

July 15, 2018

To: Heather Bouchey, Interim Secretary of Education

Krista Huling, Chair, State Board of Education

Members of the Vermont State Board of Education

From: Orleans Southwest SU Board (Hazen Union School District, Lakeview Union School District, Greensboro Town School District, Stannard Town School District, Woodbury Town School District, Hardwick Town School District, Wolcott Town School District, Craftsbury Town School District)

Re: Response to the June 1, 2018 Proposed Statewide Plan for School Governance, No. 46, Sec. 10 (a).

Thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of Orleans Southwest's efforts to meet the goals of Act 46.

The Orleans Southwest SU Board is in agreement with the Secretary's proposal as outlined on pages 97-99. We would like to provide additional comments regarding our Supervisory Union's proposal.

We acknowledge that institutional change takes time. Beginning with the RED initiative, then the Modified Unified Union and now Act 46, we have engaged in discussions about mergers and collaborations within this SU. We continue to make progress and look forward to the opportunity to further enhance the educational outcomes for our students.

We have built a foundation of trust so that we can:

1. Work to align the high schools' schedules to increase offerings for all students.
2. Create and provide individual opportunities for K-6 and 7-12 students to access magnet schools which could increase tuition students from other districts.
3. Mitigate the adverse impact of budgetary challenges on our smaller schools by innovative sharing of resources.

We have made an investment in this work and it is imperative for the stability of our students, staff, and community that we continue on our current path.

Thank you for your time and the work you do for the children of our state.