

Carroll said that it is not up to the Agency of Education (AOE) and the State Board (SBE) to give guidance on how to run a great school. He continued both the AOE and SBE count on the schools to know how to run a school. Carroll said that he hopes the CRA governing entity will make the changes necessary so that CRA becomes an exemplary school.

Chair Huling called the question to accept the Secretary of Education's recommendation. Vote passed unanimously.

Item X: Approved Independent Schools Study Committee

Chair Huling said that the report of the Approved Independent Schools Study Committee is out and does not give direction for the State Board. Carroll said that the statute said the State Board could not continue to work on Rule 2200 until the study committee finished its work. Chair Baruth indicated that he will take the issues to his committee to address the topic through the legislative process. Carroll said that State Board could proceed with rulemaking at this time. He said there is some indication from Chair Baruth that it would be preferable not to have the State Board working on Rule 2200 at the same time as the Legislature.

Carroll shared a proposed resolution with the State Board which states the State Board will suspend further rulemaking in connection with Rule 2200 Series until after the 2018 Legislative Session.

Carroll made a motion that the State Board adopt the resolution as written. Mathis seconded. Carroll commended Johnson-Aten on gently initiating a conversation amongst the approved independent school study committee regarding "school mission" being a code word for something else in regards to a decision of a student being admitted into a private school needing special services. He said Bonnie's statement ultimately led Chair Baruth to ask the

independent school representatives to respond. He said the independent school representatives agreed, stepped up and did their part. Carroll said it was a big moment for the committee.

Vote passed unanimously.

Item Y: Calendar Review

Chair Huling said that MTSS, Supervisory Union records retention, Vermont School for Girls and Small Schools grants will be on the agenda for the February 21, 2018 meeting.

Carroll and Solimano will not be at the February meeting.

Weinberger moved to adjourn. Carroll seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague
