

**AGENCY OF EDUCATION**

**Barre, Vermont**

**TEAM:** School Governance

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education authorize the member districts of each new or adjusted supervisory union approved at this meeting to appoint a supervisory union board (“Transitional SU Board”) on or after August 31, 2017 for the purposes of adopting policies and making other transitional decisions before the new or adjusted supervisory union is fully operational on July 1, 2018? It is intended that this authorization would not negate the State Board’s prior assignment of any newly created unified district to a pre-existing supervisory union for administrative and other transitional services.

**SECRETARY’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

- 1. That the State Board of Education authorize the member districts of each new or adjusted supervisory union approved at this August 30, 2017 meeting to appoint a Transitional SU Board on or after August 31, 2017.**
- 2. That the State Board of Education declare that the authorization to appoint a Transitional SU Board does not negate the State Board’s prior temporary assignment of any newly created unified district to a pre-existing supervisory union for administrative and other transitional services.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 16 V.S.A. § 261; Act 153 (2010), as amended; Act 156 (2012), as amended; Act 46 (2015), as amended; Act 49 (2017)

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

At the August 30, 2017 meeting of the State Board, districts in five current supervisory unions (“SUs”) requested adjustment of current SU boundaries as follows:

- Agenda Item K – Rutland Central and Rutland Southwest SUs:
  - Creation of a New SU for the Quarry Valley UUSD & Wells Springs UUSD
  - Addition of the Rutland Town School District to the New SU
  - Addition of the Ira School District to the New SU
- Agenda Item Q-1 – Caledonia North, Essex-Caledonia, and Essex North SUs:
  - Adjustment of Essex North SU boundaries to include NEK Choice District
- Agenda Item Q-2 – Caledonia North and Essex-Caledonia SUs:
  - Designation of Kingdom East UUSD as a Supervisory District

Each request included at least one newly created UUSD that has already been approved by both the State Board and the local voters.

Each request asked that the boundaries of the new or adjusted SU be effective on the day on which the new UUSD(s) will be fully operational – July 1, 2018.

When approving the *original merger* proposals, the State Board temporarily assigned each new UUSD to an existing SU for administrative services needed during the transitional months preceding full operation.

Just as the new UUSDs will use the transitional months to prepare for full operations, so too must each new or adjusted SU prepare for the responsibilities it will assume on July 1, 2018.

*We recommend that the State Board authorize each of the districts that it approved to be a member of a new or adjusted SU under Agenda Items K and Q to appoint members to a Transitional SU Board.<sup>1</sup>*

*The purpose of a Transitional SU Board would be to adopt policies and make other decisions necessary to support the SU's assumption of duties on July 1, 2018. Creation of a Transitional SU Board would not negate the State Board's earlier assignment of the member UUSD(s) to an existing SU for administrative services during the transition period.*

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

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<sup>1</sup> For the reasons set forth in Footnotes #5 and #6 of the Secretary's recommendation of Agenda Item K, if the State Board has approved the addition of the Rutland Town School District or the Ira School District to the New SU, then it is not necessary for either district to wait for a vote of the electorate before appointing its member(s) to a Transitional SU Board.