



Vermont Agency of Education
Room 312
219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

April 2, 2018

- Strategic Goals:* (1) Ensure that Vermont's public education system operates within the framework of high expectations for every learner and ensure that there is equity in opportunity for all.
(2) Ensure that the public education system is stable, efficient, and responsive to changes and ever-changing population needs, economic and 21st century issues.

State Board of Education Special Meeting Draft Minutes

Present:

State Board of Education Group Members: Krista Huling, Bill Mathis, Mark Perrin, John Carroll, John O'Keefe (via phone), Stacy Weinberger (via phone), Peter Peltz (via phone), Connor Solimano (via phone), Callahan Beck (via phone), Bonnie Johnson-Aten (joined at 10:32 a.m. via phone)

Agency of Education (AOE): Molly Bachman, Emily Simmons, Haley Jones, Ted Fisher, Suzanne Sprague

Others: Sean Marie Oller, Bennington (via phone), Tiffany Pache, VTdigger (via phone)

Items A, B, C

Chair Huling called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and asked the State Board Members to introduce themselves. She invited callers to identify themselves. Chair Huling asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. There were none.

Item D: Review Secretary Holcombe's Resignation Memo

Chair Huling indicated that she received written requests from Carroll and Mathis who requested an emergency meeting to discuss the resignation of Rebecca Holcombe. She said that she was shocked and saddened by the news. Mathis suggested that an exit interview be arranged with former Secretary Holcombe. Huling said she would try and arrange an exit interview with the full Board. Carroll asked that it be conducted in executive session. Huling asked for clarification regarding the exit interview under executive session. Bachman referred to Title 1 § 313 which explains executive session and indicated that the exit interview could be conducted under executive session.

Item E: Resolution of Appreciation for Secretary Holcombe

Chair Huling read a draft resolution of appreciation for Rebecca Holcombe. Perrin moved to adopt the resolution. Mathis seconded. There was a roll call vote. Yea votes: Perrin, Mathis, Carroll, O'Keefe, Weinberger, Peltz and Solimano. The vote passed unanimously.

Item F: Update from the Governor's Office

Chair Huling said she has not received an update from the Governor's Office and speculated that they are working to determine an Interim Secretary. She is hoping the Board will receive a letter from the

Governor's Office that will include instructions to begin a search, along with search criteria and requirements for the new Secretary. Discussion followed on an interim, Act 98, role of the State Board in recommending an interim and business at the Agency of Education.

Carroll suggested 3 options of the Board. He said the Board can because of statutory authority suggest individuals or characteristics for an Interim, not do anything, or, make a point of not doing anything. He added that it is disappointing that nothing has been heard from the Governor's Office one week after the announcement and that there is no clear decision. Chair Huling indicated that she has reached out to the Governor's Office and let them know that the State Board is willing to assist in any way necessary to help speed the process. Mathis suggested that if the Board discusses names, it should be under executive session.

Weinberger said that it is important to keep focused on the Board's work and the statewide plan. Chair Huling said that she reached out to Senator Baruth, Representative Sharpe and the Governor's Office about writing a joint statement on Act 46 and moving forward as a State. She said the statement will show a commitment as a State to follow through with timelines. Discussion followed regarding continuity with the Legislature, Act 46, focusing on permanent replacement vs. Interim, process, risk of interim leadership, and executive session. Chair Huling said the Board will go into executive session to discuss names of a possible Interim Secretary.

Item G: Brainstorm the Ideal Candidate for the next Secretary of Education

Chair Huling referred the Board to an old job posting for the Secretary of Education to help determine qualifications of ideal candidates. She said the job description was pulled from statute under Act 98. Carroll said that he would like to see business experience like running a business. He said that education experience alone does not make a good leader. He continued that the leader does not need to be an education expert. Huling said that the Board is dictated by statute and Act 98 clearly states that the Secretary shall have expertise in education management and policy and demonstrated leadership and management abilities. Discussion followed regarding statute, preferred qualifications, required qualifications and job title in posting to indicate Agency.

Item H: Review Plan for Secretary Search

Chair Huling discussed a plan for advertising the search for the Secretary of Education. She explained the various outlets that were used in the previous Secretary search. Discussion followed regarding other strategies for posting the ad for maximum exposure. Chair Huling said the State Board has a \$4,500 budget for advertising.

Item I: Establish Secretary Search Committee

Chair Huling named Mathis, Perrin, and Carroll as members of the Secretary Search Committee and offered that she will chair the committee. Mathis moved to initiate the search process. Perrin seconded the motion. Discussion followed regarding the role of the search committee and interview process.

There was a roll call vote. Yea votes: Perrin, Mathis, Carroll, O'Keefe, Weinberger, Peltz, Johnson-Aten and Solimano. The vote passed unanimously.

Oller left the call at 11:20 a.m.

Item J: Other

Chair Huling asked for a motion to go to executive session under Title 1 § 313. Perrin made the motion. Mathis seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 11:21 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:03 p.m.

Chair Huling said that under executive session the Board agreed to send a letter to the Governor putting names forward for an Interim Secretary. She said that a group of Board members will draft a letter following the meeting. Chair Huling stated that while the Board was in executive session, the Board received a letter from the Governor pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2702 which requested that the Board initiate their search for Secretary of Education. She read the full letter.

Carroll made a motion that the Chair is authorized to prepare communication to the Governor and to provide the names of the 1-4 individuals, privately, for the role of Interim Secretary of Education. Mathis seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

There was a roll call vote. Yea votes: Perrin, Mathis, Carroll, O'Keefe, Weinberger, Peltz, Johnson-Aten and Solimano. The vote passed unanimously.

Item K: Adjourn

Perrin moved to adjourn. Johnson-Aten seconded. There was a roll call vote. Yea votes: Perrin, Mathis, Carroll, O'Keefe, Weinberger, Peltz, Johnson-Aten and Solimano. The vote passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague.