

**Email: Interview Request from VTDigger**

**From:** [rnbland59@gmail.com](mailto:rnbland59@gmail.com) <[rnbland59@gmail.com](mailto:rnbland59@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2022 11:25 AM

**To:** Peter D'Auria <[pdauria@vtdigger.org](mailto:pdauria@vtdigger.org)>

**Cc:** Olsen, Oliver <[Oliver.Olsen@vermont.gov](mailto:Oliver.Olsen@vermont.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Interview request from VTDigger

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hi Peter,

Thanks for your article.

As you know, on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> (one week after Morrystown and Elmore voted to ratify Stowe's withdrawal from the Lamoille South Unified Union School District), we requested a preliminary hearing before the State Board of Education. Chairman Olsen stated that he had asked the Attorney General's Office for an Advisory Opinion and guidance on our request to withdraw from the LSUUSD. To our knowledge, the Attorney General's Office hasn't given that opinion or guidance to the State Board of Education and isn't inclined to do so anytime soon. Seven weeks later, we're still waiting for the hearing to be scheduled.

The three towns voted to form the LSUUSD and the three towns have voted for Stowe to withdraw from it. It sure seems like we're getting the "stiff-arm" and runaround from our public servants at the State Board of Education and Attorney General's Office – Readsboro, which withdrew from a voluntary merger, and Westminster, which withdrew from a "forced merger," didn't receive the same "treatment" that were getting.

By not scheduling a hearing for us, the State Board is, in effect, denying Stowe, Morrystown and Elmore (Elmore's about to hold another vote, with all of the attendant costs, to withdraw from the LSUUSD) of a hearing; indeed, it's denying the votes in the three towns which comprise the LSUUSD.

The three towns are waiting. We think that you should find out why it's taking so long for us to get a hearing. Surely, we shouldn't have to seek a court order to get a hearing before the State Board.

Regards,

Richard

**From:** Peter D'Auria <[pdauria@vtdigger.org](mailto:pdauria@vtdigger.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 17, 2021 2:47 PM

**To:** Richard Bland <[rnbland59@gmail.com](mailto:rnbland59@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** [jim@brookfieldservice.com](mailto:jim@brookfieldservice.com)

**Subject:** Re: Interview request from VTDigger

Thank you! Looking forward to speaking with you both.

Peter

On Fri, Dec 17, 2021 at 2:44 PM Richard Bland <[rnbland59@gmail.com](mailto:rnbland59@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Peter,

Jim and I will call you at 3:45 pm.

Regards,

Richard

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 17, 2021, at 12:10 PM, Peter D'Auria <[pdauria@vtdigger.org](mailto:pdauria@vtdigger.org)> wrote:

Hello,

My name is Peter D'Auria and I'm a reporter with VTDigger. I'm working on a story about the bid for Stowe to withdraw from LSUU, and I was hoping to speak to someone involved in the campaign to leave.

If you would be available to chat briefly sometime today, please feel free to call/text me at 802-595-9908 or email me here.

Thank you!

Peter

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