

Vermont State Board of Education Resolution of Appreciation Donna Russo-Savage

WHEREAS, Donna Russo-Savage served as the Principal Assistant to the Secretary and a staff attorney at the Agency of Education; and

WHEREAS, prior to her time at the Agency, she worked in the Office of Legislative Counsel; and

WHEREAS, she is remembered the “scrivener extraordinaire” of Act 46 of 2015, which was enacted to create more sustainable models of education in the State by providing substantial equity in the quality and variety of educational opportunities while maximizing operational efficiencies; and

WHEREAS, during the crafting, deliberations, and passage of Act 46, she always made an extra effort to be of assistance to each legislator and committee involved, while successfully endeavoring to remain informative, but neutral, in her guidance to the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, once she joined the Agency, her background, knowledge, and guidance proved instrumental as she issued guidance on behalf of the Agency, supported the Board with rule making, drafted model articles of agreement, provided technical assistance to districts, and assisted the General Assembly as it drafted changes to 16 V.S.A. §§ 724 and 725, thereby providing a clear and thoughtful path to school districts that wish to withdraw from their supervisory structures; and

WHEREAS, for the past several years, she has also shared her unique wisdom on the intersection of law, policy, and practice by serving as the Agency’s point person to field all number of governance-related questions from school boards, attorneys, and superintendents; and

WHEREAS, no matter her position or the task at hand, she consistently went above and beyond her duties, providing assistance to the Agency, the Board, and members of the public with patience, courtesy, and respect; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her vast expertise, she is remembered by her friends and colleagues for her collaboration, integrity, and professionalism, as well as being a delightful person who is a pleasure to work with and who cares deeply about the education of all Vermont students;

NOW THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED** that the Vermont State Board of Education recognizes and commends the service and contributions of Donna Russo-Savage to the State of Vermont; and

Be it further **RESOLVED** that her colleagues offer to Donna their gratitude for her unwavering commitment to education in Vermont, as well as their best wishes to her as she embarks on this next chapter of her life with her husband, Stuart, their three daughters, and their families.

DATED at Winhall, Vermont, this 19th day of July, 2023.

Vermont State Board of Education

By Jennifer Deck Samuelson, its Chair

