

# Vermont State Board of Education

August 21, 2024 Retreat  
Discussion of the Board's Structure

# Members: 16 V.S.A. §161

- Membership consists of:
  - Eight nonstudent members, with priority given to the selection of persons with a demonstrated commitment to ensuring quality education for Vermont students
  - Two student members
    - Junior student member may not vote
    - Senior student member may vote
  - The Secretary of Education, who serves as a nonvoting member
- All members shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

# Current State Board Membership

- **Jennifer Deck Samuelson, Chair** (2020 - 2/28/2026)
  - *Winhall*; Chair, Winhall School Board; Attorney at Law
- **Tammy Kolbe, Vice Chair** (2021 - 2/28/2027)
  - *Warren*; UVM Assoc. Prof. of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; Principal Researcher at American Institutes for Research
- **Mohamed Diop** (2023 - 2/28/2029)
  - *Bristol*; Director, Multilingual Learner Programs; Winooski School District
- **Grey Fearon** (2023 - 6/30/2025)
  - *Panton*; Student Member; Vergennes Union High School
- **Kim Gleason** (2019 - 2/28/2025)
  - *Grand Isle*; Former Chair, Essex Westford School District (EWSD); former Treasurer, VSBA; Substitute Teacher, EWSD
- **Caleb Greenwood** (2024 - 6/30/2026)
  - *Troy*; Student Member, Lake Region Union High School
- **Lyle Jepson** (2021 - 2/28/2027)
  - *Rutland*; Former teacher; former Principal, Fair Haven Union High School; former Director, Stafford Technical Center
- **Tom Lovett** (2021 - 2/28/2027)
  - *Waterford*; Teacher and former Head of School, St. Johnsbury Academy
- **Jenna O'Farrell** (2019 - 2/28/2025)
  - *St. Johnsbury*; Former teacher, Assistant Principal, and Principal, St. Johnsbury School
- **Richard Werner** (2022 - 2/28/2024)
  - *East Dover*; Chair, Windham Central Supervisory Union; Chair, River Valleys School District
- **Zoie Saunders, M. Ed., Interim Secretary of Education**

## Terms: 16 V.S.A. §161

- Nonstudent members:
  - Typically serve terms of six years beginning on March 1st of the year in the which the appointments are made
- Student members:
  - Serve terms of two years beginning on July 1st of the year in which the appointments are made
  - Nonvoting in the first year
  - Voting in the second year

# Executing our Work

- The Board shall be supported by adequate staff who shall report to the Board (16 V.S.A. §163(a))
- The Board shall meet monthly (16 V.S.A. §163(b))
  - Meetings are typically held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month
  - The Board typically meets in-person in April, May, September, and October
    - In-person meetings begin later to allow Board members and members of the public time to travel
    - In-person meetings may be held at the local school of a member whose term is expiring
  - Other meetings are typically held remotely and usually begin around 8:30am
- The Board shall also hold Special Meetings as required for the performance of its duties (16 V.S.A. §163(b))

# Determining Our Work

- Statutes:

- Example: 16 V.S.A. §164 (State Board; general powers and duties)  
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/16/003/00164>
- Example: 3 V.S.A. §2702 (Secretary of Education)  
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/03/049/02702>

- Rules:

- Example: <https://education.vermont.gov/state-board-councils/state-board/rules>

- Legislative Acts:

- Example: Act 46 (2015) (An act relating to making amendments to education funding, education spending, and education governance)
- Example: Act 173 (2018) (An act relating to enhancing the effectiveness, availability, and equity of services provided to students who require additional support)
- Example: Act 176 (2022) (An act relating to the exploration, formation, and organization of union school districts and unified union school districts)

# Organization

- Leadership
  - Biennially, the Board selects its Chair (16 V.S.A. §161(3))
  - Biennially, the Board typically selects a Vice-Chair
- Committee Structure
  - Allows the Board to work more efficiently
    - Committees meet independent of full Board meetings
    - Committees bring recommendations to the full Board for its discussion and vote

# Current Committees and Membership

- **Education Quality Standards (EQS) Committee**  
Tammy Kolbe (Co-Chair), Kim Gleason (Co-Chair), Mohamed Diop, Richard Werner, Grey Fearon
- **Rule Series 2200 Approvals Committee**  
Tom Lovett (Chair), Jenna O'Farrell, Lyle Jepson
- **Rule Series 2370 (Career and Technical Education) Update Committee**  
Lyle Jepson, Tammy Kolbe, Tom Lovett, Rich Werner
- **Roles and Responsibilities Committee**  
Jennifer Samuelson, Tammy Kolbe, Mohamed Diop, Jenna O'Farrell



# Questions?