

Westminster Community Schools

Westminster Center School
301 School St. • Westminster, VT 05158

Westminster West School
3724 Westminster West Rd. • Putney, VT 05346

September 8, 2021

Oliver Olson
Chair, Vermont Board of Education
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620

Sent via email

Dear Mr. Olson :

We are pleased to submit this report as requested by the Vermont Board of Education in the board's ruling of April 21, 2021. Each of the following has been accomplished.

Fulfillment of Requirements

Election of School Board Members. The Secretary of State called a special election at which the Westminster School District voters elected school board members pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 424(c). Those members were elected on June 29: Cheryl Charles, Charles Hutchison, and David Major. Subsequently Dr. Charles has been elected chair of the Board, and Mr. Hutchison has been elected to serve as Vice Chair and Clerk.

Negotiation of Financial Agreement. The Westminster School Board and the Windham Northeast Union Elementary School Board (WNUESD) negotiated and finalized the proposed financial details of withdrawal pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 721a(c), which proposal was presented to the voters residing in each of the three towns of the Windham Northeast Union Elementary School District for approval on August 31, 2021. The terms were approved by more than 90% of the voters in the election in each town .

Written Report to State Board of Education. By this letter, the Westminster School Board is notifying the State Board in writing on September 8, 2021 of the results of the activity above.

Attendance at State Board of Education Meeting. Members of the Westminster School Board and the Windham Northeast Union Elementary School Board will be pleased to appear before the State Board at its regularly-scheduled meeting on September 15, 2021 to answer questions.

Request for Consideration

In addition to reviewing the information in this report, the Boards would like the State Board to consider the following request : Authorize the Westminster School Board to be seated as voting members of the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union Board during the period from September 15 forward. No Westminster residents or voters are currently serving as voting members on the SU Board representing the WNUESD. Westminster is represented by two voting members out of six on the WNUESD Board but none on the SU board during a critical period in the SU's responsibilities: 1) re-opening schools during a continuing pandemic; 2) filling leadership roles with the recent resignation of the SU's superintendent

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and assistant superintendent; 3) applying for, managing and being accountable for nearly \$18MM in federal ESSER funds; and 4) developing the budgets for the 2022-2023 school year. While authority for local matters is largely governed through the existing WNUESD structure until July 1, 2022 at which time Westminster will once again have full authority for the Westminster schools, these systemic matters are best addressed with full representation for Westminster voters on the SU board during this critical period of transition.

Cheryl Charles, Ph.D., Chair, Westminster School Board

Charles Hutchison, Vice Chair and Clerk

David Major, Member

Jack Bryar, Chair, WNUESD