

AGENCY OF EDUCATION  
Barre, Vermont

**TEAM:** School Governance

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education approve the request of the **ADDISON NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY DISTRICT** to change its name officially to the **MOUNT ABRAHAM UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT** and will it certify this name change to the Secretary of State?

**SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

- 1. That the State Board of Education approve the request of the Addison Northeast Supervisory District to change its name officially to the Mount Abraham Unified School District; and**
- 2. That the State Board of Education authorize its Chair to certify this name change to the Secretary of State.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 16 V.S.A. § 706c and § 164

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** On September 20, 2016, the State Board of Education approved the Addison Northeast Supervisory Union Study Committee's proposal to create a unified union school district to be known as the "Addison Northeast Supervisory District."

The voters of all identified districts approved the proposal on November 8, 2016.

Before the new unified union school district was authorized to conduct its organizational meeting and swear in its new board members, 16 V.S.A. § 706g required the Secretary of Education to record a certificate with the Secretary of State that designated the new entity as a unified union school district and identified the new district by name. The Secretary of State recorded the existence of the new district under the name "Addison Northeast Supervisory District."

Shortly thereafter, the new unified union school district held its organizational meeting during which the members of the new unified board were sworn in and assumed office. On May 23, 2017, the board voted unanimously to change the unified district's name to the "Mount Abraham Unified School District."

Title 16, chapter 11 does not provide a process by which a unified union school district can formally change its officially recorded name. Similarly, the Secretary of State's Office

has not identified a statutory procedure in Title 17 or elsewhere that would be appropriate to this particular situation.

Review of the Agency's files of union school districts created in the 1960s revealed at least one instance in which, at the request of an existing union high school district, the State Board approved an official name change from "UHSD # \_\_\_" to an unrelated name ("the \_\_\_ UHSD") and certified the name change to the Secretary of State.

In 2016, the Secretary of State's Office agreed to use this same approval-certification process to change the officially recorded name of the "Franklin Central Unified School District" to the "Maple Run Unified School District."

By letter dated May 31, 2017 (attached), the Addison Northeast Supervisory District Board requests that the State Board approve and certify a formal change in its name.

The Agency supports the Addison Northeast Supervisory District's request that the State Board approve a formal name change to the "Mount Abraham Unified School District" and certify this change to the Secretary of State.

**POLICY, EDUCATION, AND FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:** This request raises no policy, education, or fiscal implications.

**STAFF AVAILABLE:** Donna Russo-Savage,  
Principal Assistant to the Secretary, School Governance



**Addison Northeast Supervisory Union**  
**72 Munsill Avenue, Building 6, Suite 601, Bristol, VT 05443**  
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*MT. ABRAHAM UNION MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ~ BRISTOL ~ LINCOLN ~ MONKTON ~ NEW HAVEN ~ STARKSBORO*

May 31, 2017

Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe  
State Board of Education Chair Krista Huling  
219 North Main Street, Suite 402  
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Secretary Holcombe and State Board of Education Chair Krista Huling:

After a lengthy process involving a naming committee of the new unified Addison Northeast Board and two surveys with input from hundreds of members of our five towns, a new name was chosen for the unified district.

At their Board meeting on May 23, 2017, the temporarily named Addison Northeast School District Board voted unanimously to name the new district, "Mt. Abraham Unified School District."

The Board respectfully requests that you approve this formal name change at your next State Board meeting.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn K. Griswold". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dawn Griswold  
Chair, ANESU Board and MAUSD Board

cc: Donna Russo-Savage

