

July 19, 2022

To the Vermont State Board of Education:

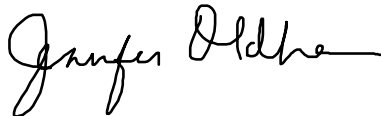
On behalf of the Lincoln School District (LSD), this letter is to communicate our unqualified support of the efforts and plans of the Ripton School District (RSD) to partner with Lincoln in the creation of the Mountain Supervisory Union, with an effective date of July 1, 2023. Having been in discussion with Ripton for over a year and working closely with them over the last two months, we are confident of their capacity and commitment to, with Lincoln, design and implement an SU that will cost-effectively deliver high quality education to our respective students.

This confidence lies in the fact that:

- The Ripton School District board is comprised of bright, creative and highly committed individuals anxious to fulfill the wish of the voters to keep their school open.
- The RSD has successfully identified and engaged experts in school administration at all levels to inform their planning process.
- Experts with direct experience in small schools/SU's have uniformly advised that, with creativity and coordination, the Mountain SU can succeed.
- The RSD is committed to working closely with Lincoln to create not only a Supervisory Union structure, but a governance model and vision that allows small rural schools to thrive.
- Creating an SU with schools that share a commitment to transparency, mutual respect, and democratic process creates trust and will provide greater stability for Lincoln and Ripton than being in the SUs from which they departed. It will also promote educational stability in the region.

Please don't hesitate to call with any other questions regarding our support of Ripton's efforts.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Oldham
802-343-6383

Lincoln School District Board
Jennifer Oldham – Chair
Abby Reynolds – Vice Chair
Paul Forlenza -Board Member