

AGENCY OF EDUCATION
Barre, Vermont

TEAM: Legal Division, Career and Technical Education

ACTION ITEM: Will the State Board of Education vote to approve the request of all member school districts of the Franklin West Supervisory Union to grant a change in Career Technical Education Service Region?

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education deny the request of the member districts of the Franklin West Supervisory Union for a change in FWSU's CTE Service Region.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: State Board Rule 2374

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On October 20, 2015, FWSU Superintendent Ned Kirsch submitted a petition to the Secretary requesting that the member districts of FWSU be reassigned to the Northwest Technical Center (St. Albans) CTE service region. Superintendent Kirsch amended this request in a supplemental petition received on December 21, 2015. FWSU's current service region is the Chittenden County Service Region.

The process for requesting a CTE service region change is set forth at SBE Rule 2374, as follows:

2374 Service Regions

Change in Service Region When Requested by a School District

- A. To request a change in service region, a school or school district shall notify the commissioner in writing.
- B. The commissioner, prior to making a recommendation to the state board, shall consult with the school districts, and the regional advisory boards that would be affected by a change in sending district service region assignment(s).
- C. The State Board shall grant a request by a school or school district to change service regions if:
 - (1) The change will not significantly affect technical center program enrollments,
 - (2) The change will not significantly increase the distance between the technical center and the high school,
 - (3) The change will provide more opportunities to students, and

(4) The fiscal impact of the change will not be so great that the technical centers affected by the change cannot accommodate it and that other schools in a service region will have to assume a significantly larger portion of the costs of operating the technical center.

After receiving Superintendent Kirsch's request, the Secretary invited comment from all of the school districts, and the regional advisory boards that would be affected by this proposed change in CTE service region assignment. Attached hereto are the replies of each of the affected school districts and regional advisory boards.

After reviewing the replies and documents submitted as part of the proposed change, and after the SBE meeting in May, 2016, the Secretary gathered and interpreted several pieces of data relevant to the proposed change. A summary of these findings is included herewith. Having reviewed this data, the Secretary is ready to make a final recommendation.

The Secretary recommends that this requested change be denied because FWSU has not met its burden in satisfying three of the four criteria in Rule 2374. Specifically, the Secretary concludes that the proposed change will significantly negatively affect technical center program enrollments, the change will not conclusively provide more opportunities to students and may in fact reduce their options, and the negative fiscal impact on existing technical centers and other schools in the service region will be prohibitive. The Secretary agrees that the proposed change would reduce distance and travel time for FWSU students, but this does not supersede concerns about the other criteria.

The Secretary would also like to point out that the letter of CCSU Superintendent Judith DeNova, dated December 22, 2015, references a tour of CTE Essex by the Secretary as part of the AOE's review process, for this request. For the record, the Secretary did not take a tour of CTE Essex or any other affected CTE center as part of the Secretary's review. The Secretary's recommendation to the State Board is based solely on a review of the submissions that were received by the Secretary by the affected parties; a careful review of relevant data with respect to program enrollment, programmatic offerings, mileage, and fiscal impact; and the applicability of Act 46 of 2015, as noted above.

STAFF AVAILABLE: Clare O'Shaughnessy, Staff Attorney
Heather Bouchey, Deputy Secretary
Jay Ramsey, CTE State Director



219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641 (p) 802-479-1030 | (f) 802-479-1835

Item I1

To: Members of the State Board of Education
From: Deputy Secretary Heather Bouchey
Date: August 19, 2016
RE: Analysis of FWSU request for a service region change against the SBE rules for service region changes

(1) Will the change significantly affect technical center program enrollments?

AOE addresses this question first with data on enrollment, and next with data on head counts.

Evidence indicates the proposed change would have a significant impact on enrollment, including a negative effect for Center for Technology, Essex (CTE) and Burlington Technical Center (BTC), and a substantial increase for Northwest Technical Center (NWT).

If Fairfax students were assigned to NWT,

- BTC enrollment would drop by 4 -5%
- CTE enrollment would drop by 6-8%
- NWT enrollment would increase by 7-8%.

If Fairfax students were assigned to NWT,

- The BTC headcount would drop by 4 -5%
- The CTE headcount would drop by 6-8%
- The NWT headcount would increase by 9%.

Potential programmatic implications:

- Centers in Chittenden County, particularly CTE, would likely need to alter program offerings for all students as a result.
- The change would assign 35 more Fairfax students to NWT. It is unclear at present how NWT would address the increase in program enrollment, including provision of adequate program offerings, sufficient space, materials and equipment, and scheduling, in addition to staffing.

CTE offers full-time programs whereas BTC and NWT offer part-time programs. This makes it challenging to compare across centers in meaningful ways. Currently, about 41% of Georgia students (who have choice for high school) attending these three centers go to CTE (full-time option, despite a larger commuting distance), whereas about 55%

attend NWT (part-time) and 5% attend BTC (part-time). This suggests a preference by some students for full-time programs.

A) Table 1. Program enrollment by sending school and center, FY15 and FY16

	BTC		CTE		NWT			
	FY2015	FY2016	FY2015	FY2016	FY2015	FY2016		
							Town Total	
Center Total	237	225	358	321	461	432	FY2015	FY2016
Fairfax	12	8	22	25	2	0	36	33
Fletcher	1	3	5	9	0	0	6	12
Georgia	4	2	30	19	32	40	66	61
Total	17	13	57	53	34	40	108	106

Tables 2-4. Percent of center enrollment by town and year, based on data from Table 1.

	% of BTC total enrollment			
	Fairfax	Fletcher	Georgia	Total
2015	5.1	.4	1.7	7.2
2016	3.6	1.3	.9	5.8

	% of CTE total enrollment			
	Fairfax	Fletcher	Georgia	Total
2015	6.1	1.4	8.4	15.9
2016	7.8	2.8	5.9	16.5

	% of NWT total enrollment		
	Fairfax	Fletcher	Georgia
2015	.4	0	7.4
2016	0	0	9.3

B) Headcount by sending school and center, FY15 and FY16

Table 5. Headcount by sending school and center, FY15 and FY16

	BTC		CTE		NWT			
	FY2015	FY2016	FY2015	FY2016	FY2015	FY2016	Town Total	
Center Total	234	225	435	408	411	416	FY2015	FY2016
Fairfax	12	8	23	28	1	0	36	36
Fletcher	1	3	6	12	0	0	7	15
Georgia	4	2	33	23	41	32	78	57
Total	17	13	62	63	42	32	121	108

Tables 6-8. Percent of center headcount by town and year, based on data from Table 5.

	% of BTC total headcount			
	Fairfax	Fletcher	Georgia	Total
2015	5.1	.4	1.7	7.2
2016	3.6	1.3	.9	5.8

	% of CTE total headcount			
	Fairfax	Fletcher	Georgia	Total
2015	5.3	1.4	7.6	14.3
2016	6.9	2.9	5.6	15.4

	% of NWT total headcount		
	Fairfax	Fletcher	Georgia
2015	.2	0	10.0
2016	0	0	7.7

Additional information:

Tables 9-11. Percent of town headcount by center and year, based on data from Table 5.

% of Fairfax headcount				
	%BTC	%CTE	%NWT	
2015	33	64	3	100
2016	22	78	0	100

% of Fletcher headcount				
	%BTC	%CTE	%NWT	
2015	14	86	0	100
2016	20	80	0	100

% of Georgia headcount				
	%BTC	%CTE	%NWT	
2015	5	42	53	100
2016	4	40	56	100

(2) The change will not significantly increase the distance between the technical center and the high school

Evidence indicates the proposed change would decrease the distance travelled between the technical center and the high school for Fairfax students in particular, and for most students in FWSU generally.

***Top Four Sending High Schools**

****Assumes students go to their high school first, then are bused to the CTE center. Calculations are based on shortest route from the high school (Google Maps).**

SU Member Town	Students who went to this High School*	Attended this Technical Center (6 sem avg FTE)	Miles from Member Town to high school	Miles from school to technical center	TOTAL One way miles	TOTAL One way Trip time**
FAIRFAX (Designated high school: BFA-Fairfax)	BFA-Fairfax	CTE (134.00)	7.3	15.7	23.0	34 min
	BFA-Fairfax	BTC (29.15)	7.3	28.7	36.0	51 min
	BFA-Fairfax	NWT (2.38)	5.9	12.4	18.3	27 min
	Essex H.S.	CTE (2.37)	22.7	--	22.7	31 min
FLETCHER (Designated high school: CHOICE)	BFA-Fairfax	CTE (30.00)	18.9	15.7	34.6	54 min
	Mt. Mansfield	CTE (5.00)	23.5	9.2	32.7	53 min
	BFA-Fairfax	BTC (3.85)	12.9	28.7	41.7	63 min
	S. Burlington	CTE (2.00)	35.4	7.0	42.4	70 min
	BFA-Fairfax	NWT	5.9	12.4	18.3	27 min
	BFA-St. Albans	NWT	12.6	--	12.6	19 min
GEORGIA (Designated high school: CHOICE)	BFA-St. Albans	NWT (80.64)	12.6	--	12.6	19 min
	Essex H.S.	CTE (51.67)	24.2	--	24.2	33 min
	BFA-Fairfax	CTE (26.00)	6.2	15.7	21.9	36 min
	S. Burlington	CTE (26.00)	30.1	7.0	37.1	49 min
	BFA-Fairfax	NWT	11	12.4	23.4	19 min

(3) Will the change provide more opportunities to students?

Evidence does not definitively indicate that the change will provide more opportunities to students.

- There are a number of unique programs at both CTE and NWT, providing current students with many choices among full- or part-time programs and several pre-tech options. It is reasonable to conclude that students would experience a reduced choice of programmatic options should the change be approved.
- It is unclear how many students would continue to enroll in CTE or BTC for those programs not shared with NWT. Over time, should the change be approved, it is likely students will become less aware of the opportunities at either CTE or BTC. In addition, students who choose to enroll at schools not in their approved service region must arrange for their own transportation.
- Moreover, even if FWSU students desire to enroll in certain programs at BTC or CTE, while in the new service region, those programs may no longer exist because BTC and CTE will likely have to eliminate programs if they lose FWSU FTE's. There is a real likelihood of depleted program offerings. This would negatively affect students in both the proposed and current service regions.
- There is some evidence that more students are enrolling in dual enrollment, gaining work-based learning opportunities and completing industry-recognized credentials at BTC and CTE as compared to NWT. The data for this comparison vary from year to year and are hampered by small numbers of students, making it difficult to draw strong conclusions.

Center	Current # of programs	# Duplicate programs	# Unique Programs
BTC	12	6	5
(Half-day)	No pre-tech		
CTE	25	5	19
(Full day)	4 pre-tech		
NWT	18	10	7
(Half-day)	9 pre-tech		

2015 Dual Enrollment

	% Students Enrolled		
	BTC	CTE	NWTC
Town			
Fairfax	42	17	0
Fletcher	100	0	
Georgia	0	15	7

(note: small numbers, range = 0-5)

2016 Dual Enrollment

	% Students Enrolled		
	BTC	CTE	NWTC
Town			
Fairfax	50	43	
Fletcher	33	0	
Georgia	50	26	0

(note: small numbers, range = 0-12)

2015 Work-based learning

	% Students Participated		
	BTC	CTE	NWTC
Town			
Fairfax	58	57	100
Fletcher	100	50	
Georgia	0	45	24

(note: small numbers, range = 0-15)

Summary: As illustrated in the six data tables, CTE and BTC appear to demonstrate a higher percentage of students from the three towns who have participated in dual enrollment or work-based learning and/or obtained an industry-recognized credential (IRC).

Note: The majority of these percentages are based on very small numbers of students, indicating we should interpret with caution. Nonetheless, there does seem to be a noticeable pattern across the three centers.

2016 Work-based learning

	% Students Participated		
	BTC	CTE	NWTC
Town			
Fairfax	0	64	
Fletcher	0	42	
Georgia	0	31	25

(note: small numbers, range = 0-18)

2015 IRC

	% Students Earning at least 1		
	BTC	CTE	NWT
Town			
Fairfax	8	52	100
Fletcher	0	83	
Georgia	25	48	39

(note: small numbers, range = 0-16)

2016 IRCs

	% Students Earning at least 1		
	BTC	CTE	NWTC
Town			
Fairfax	38	61	
Fletcher	0	92	
Georgia	50	39	44

(note: small numbers, range = 0-17)

(4) *The fiscal impact of the change will not be so great that the technical centers affected by the change cannot accommodate it and that other schools in a service region will have to assume a significantly larger portion of the costs of operating the technical center.*

• Evidence indicates the proposed change would have a substantial negative fiscal impact on BTC and CTE. It would substantially increase available revenue and students for NWT.

- **BTC would lose, at minimum, about \$67k, and CTE would lose, at minimum, about \$456k. These represent 2.4% and 5.5% of their total operating budgets, respectively. These numbers do not account for students who tuition to BFA-Fairfax, from towns other than Fletcher and Georgia, who elect to attend either CTE or BTC. Accounting for these students would increase the negative impact on CTE and BTC.**
- **NWT would gain, at minimum, about \$279k, representing 10.5% of its total operating budget.**

The following calculations are based on NWT receiving the total FTE from BTC and CTE (as proposed).

	Six-semester avg FTE (2013-2016)	Tuition [Announced Tuition FY '17,]	Supplemental Assistance Grant	Total \$ amount, loss/gain via proposed change
BTC		(.5) 19,085	3,315	
Fairfax	5.23	49,907	17,338	(67,245)
Fletcher	.64	6,107	2,122	(8,229)
Georgia	1.74	16,604	5,768	(22,372)
Total	7.61	72,618	25,228	(\$97,846)
CTE		16,750	3,315	
Fairfax	22.73	380,728	75,350	(456,078)
Fletcher	6.33	106,028	20,984	(127,012)
Georgia	17.77	297,648	58,908	(356,556)
Total	46.83	784,404	155,242	(\$939,646)
NWT		(.5) 13,140	3,315	
Fairfax	.40	2628	1,326	
Fletcher	0	0	0	
Georgia	13.44	88,301	44,554	
Total	13.84 (proposed add 27.96,	90,929	45,880	136,809

	Fairfax FTE's)	186,697	92,688	+\$279,385
	Max possible (54.44)	357,671	180,469	+\$538,140

Conclusion: Based on the data above, the AOE concludes that the proposed reassignment would adversely affect student counts and revenues at BTC and CTE, while increasing revenues and student counts at NWT. Practically speaking, the impact of the proposal has substantive meaning primarily for students from Fairfax, the only operating district. However, enrollment patterns for students who tuition to BFA-Fairfax, from towns other than Fletcher and Georgia, are also relevant. In addition, evidence suggests opportunities may currently be stronger at BTC and CTE, and there is no clear evidence or plan yet of how opportunities might change at NWT if the request was approved.

For these reasons, the AOE recommends that the SBE not change CTE regions at this time.

This does not preclude a request at a later date, if and when circumstances change, and/or if and when opportunities offered by the three affected centers evolve.

RECORD OF Rule 2374 Petition To
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PETITION OF: FRANKLIN WEST SUPERVISORY UNION (FAIRFAX, FLETCHER, AND GEORGIA)

1. Letter of Ned Kirsch (FWSU Superintendent) to Judith DeNova (CCSU Superintendent) notifying Supt. DeNova of FWSU's petition to change CTE service region (October 15, 2015).
2. Letter of Ned Kirsch (FWSU Superintendent) to Secretary Holcombe, requesting a change to FWSU's CTE service region from Chittenden County Service Region (Burlington Technical Center, Center for Technology-Essex) to Northwest Technical Center (October 20, 2015).
3. Letter of Secretary Holcombe to Ned Kirsch (FWSU Superintendent), requesting additional information (November 2, 2015).
4. Email of Ned Kirsch Ned Kirsch (FWSU Superintendent) to AOE, requesting extension of time to file additional information in support of FWSU's petition (November 19, 2015).
5. Letter of Secretary Holcombe to Ned Kirsch (FWSU Superintendent), granting request extension of time to file additional information (November 23, 2015).
6. Letter of Ned Kirsch (FWSU Superintendent) to Secretary Holcombe, submitting additional information in support of FWSU petition (December 8, 2015).
7. Letter of Judith DeNova (CCSU Superintendent) and Robert Travers (CTE Essex Director) to Secretary Holcombe, responding in opposition to FWSU's petition to change CTE service region (December 22, 2015).
8. Email of AOE to Yaw Obeng (BSD Superintendent) and Kevin Dirth (FCSU Superintendent) inviting comment on FWSU's petition. Each of these local systems is an interested/affected party to FWSU's petition (January 6, 2016).
9. Email of AOE to Tracy Racicot (BTC Director), Robert Travers (CTE Essex Director), and Leeann Wright (NWTC Director) inviting comment on FWSU's petition. Each of these regional technical centers is an interested/affected party to FWSU's petition (January 13, 2016).
10. Letter of Yaw Obeng (BSD Superintendent) and Tracy Racicot (BTC Director) to Secretary Holcombe, responding (on behalf of BSD and BTC) responding in opposition to FWSU's petition to change CTE service region (January 19, 2016).

11. Letter of Kevin Dirth (FCSU Superintendent) and Leeann Wright (NWTC Director) to Secretary Holcombe, responding (on behalf of FCSU, and Northwest Technical Center) responding in support of FWSU's petition to change CTE service region (January 28, 2016).
12. Email of AOE to Jay Nichols (FNESU Superintendent) and Nathan Demar (Director, Cold Hollow Career Center - CHCC) inviting comment on FWSU's petition. FNESU and CHCC are interested/affected parties to FWSU's petition (January 6, 2016).
13. Letter of Franklin Grand Isle Workforce Investment Board (FGIWIB) acting as Regional Advisory Board for NWTC and CHCC responding in support of FWSU's petition to change CTE service region (February 7, 2016).
14. Letter of Jay Nichols (FNESU Superintendent) responding in support of FWSU's petition to change CTE service region (February 8, 2016).
15. Letter of Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce responding in opposition to FWSU's petition to change CTE service region (February 10, 2016).
16. AOE Scheduling and Process Update, submitted to all parties by email (March 18, 2016).
17. Request for clarification on scheduling update and process, submitted by FWSU (by Ned Kirsch, Superintendent) by email (March 18, 2016).
18. Reply to FWSU (by Ned Kirsch, Superintendent) request for clarification on process for review and final action on FWSU petition (March 18, 2016).
19. Request for change to process for SBE review and action, submitted by FWSU counsel, Pietro Lynn, Esq., by email (April 27, 2016).
20. AOE Reply to FWSU counsel's request to change process for SBE review and action, by email (May 3, 2016).

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October 15, 2015

Superintendent Judith DeNova
Chittenden Central Supervisory Union
51 Park Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Dear Superintendent DeNova:

This letter is to notify you that the three member districts of Franklin West Supervisory Union (FWSU), Georgia, Fairfax and Fletcher, have requested a change to our current technical center service region.

Our reasons for requesting this change include cost, travel time, and delivery of special education services. This is not an exhaustive list, but they represent the major cost drivers to our school budgets in a time of increasing funding constraints.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 370-3113 ext 113 or nkirsch@fwsu.org with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Ned Kirsch
Superintendent

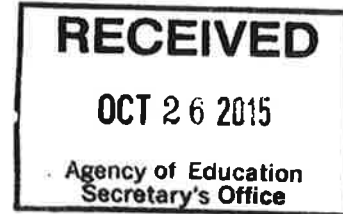
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Franklin West Supervisory Union

October 20, 2015

Secretary Rebecca Holcombe
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641



Dear Secretary Holcombe,

I am writing to you, pursuant to SBR 2374(2)(A), to formally request a change to our current technical education service region.

I serve as the Superintendent of the three member school districts in Franklin West Supervisory Union (FWSU), including Georgia, Fairfax and Fletcher. Each district has formally charged me with making this request.

Our reason for requesting this change is largely due to Act 46. As with many districts in Vermont, we are looking for cost savings in order to comply with our allowable growth limit. Currently our students attend Center for Technology Essex (CTE). By moving our region to Northwest Technical Center (NWTC) in St. Albans, we have determined that our districts would save money. In addition to per pupil cost savings, FWSU districts would also see reduced expenses in special education. Each week we send staff (0.6 FTE) to CTE to deliver required services to our students. As a system we lose money in travel time and mileage reimbursement. If our region was shifted to NWTC, services could be provided daily to students at BFA HS at no additional cost.

Our request is not based purely on financial considerations however. We also see efficiencies can be realized for our students if the new service region is granted. Travel to CTE is a 45 minute bus ride from BFA Fairfax, while students can be transported to NWTC in about half the time. Spending time on the bus has restricted our students from participating in extracurricular activities in the past. It also sometimes limits their ability to access our transportation service in the afternoon. This can present a hardship to students and parents. Finally, the structure of CTE impacts "school life" in general for our students, as they are removed from our school for an entire day in both 11th and 12th grade.

I appreciate your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need further information at nkirsch@fwsu.org or (802) 370-3113 ext. 113.

Sincerely,

Ned Kirsch
Superintendent of Schools

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State of Vermont
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641
www.education.vermont.gov

[phone] 802-479-1030
[fax] 802-479-1835

Agency of Education

November 2, 2015

Franklin West Supervisory Union
Ned Kirsch, Superintendent
4497 Highbridge Road
Fairfax, VT 05454

RE: Request to Change Technical Education Service Region

Dear Ned:

I am in receipt of your letter dated October 20, 2015, requesting a change in technical education service region for the member districts of FWSU. Pursuant to SBE Rule 2374(2)(C),

The State Board shall grant a request by a school or school district to change service

regions if:

- (1) The change will not significantly affect technical center program enrollments,
- (2) The change will not significantly increase the distance between the technical center and the high school,
- (3) The change will provide more opportunities to students, and
- (4) The fiscal impact of the change will not be so great that the technical centers affected by the change cannot accommodate it and that other schools in a service region will have to assume a significantly larger portion of the costs of operating the technical center.

While your letter of October 20, 2015 sets forth some general factors in support of this request for FWSU's member districts to switch from the Chittenden County Service Region (Burlington Technical Center and CTE Essex) to NWTC Service Region, you have not addressed each of the required factors, with supporting documentation. Please resubmit your request within thirty (30) days by addressing each of these four (4) factors in detail, and please copy Burlington Technical Center, CTE Essex and NWTC on your filing with AOE.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Glennon, AOE General Counsel. Greg can be reached at (802) 479-1756 or by email at greg.glennon@vermont.gov.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Holcombe
Secretary of Education

cc: Yaw Obeng, Superintendent, Burlington School District
Tracy Racicot, Director, Burlington Technical Center
Judy DeNova, Superintendent, Chittenden Central SU
Robert Travers, Director, Center for Technology, Essex
Kevin Dirth, Superintendent, Franklin Central SU
Leeann Wright, Director, Northwest Technical Center



4

Glennon, Greg

From: Ned Kirsch <nkirsch@fwsu.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 8:38 AM
To: Glennon, Greg
Subject: Tech Center Question

Greg,

Any chance that I can have an extension on getting the information to Sec. Holcombe. I started the process of going through the CTE budget last night and culling out the information I need is going to take more time than I had anticipated.

Please let me know. Thanks.

--

Ned Kirsch
Superintendent of Schools
Franklin West Supervisory Union

<http://fwsu-blog.org/>

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Agency of Education

November 23, 2015

Franklin West Supervisory Union
Ned Kirsch, Superintendent
4497 Highbridge Road
Fairfax, VT 05454

RE: Request to Change Technical Education Service Region

Dear Ned:

Your request for an extension of time to submit additional information in support of FWSU's request for a change in technical education service region is granted, through December 18, 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Glennon, AOE General Counsel. Greg can be reached at (802) 479-1756 or by email at greg.glennon@vermont.gov.

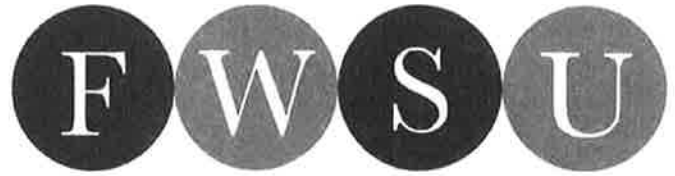
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RH" or similar initials, written over a horizontal line.

Rebecca Holcombe
Secretary of Education

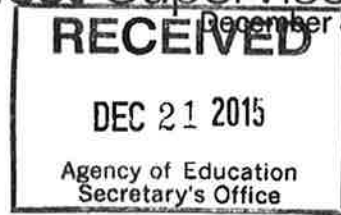
cc: Judith DeNova, Chittenden Central SU
Yaw Obeng, Burlington School District

6



Franklin West Supervisory Union

Secretary Rebecca Holcombe
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641



December 8, 2015

99
RH
BT
HB
SR
OBS

Dear Secretary Holcombe:

I am writing to you, pursuant to SBR 2374(2)(A), to address each of the required factors you specified in your letter to me on November 2, 2015. As you know, Franklin West Supervisory Union is seeking a change to our current technical center service region.

1. The change will not significantly affect technical center program enrollments.

Prior to requesting this change, we researched the potential enrollment impact on NWTC. Our research indicates that NWTC has the capacity to accept all of our students next year. How this proposed change would impact to CTE is unknown to us. We assume CTE may need to make some adjustments in spending and programs, just as all schools and districts must do in response to fluctuating enrollment.

2. The change will not significantly increase the distance between technical center and the high school.

Currently students from FWSU (BFA-Fairfax) travel to the CTE (Essex) and to BTC (Burlington) each day. The distance to CTE is 32 miles round trip and the distance to BTC is 58 miles round trip. If the change in service region is approved, our students will travel 24 miles round trip each day. The geographical distance and time spent on the bus will be significantly decreased.

3. The change will expand opportunities to students.

There are several reasons that led to FWSU requesting this change in service region.

- First, our request is largely due to Act 46. As with many districts in Vermont, we are seeking cost savings in order to comply with our Allowable Growth Limit (AGL). Our students currently attend Center for Technology Essex (CTE). By shifting our region to neighboring Northwest Technical Center (NWTC) in St. Albans, we have determined that our districts would save money.
- Second, per-pupil cost savings would be actualized. FWSU districts would also see reduced expenses in special education. Each week we must send staff (0.6 FTE) to CTE to deliver required services to our students onsite in Essex. As a system, this inefficiency translates into lost money and SU instructional support time in the form of mileage reimbursement and round-trip travel. If our region was shifted to the adjoining NWTC, services could be provided daily to students in their home high school (BFA-Fairfax) at no additional cost.
- Third, we know that students' academic achievement will be positively impacted by a change in service region. Students will realize expanded opportunities by participating in a half-day program that allows them more time to achieve academic requirements for

college at their sending school. This year's SBAC results at BFA-Fairfax were quite positive, highlighting our ongoing work to close the achievement gap for students in poverty. This year our students in mathematics and ELA who qualify for FRL performed almost the same as their peers who did not qualify (Math 46/42% and ELA 62/52%). However, our students who attend CTE full-time did not in these share positive scores. Only one student who attended CTE met the standard in Math and only one student met the standard in ELA. Those numbers were slightly higher at BTC, which is a half-day program similar to NWTC. This further corroborates that students attending BTC take their core classes at BFA-Fairfax, and are more able to make academic gains.

- Fourth, students will be able to take advantage of the thriving Franklin County Internship program (see letter submitted by Kathy Lavoie). No such program exists for our students who attend CTE.
- Fifth, if necessary, students could attend Cold Hollow Career Center and/or Missisquoi Valley Union to take programs that Northwest Technical Center doesn't offer such as Agribusiness, Ag Science and Forestry and they also could continue to attend CTE/BTC for programs such as Dental Assisting, Aeronautics.
- Sixth, we believe it makes sense for our students to be more connected to our community high school. They often times find it difficult to be part of our school community, a community that includes extra-curricular events, clubs, and sport.

4. *The fiscal impact of the change will not be so great that the affected technical centers cannot accommodate it; other schools in a service region will not have to assume a significantly larger portion of the costs of operating a technical center.*

The communities that are served by CTE, other than FWSU, make up 83% of their total enrollment. That number is 94% when applied to BTC. If FWSU is permitted to change its region, the impact on both BTC and CTE/Chittenden Central SU will be negligible. In addition, CTE will certainly be able recoup lost FTEs through the gain of students from the recent merger with Westford.

However, should the regional technical center alignment remain the same for FWSU/BFA-Fairfax, the negative impact to the school and the community will continue grow. The cost of education will continue to rise, and part of the spending increase will be directly attributable to the technical center region to which we are currently assigned.

I appreciate your re-consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need further information at nkirsch@fwsu.org or (802) 370-3113 ext. 113.

Sincerely,



Ned Kirsch
Superintendent of Schools

CC: Judith DeNova, CCSU Superintendent
Yaw Obeng, BSD Superintendent
Kevin Dirth, FCSU Superintendent

7



Chittenden Central Supervisory Union

Serving the Essex Junction, Union #46, and Westford Town School Districts

51 Park Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452
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December 22, 2015

Secretary Rebecca Holcombe
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641

RECEIVED

DEC 28 2015

Agency of Education
Secretary's Office

Dear Secretary Holcombe,

We are writing to formally request that you not grant a change of career and technical education service region to Franklin West Supervisory Union. We believe if FWSU students are reassigned to Northwest Technical Center, they will have fewer opportunities especially as measured by the variety and quality of programs, college dual-enrollments, Industry Recognized Credentials, and employment opportunities. In the following letter, we will respond to the rationale of Superintendent Ned Kirsch of FWSU from his letter dated December 8, 2015 as well as share the body of research we have conducted to substantiate our own rationale in the format required through (SBE) 2374(2)(C).

We look forward to your tour of the Center for Technology, Essex and to the opportunity to discuss this request with you in person.

We understand that you may need to discuss the impacts of such a decision with members of the Lake Champlain Workforce Investment Board (WIB). Director Travers has contacted a number of long-standing and past members of that organization to ask for their assistance in anticipation of such a meeting.

Question 1: What are the impacts to technical center enrollments?

Response to FWSU memo:

Without having the benefit of the body of research, we question whether NWTC understands the financial impact of accepting students to their programs without receiving tuition for those students. The way that technical center enrollment works is that we would continue to bill FWSU following the six-semester average. This means that FWSU will be paying CTE until FY'20 in the proportion of 1/6, 3/6, and 5/6 of the verified six-semester average for their community. Northwest Tech Center will receive the inverse of that with no tuition in the first year of the transition, allowing for no added staff without increase to the tuition rate for the existing student body. We are concerned that FWSU or NWTC may not understand the full impact of these funding implications through the tuition and billing cycle.

FWSU states that the impact of such a move to CTE's enrollments is unknown. However, based upon historical enrollments we stand to lose 61 students from our full-time equivalent. We address the financial implications of these lost enrollments further in Question 4.

We lack clarity about exactly which students FWSU intends to move out of our service region. In some cases, it appears to only include BFA-Fairfax students (41) and at other times that number is 61, which would include Fletcher and Georgia students. We question whether FWSU is requesting a change in service region for only BFA-Fairfax enrolled students or if they mean to change for all within their supervisory union regardless of high school choice.

Our rationale:

We believe that if FWSU students are assigned to NWTC, there will be an overall decline in participation in career and technical education by FWSU students. Our research demonstrates that attrition rates in half-day models are higher than attrition in full-day models in the state of Vermont.

FWSU student enrollments at CTE exceed those of Burlington Technical Center. Based on October 15 counts, CTE had 61 FWSU of 369 students enrolled compared to BTC's 17 of 219. This speaks to the popularity of CTE and the overwhelming interest of FWSU students to enroll in a full day model. FWSU enrollments at CTE remained constant between 2011-2014. In 2015 we have seen an increase in enrollments.

Attrition rates of half-day models compared to full-day models are measurably greater. This is due, in part, to the fact that half-day program students often start programs as seniors and never have the chance to complete the program since it takes two years to complete in a half day model. Higher attrition rates in half-day programs can also be attributed to students' changing interests. Some students select out of one program for an entirely different program between their junior and senior year. Because of this, students enrolled in half-day centers fail to complete their program more so than those in full-day models.

The chart below shows that attrition rates at CTE are less than that of NWTC for the past three years. For the past three years CTE attrition rates have averaged 3% with a high of 4%. Whereas attrition rates at NWTC have averaged 9% with a high of 13%. In this table, the ideal goal for NWTC would be 50% return rate. The ideal goal for CTE would be 100%. This distinction makes for a fairer comparison of the data based on the difference in models.

Student Return Rates

	2015			2014			2013		
	Non Pre Tech Enrollments	Returned to same program	Percent Returned	Non Pre Tech Enrollments	Returned to same program	Percent Returned	Non Pre Tech Enrollments	Returned to same program	Percent Returned
Northwest Tech Center	251	94	37%	223	98	44%	242	102	42%
Center for Technology	311	306	98%	296	287	97%	328	316	96%

We believe that enrollments will continue to decrease if FWSU students attend at NWTC because full-day models provide more opportunities for students. Since CTE students are able to complete a full program in one year, they often choose to remain enrolled at CTE for another program the following year. FWSU students have taken advantage of these opportunities. More than 40% of FWSU students enroll for two or more years at CTE. This speaks to both interest and success of students who select our full-day model. The chart below shows the number of FWSU students, by town, who returned for a second year at CTE.

Year	Fairfax	Fletcher	Georgia	Total
FY 2016	11 (39%)	4 (36%)	12 (55%)	27 (44%)
FY 2015	11 (50%)	4 (66%)	8 (39%)	23 (43%)
FY 2014	8 (50%)	1 (16%)	8 (44%)	17 (40%)
FY 2013	14 (52%)	1 (33%)	3 (20%)	18 (40%)
FY 2012	12 (43%)	2 (50%)	3 (30%)	17 (40%)

Question 2: What is the distance between sending school and receiving center?

Response to FWSU memo:

While FWSU correctly states the distance between BFA and NWTC is shorter, there are more considerations that need to be explored. FWSU will need to invest in multiple trips to NWTC and back because of a half-day model. The memo also suggests that another career and technical education option is sending FWSU students to Missisquoi Valley Union High School or Cold Hollow Career Center. However, both of these locations are actually greater distances from BFA-Fairfax than CTE. As we can all attest to, accounting for travel in and across Vermont is challenging. The distance and route from BFA-Fairfax to NWTC, Missisquoi Valley Union High School, Cold Hollow Career Center and CTE are roughly equivalent. Additionally, the FWSU memo states that some students will continue to be permitted to attend CTE or BTC for certain programs. If so, FWSU would still be obligated to provide transportation to CTE and BTC in addition to NWTC, Missisquoi Valley Union High School, and Cold Hollow Career Center.

Our rationale:

CTE is 16 miles from BFA Fairfax and travel time is typically 25-30 minutes two times per day. Northwest Tech Center and BFA-Fairfax are 13 miles apart and travel time travel time averages 20-25 minutes three times per day.

Question 3: What opportunities do students have?

Response to FWSU memo:

In the best-case scenario, all FWSU students would receive their Special Education services at BFA-Fairfax if all students attend NWTC. However, FWSU will continue to have responsibilities as the LEA, regardless of where their students attend for career and technical education. If students' IEPs require direct services in the career and technical education setting, FWSU will be required to provide and staff those services, regardless of half-day or full-day model. Students who select into CTE programs that are not offered at any of the centers proposed as alternatives and who require Special Education services will continue to need case management and direct services. In such cases, FWSU will be required to send staff to CTE in addition to NWTC.

Using SBAC data in its first year of implementation for any consequential purpose is inadvisable. This is why your office and the Vermont State Board of Education instructed supervisory unions and schools not to use it to make "normative or consequential judgments about schools or students." Further, we question the accuracy of the data given the complexities of managing the TIDE database, especially as they apply to aggregating and disaggregating CTE student results, as represented as part of the whole within their sending district. We know in some cases that our member districts were not representing their aggregate performance inclusive of CTE students.

More importantly, we are concerned that FWSU does not portray a fair or accurate story with regard to student performance on SBAC. FWSU does not acknowledge its role in the performance of students, regardless of tech center affiliation. Those students are part of the FWSU system of education for at least 10 years prior to their enrollment in a tech center. At the point of the administration of the SBAC we have had the majority of FWSU students for 7 months of instruction. A more responsible approach would be to consider the students' performance given the involvement of both organizations. Career and technical education centers cannot possibly take full responsibility for the performance of students on academic measures. These types of statements continue to fuel a climate of negative bias toward career and technical education that is inaccurate and undeserved. Further, we have heard no concerns about student performance until this request was made.

While we cannot fully respond to the statement regarding a thriving Franklin County internship program, as we were not provided the letter from Kathy Lavoie, we are greatly surprised by the claim that "no such program exists" at CTE. Please see the data included in our rationale below that describes the robust, long-standing, and comprehensive cooperative education options for students at CTE. FWSU students have participated in all of these options. The model we have developed for decades has been replicated by many other organizations with whom we have consulted.

In response to claims about students' feeling of connection to BFA-Fairfax High School and their access to extra-curricular activities, we will provide you an opportunity to speak directly with a representative group of FWSU students and you can hear from them about their sense of belonging to both organizations. We have a strong history of supporting our scholar-athletes with early release and transportation services to their sending school. What we find contradictory about this argument is that FWSU students already have the option of a half-day model and full-day model of career and technical education and 73% of the students enrolled in career and tech ed centers in our region choose the full-day model, regardless of whether it reduces their time in their sending school.

Our rationale:

Again, we believe if FWSU students are reassigned to NWTC, they will have fewer opportunities especially as measured by the variety and quality of programs, college dual-enrollments, Industry Recognized Credentials, and employment opportunities.

Dual Enrollment Credit

CTE employs 9 teachers who are also adjunct faculty for Community College of Vermont and/or Vermont Technical College. This enables us to provide college and high school credit by delivering curriculum approved by the state college system by teachers who are certified college instructors. Students in dual enrollment courses earn college and high school credits without leaving CTE. In this system, CTE is able to offer up to 64 dual enrollment credits each year.

If students in the programs that offer dual enrollment choose not to enroll for the college credits, they receive college-level instruction that benefits all students. Additionally, CTE provides other opportunities for students to take college classes at CCV giving many first generation college students an invaluable opportunity to have a college experience while in high school.

It is important to note that we are changing the focus of students who are enrolling in career and tech programs. Most of our students are much more aware of post-secondary options and many enroll at CTE with a goal to attend college. From September 2014 to June 2015 CTE students enrolled in 159 college courses. In that same time period, 280 students took the Accuplacer test to measure college readiness. This test is a requirement to qualify for dual enrollment and off-campus college courses. This reflected an increase of 119 students from the previous year. Offering dual enrollment credits while in high school, especially for first-generation college attendees, leads to considerable cost savings for students and their families as they consider college options.

Significant numbers of FWSU students have earned college credits while at CTE as compared to FWSU students enrolled at Northwest Tech Center (tuitioning in through BFA-St. Albans).

Center for Technology, Essex					Northwest Tech Center			
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2015	2014	2013	2012
Eligible Students	52	38	39	38	42	38	40	48
%Students Earning Credit	17%	21%	26%	5%	7%	8%	2.5%	4%
Courses Taken	20	18	17	4	4	3	1	2
Total Credits Earned	69	51	49	11	12	9	13	3

Industry Recognized Credentials

Every CTE program maintains a minimum of one Industry Recognized Credential. Collectively, 71% of CTE students earned Industry Recognized Credentials last year. Significant numbers of FWSU students attending CTE have earned Industry Recognized Credentials when compared to FWSU students enrolled in NWTC (tuitioning in through BFA-St. Albans) as demonstrated by the chart below.

Center for Technology, Essex					Northwest Tech Center			
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2015	2014	2013	2012
Eligible Students	52	38	39	38	42	38	40	48
%Students Earning IRC	63%	66%	59%	45%	40%	36%	45%	23%

Career Work Experience/Work Based Learning

CTE has more than 400 active employers who participate in career work placements and/or Program Advisory committees. This extensive network of industry partners enables our Cooperative Education teachers to place students from every program at participating businesses for up to two weeks at a time as part of the students' learning plans. Often these experiences lead to offers of paid work. These experiences are invaluable to preparing students to be career ready.

CTE has two state-approved cooperative education programs modeled after the state apprenticeship program. These include the Automotive Technology Coop and the Childhood Education Coop. In both of these programs, students work full time. While at work, Coop teachers develop individualized education plans with clearly stated competencies and objectives that guide students learning and allow them to earn a wage. In these selective programs, students are required to complete academic classes and a college class or a certificate course offered through CTE's adult evening and weekend division. We believe this is a dynamic and flexible model.

Significant numbers of FWSU students have participated in Career Work Experience placements when compared to FWSU student enrolled in NWTC.

Center for Technology, Essex					Northwest Tech Center			
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2015	2014	2013	2012
Eligible Students	52	38	39	38	42	38	40	48
%Students with WBL	60%	74%	59%	50%	26%	32%	25%	15%
Total number WBL experiences	82	55	46	29	21	13	15	13

Depth and Breadth of Programs

We believe that full-day models allow students to learn more deeply and make more lasting and effective connections between their technical and academic content. Students enrolled in full-day programs have a more authentic experience in the production setting since more continuous program time allows for the students to learn in the industry-established production cycle leading to a more fully developed understanding of the skills and knowledge required for success.

CTE employs 14 academic teachers. These teachers provide instruction during periods 1-2 and 7-8. Additionally, they are required to integrate academic instruction into existing programs, deepening students' academic skills in context of the technical content. Some examples are Robotics Sciences in Computer Animation and Web Design; Science in Professional Foods; Algebra in Building Trades; English Language Arts in Cosmetology; Anatomy and Physiology in Health Informatics. This approach has allowed CTE to shift toward a more comprehensive model moving away from embedded credits toward "integrated" credits that are taught by HQT academic teachers. Currently, of the 55 academic credits embedded in our programs, 20 of these credits are categorized as "integrated," assuring our partner high schools that the students are meeting common proficiencies.

Many CTE programs are independently certified by professional institutions, which qualify our students for licensure and make them more employable at a higher wage. For instance, Cosmetology is licensed by the State of Vermont. Automotive Technology is accredited through National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) certifies our Dental Assisting program. These certifications ensure that we maintain rigorous technical curriculum standards, that our teachers meet industry certification requirements and the program maintains highly effective and professionally designed learning labs.

While many of the programs at NWTC may have the same Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code, they do not truly compare in depth or scope to those programs operating at CTE.

Question 4: What is the fiscal impact on CTE and the remaining sending schools within the service region?

Response to FWSU memo:

The assertion that “the fiscal impact to CTE will be negligible” is incorrect when considering how tuitions and enrollments support the success of all of our students at CTE. We have responsibly invested tuition dollars over the decades to develop programs that support the success of all of our students. That student body has included FWSU students. The data below will demonstrate the true detrimental financial impact of removing these valued students from our organization.

Furthermore, the statement that we will be able to recoup 61 lost full-time enrollments through the gain of Westford high school choice students through our recent merger is also incorrect. Those students already have access to CTE. In the most optimistic light, EHS will eventually gain about 20 Westford students when choice is phased out. Of those students, CTE may see an eventual increase of 2-3 students.

Our rationale:


Using the current enrollment numbers, CTE would eventually lose \$1,223,721 (uninflated) or one seventh (14%), of our operating budget calculated based on the full impact of the six-semester average. A deficit of this magnitude could only be managed by reducing teaching staff and services and increasing tuition. Our estimate is that we would have to reduce professional staff by 16.5 positions to make up the full deficit. As you may know, enacting a reduction in force at a career and technical center is complicated. Because we do not have multiple sections/classes like a high school, we cannot simply consolidate sections by making larger classes. In fact, most of our programs are full or approaching full so, to cut program teachers means we will be required to close popular and successful programs. Either cutting services and programs or increasing tuition will make up the remaining budget deficit. In this case, both will happen leading to a more expensive, more limited and less effective center for the remaining students served by our region. FWSU's removal will drive up costs and reduce services for all other sending schools in our region.

We agree that all organizations need to exercise responsible fiscal management as we navigate Act 46. CTE is already being proactive with regard to Act 46. We have worked with the U46 School Board to develop a budget for FY'17 that does not increase tuition. So while we have not been formally instructed to cap our allowable per pupil spending by the state, our local strategy is meant to absorb some part of the financial burden anticipated by our sending high schools. This guideline will require an estimated \$309,085 in cuts to ensure we do not increase tuition.

As you might imagine, we at CTE and CCSU are very concerned about the FWSU request and the negative impacts it will undoubtedly have on all students in this service region. We also understand the complex nature of the request as it comes in the wake of important work in the state of Vermont with regard to school district consolidation. In testimony to the House Education Committee, we requested that the Vermont legislature suspend

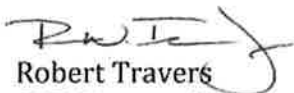
entertaining service region change requests for technical centers until the matter of districts and supervisory union mergers is satisfactorily resolved. It is our shared belief that it is imperative that a systematic and well-planned approach with regard to any shifting of service regions is enacted. Thank you for your leadership in this matter.

Respectfully,



Judith DeNova

CCSU Superintendent of Schools



Robert Travers
CTE Director/Principal

Cc:

Ned Kirsch, FWSU Superintendent

Kevin Dirth, FCSU Superintendent

Yaw Obeng, Burlington Superintendent

8

Glennon, Greg

From: Glennon, Greg
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 11:21 AM
To: yobeng@bsdvt.org; Kevin Dirth (kdirth@fcsuvt.org)
Cc: nkirsch@fwsu.org; Judy DeNova (jdenova@ccsuvt.org); Holcombe, Rebecca; Bouchey, Heather; Ramsey, Jay
Subject: CTE Region Change Request by FWSU
Attachments: Franklin West SU_Kirsch_Response to request CTE region change_12_21_15.pdf; Chittenden Central_CTE change request by FWSU_12_28_15.pdf

Dear Yaw and Kevin,

Ned Kirsch, on behalf of FWSU has filed a CTE Region change request with AOE. This request, if granted by the State Board, would affect CTE within BSD and FCSU. BSD would lose FWSU CTE students, while FCSU would gain CTE students.

In order for AOE to fully consider FWSU's request and make a final recommendation to the State Board, we need to hear from all affected districts, on this petition.

Judy DeNova, for CCSU, has already replied to FWSU's request to AOE. Ned's request for FWSU, and Judy's reply for CCSU, are attached for your reference.

Can you please reply to AOE by January 29, 2015?

Thanks,

Greg

Gregory J. Glennon, General Counsel
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, #402
Barre, VT 05641
(802) 479-1756
greg.glennon@vermont.gov

9

Glennon, Greg

From: Glennon, Greg
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2016 10:14 AM
To: 'tracicot@bsdvt.org'; 'btravers@ccsuvt.org'; 'lwright@fcsuvt.org'
Cc: yobeng@bsdvt.org; Judy DeNova (jdenova@ccsuvt.org); nkirsch@fwsu.org; Holcombe, Rebecca; Bouchey, Heather; Ramsey, Jay
Subject: CTE Region Change Request by FWSU
Attachments: Franklin West SU_Kirsch_Response to request CTE region change_12_21_15.pdf; Chittenden Central_CTE change request by FWSU_12_28_15.pdf; State Board Rule 2374.pdf

Dear Tracy, Robert, and Leeann,

Ned Kirsch, on behalf of the member districts of FWSU, has filed a CTE Region change request with AOE. This request, if granted by the State Board, would affect CTE within BSD, CCSU, and FCSU. Burlington Technical Center and Center for Technology Essex would lose FWSU CTE students, while Northwest Technical Center would gain FWSU CTE students.

In order for AOE to fully consider FWSU's request and make a final recommendation to the State Board, we need to hear from the Regional Advisory Boards of all affected CTE Centers, on this petition, as well as the Superintendents for the affected school districts. State Board Rule 2374 states in part,

B. The commissioner, prior to making a recommendation to the state board, shall consult with the school districts, and the regional advisory boards that would be affected by a change in sending district service region assignment(s).

Judy DeNova, for CCSU, has already replied to FWSU's request to AOE. Ned's request for FWSU, and Judy's reply for CCSU, are attached for your reference.

Can you please work with your RAB and ensure that your RAB replies to AOE by February 12, 2016?

Also attached for your reference is the State Board Rule outlining this process. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Greg

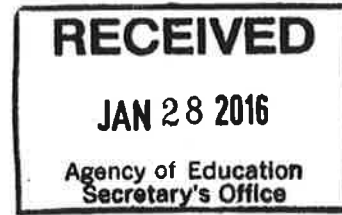
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10



January 19, 2016

Secretary Rebecca Holcombe
State of Vermont
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641



GG
RH
BT
HB
JR
DRS

Dear Secretary Holcombe,

We are writing to provide information in response to the request from Mr. Ned Kirsch, Superintendent of Schools for the Franklin West Supervisory Union (FWSU), to grant a change of technical education service region. You had previously requested from Mr. Kirsch response in four areas. Outlined is information from the Burlington School District on each of the four areas and how it may impact the services that we are able to provide to the community at the Burlington Technical Center (BTC).

The State Board shall grant a request by a school or school district to change service regions if:

- 1. The change will not significantly affect technical center program enrollments.**

While students from FWSU comprise 7.25% of our student body (16 students) in the fall semester of 2015, this number represents a full classroom of students in a tech center program. Career Tech Ed classes are, by state board rules, capped at 16 students for tech programs that cover one or more activities identified as hazardous occupations. Losing 16 students translates to a class. With a decline in enrollment, decisions to close programs with low enrollment will significantly affect tech center offerings and therefore access to programs. With fewer programs available, fewer students will enroll from the entire technical education service region.

The State Board shall grant a request by a school or school district to change service regions if:

- 2. The change will not significantly increase the distance between technical center and the high school.**

The proposal to send students to the Cold Hollow Career Center (CHCC) to programs that Northwest Tech Center does not offer has no benefit to students travelling to CHCC. The distance from BFA-Fairfax at 75 Hunt St, Fairfax to CHCC at Missisquoi St, Enosburg Falls is 26.8 miles. The distance from BFA- Fairfax and BTC at 52 Institute Rd., Burlington is 26.9 miles. Historically, students attending BTC from FWSU are enrolled in programs that are not offered at Northwest Technical Center or Cold Hollow Career Center. Students planning to attend Aviation Maintenance, Welding and Auto Body would still be eligible to participate in programs at BTC. FWSU Students would potentially attend three or four tech centers.

The State Board shall grant a request by a school or school district to change service regions if:

- 3. The change will expand opportunities to students.**

_____YAW OBENG SUPERINTENDENT_____

Below is a chart of programs offered by Northwest Tech Center, Cold Hollow Career Center, Center for Technology at Essex and BTC. Information is obtained from the current tech center websites.

	Northwest	Cold Hollow		Essex	Burlington	
Auto Tech	X	X		X	X	
Aviation Tech					X	
Auto body					X	
Building Trades/Construction Tech /Eng and Arch Des	X	X		X		
Childhood Ed/Human Services	X			X	X	
Computer Anim/Web Design				X		
Computer Systems				X	X	
Cosmetology	X	X		X		
Dental Assisting				X		
Design & Creative Media (Illustration)	X	X		X	X	
Health Care (Informatics, Sports Med and Sciences, Med Careers	X	X		X	X	
Natural Resources/Forestry Agri Science	X	X		X		
Culinary Arts/Professional Foods	X			X	X	
Digital Video Productions	X			X	X	
*Marketing/Business	X	X				
Public Safety/Crim Justice	X				X	
Welding					X	
Totals			NW/CH 11			CTE/BTC 16

*this is duplicative of programs offered in High Schools

This chart demonstrates that there are programs offered by BTC and the Center for Technology at Essex (CTE) not offered by either Northwest Technical Center or Cold Hollow Career Center. In fact, students attending programs in our tech center region have 16 programs available to them while students in the combined tech regions of Northwest and Cold Hollow have only 11 programs available to them. Students interested in Aviation Technology, Auto Body, Welding,

—————**YAW OBENG SUPERINTENDENT**—————

Dental Assisting, Computer Systems, Animation and Web Design would still have the opportunity to attend BTC and CTE programs. Historically, FWSU students attending BTC primarily enroll in our Aviation Technology, Auto Body and Welding programs. This clearly demonstrates that changing tech regions does not expand opportunities to students. This access reduction would be substantial.

There are 4 pillars of the technical education system in Vermont: Mission, Funding, Governance and Student Access. The Vermont legislature supports access to Career Tech Ed in T.16, 1541a(2): "Provide students enrolled in programs at career technical centers transportation between its high school building and the career technical center or centers in its designated service region or regions."

Given that a level of access already exists for BFA Fairfax students attending programs in our tech center region, reducing access would therefore result in assigning BFA Fairfax to a different service region with fewer options.

The State Board shall grant a request by a school or school district to change service regions if:


- 4. The fiscal impact of the change will not be so great that the affected technical centers cannot accommodate it; other school in a serviced region will not have to assume a significantly larger portion of the costs of operating a technical center.**

Loss of 7.25% of our FTE leaves BTC with two options, downsizing to meet the budget by eliminating programs, or have the remaining districts absorb the costs via tuition increase. We understand the fiscal responsibility of schools under Act 46. The tech center regions have been regulated for reasons that can and will be impacted by the restructuring of our school systems. We welcome change but request that this complex issue be well evaluated before decisions are made. Decisions set precedent and must have a larger impact than benefits to a single supervisory union. With long range planning that includes the analysis of how career technical education programs are funded and takes into consideration the many unintended consequences, we can continue to provide and even expand career and technical education programs that serve the future needs of the state, national and global economies.

Respectfully,



Yaw Obeng
Burlington School District Superintendent



Tracy Racicot
Burlington Technical Center Director

—————**YAW OBENG SUPERINTENDENT**—————

||

NORTHWEST TECHNICAL CENTER

71 South Main St., St. Albans, VT ~ (802) 527-0614

nwtc.fcsuvt.org

January 28, 2016

Secretary Rebecca Holcombe
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05461

Dear Secretary Holcomb:

Please consider this our formal response to the request received from Greg Glennon, General Counsel, Agency of Education, dated January 6, 2016.

The following information addresses the four separate conditions outlined in the Change in Service Region request by the Franklin West Supervisory Union (FWSU) concerning the Northwest Technical Center (NWTC), as well as the response provided by the Chittenden Central Supervisory Union (CCSU).

This report will not attempt to compare the performance of all three technical centers involved, as all three are equally committed to delivering high quality education. However, the data contained in this report accurately reflects the performance of the NWTC and corrects certain erroneous conclusions stated in the CCSU response.

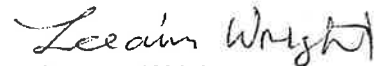
We are prepared to serve our region's students and support our neighboring district's request for assistance. Franklin County schools have a distinctive culture and climate that Northwest Technical Center is capable of supporting. Keeping in mind that the students are at the center of everything we do, it's in their best interest to partner with a career and technical center that fully understands their unique needs.

It is my hope that we will be able to share with you in person the commitment that we have to our students and the community. I invite and encourage you to visit and tour the NWTC so that you can have a full picture of what our Center has to offer.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kevin Dirth
Superintendent, FCSU



Leeann Wright
Director, NWTC

The mission of the Northwest Technical Center is to educate today's learners by providing comprehensive career and technical education programs that enhance career awareness, promote lifelong learning, and develop the skills to be responsible, productive citizens for today and tomorrow.

NORTHWEST Technical Center

Below you will find Career & Technical Education State Board Regulation 2374, 2C, which outlines the four separate conditions of a Change in Service Region:

Change in Service Region When Requested by a School District

The State Board shall grant a request by a school or school district to change service regions if:

(1) The change will not significantly affect technical center program enrollments:

As correctly stated in the request from FWSU, the NWTC is positioned to absorb the additional students projected to attend following the center service region change. The NWTC is currently positioned to absorb additional students based on current course configuration and is in the process of opening a new program and expanding other popular programs that will further accommodate the rise in enrollment.

NWTC has made substantial growth in the past few years, while our sending school's enrollment are decreasing, our Center has increased. Our recent NEASC five year review in April 2015 commended us for a 31% increase in the last five years. Contrary to the impression left by the CCSU response, NWTC attrition rates are comparable to those at CTE, with approximately 40% returning to both centers. Among other things, the data used by CCSU does not take into consideration students who return to NWTC for a second year in a different program.

(2) The change will not significantly increase the distance between the technical center and the high school:

In fact, the change will decrease the distance between the technical center and high school. Mapquest reports the trip to be 12 miles or 17 minutes from BFA Fairfax to NWTC. There would be two trips daily from Fairfax to St. Albans. The morning trip would consist largely of first year students and the afternoon trip would consist of second and third year students contrary to the report from CCSU. In other words, individual students would be spending less time traveling between locations with the change.

(3) The change will provide more opportunities to students:

Expanded Opportunity Commendations

Other commendations from our NEASC five year focused visit were an increase in programming for our math interventionist, increasing our Digital Video Production program from part time to full time, and our math Accuplacer results increasing from 30% to 90%.

We have made substantial improvements including a new Automotive Technology lab, a new Culinary Arts restaurant, increased community involvement, and accessibility of enrichment opportunities through our Career Development Office.

We have specialized attention for our feeder schools including a growing middle school outreach program for students to experience career and technical education earlier. Some of our programs are Career Exploration Day, Tech & Engineering Day and involvement in Personal Learning Plans.

NORTHWEST Technical Center

Local Career Development Center

NWTC's Career Development Office is proud to deliver the largest selection of continuing education courses offered by a Vermont regional technical center. High school students and adults have access to 50 courses taught locally, along with access to hundreds of online courses. As part of the student's personalized learning plans, the Career Development Office at NWTC is a strong option for many of our students (and their families).

Cooperative Education

The NWTC offers comprehensive career preparedness opportunities for all of the students that we serve. The entire staff is committed to preparing our students for the world of work. We employ a full time Cooperative Education Coordinator who is highly qualified with over 20 years of experience. The NWTC including the Cooperative Education Coordinator are actively involved in many Franklin County initiatives and organizations including: the Franklin Grand Isle Work force Investment Board (WIB), the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation (FCIDC), and Franklin County's Regional Career and Job Expo planning committee.

During a recent visit from the Legislature's Commerce Committee the members commented the NWTC on how well we all collaborate in Franklin County to make sure that the needs of our business community are being met. They inquired into how to replicate the work that we do across the state. The NWTC Cooperative Education program has an active and robust community Advisory Committee and a long history of partnering with countless community employers. Contrary to the CCSU report, the NWTC has a 120% placement rate for cooperative education experiences.

Industry Recognized Credentials

100% of NWTC's programs offer at least one industry recognized credential to our students. (See Appendix A)

Dual Enrollment:

NWTC works closely with sending high schools to ensure dual enrollment opportunities are offered to all students. (See Appendix B)

Access to other Career & Technical Centers.

Students would still have the opportunity to attend the Aviation Technology or Welding and Metal Fabrication programs at BTC, the Dental Assisting and Natural Resources at CTE, Agriculture at MVU, or Forestry at Cold Hollow Career Center

According to state regulation 2374 Service Regions: Students attending Technical Education Outside their Service Region:

Secondary students may apply for enrollment into programs offered at technical centers outside their service region when the center in their region does not offer the program in which they wish to enroll or they are not able to enroll in the program of their choice. The school district of the students' residence shall pay tuition for that

NORTHWEST Technical Center

enrollment. Districts shall not be required to provide transportation to and from the technical center selected by the student. This is in direct conflict to CCSU's information.

(4) The fiscal impact of the change will not be so great that the technical centers affected by the change cannot accommodate it and that other schools in a service region will have to assume a significantly larger portion of the costs of operating the technical center.

Due to current capacity, we are positioned and prepared to provide an excellent education for all students that attend our school. The NWTC is fully aware of the delay in funding resulting from the change. The following table reflects that even though we would not receive tuition for FWSU students the first year, we are able to fiscally manage with a target date of 2020 to be fully funded.

This table reflects the projected 6 semester average FTE for NWTC over the transition period of 2017- 2020 by adding a straight 50 FTE's in the town of Fairfax, not knowing where the breakdown by town will be year to year.

Six Semester FTEs for Northwest Technical Center

Actual Fozen FTE's for FY17							Spring 2013 13s2FTE	Fall 2013 14s1FTE	Spring 2014 14s2FTE	Fall 2014 15s1FTE	Spring 2015 15s2FTE	Fall 2015 16s1FTE	6 sem avg FTE	
LEA ID	LEA Name						144.02	137.95	131.28	155.26	153.80	159.72	147.02	
T128	Milton ID	T128T128	Chittenden	10				0.50	0.50	0.50	-	-	0.25	
U401B	Mt. Mansfield Modified USD	U401B0401B	Chittenden	12				0.69	-	-	-	-	0.12	
T007	Bakersfield	T007T007	Franklin	20				0.69	2.09	2.09	2.27	2.15	2.19	
T018	Berkshire	T018T018	Franklin	20				0.88	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.58	
T128	Montgomery	T128T128	Franklin	20				-	-	-	0.69	0.69	0.35	
T187	Sheldon	T187T187	Franklin	21				9.33	7.71	7.13	7.53	8.12	4.88	7.45
U007	Missisquoi Valley UHSD #7	U007U007	Franklin	21				28.95	21.98	21.95	21.97	21.30	20.38	22.75
T071	Fairfax	T071T071	Franklin	22				-	0.50	0.50	0.69	0.69	-	0.40
T079	Georgia	T079T079	Franklin	22				12.85	12.90	12.48	14.87	14.10	13.65	13.44
T072	Fairfield	T072T072	Franklin	23				13.43	9.71	9.09	11.91	11.43	10.65	11.04
U048	Bellows Free Academy UHS	U048U048	Franklin	23				69.98	74.15	69.78	83.12	84.49	98.01	79.59
T003	Alburl	T003T003	Grand Isle	24				7.03	6.64	5.45	10.91	9.83	10.31	8.36
T103	Isle La Motte	T103T103	Grand Isle	24				0.19	0.19	0.19	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.35
T143	North Hero	T143T143	Grand Isle	24				-	0.50	0.50	-	-	-	0.17
T999	Statewide Totals						144.02	137.95	131.28	155.26	153.80	159.72	147.01	

Estimate Tech FTE's for FY2018							Spring 2014 14s2FTE	Fall 2014 15s1FTE	Spring 2015 15s2FTE	Fall 2015 16s1FTE	Spring 2016 16s2FTE	Fall 2016 17s1FTE	6 sem avg FTE
LEA ID	LEA Name						144.02	137.95	131.28	155.26	153.80	159.72	147.02
T128	Milton ID	T128T128	Chittenden	10			0.50	0.50	-	-	0.50	0.50	0.33
U401B	Mt. Mansfield Modified USD	U401B0401B	Chittenden	12			-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T007	Bakersfield	T007T007	Franklin	20			2.89	2.27	2.15	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.61
T018	Berkshire	T018T018	Franklin	20			1.00	0.50	0.50	-	0.50	0.50	0.50
T128	Montgomery	T128T128	Franklin	20			-	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.58
T187	Sheldon	T187T187	Franklin	21			7.13	7.53	8.12	4.88	7.00	7.00	6.94
U007	Missisquoi Valley UHSD #7	U007U007	Franklin	21			21.95	21.97	21.30	20.38	21.00	21.00	21.27
T071	Fairfax	T071T071	Franklin	22			0.50	0.69	0.69	-	50.00	50.00	18.98
T079	Georgia	T079T079	Franklin	22			12.48	14.87	14.10	13.65	13.00	13.00	13.48
T072	Fairfield	T072T072	Franklin	23			9.09	11.91	11.43	10.65	10.00	10.00	10.51
U048	Bellows Free Academy UHS	U048U048	Franklin	23			69.78	83.12	84.49	96.01	90.00	90.00	85.57
T003	Alburl	T003T003	Grand Isle	24			5.45	10.91	0.83	10.31	10.00	10.00	9.42
T103	Isle La Motte	T103T103	Grand Isle	24			0.19	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.45
T143	North Hero	T143T143	Grand Isle	24			0.50	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
T999	Statewide Totals						131.28	155.26	153.80	159.72	205.84	205.84	168.82

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Six Semester FTEs for Northwest Technical Center

Estimate Tech FTE's for FY2019							Spring 2015 15s2FTE	Fall 2015 16s1FTE	Spring 2016 16s2FTE	Fall 2016 17s1FTE	Spring 2017 17s2FTE	Fall 2017 18s1FTE	6 sem avg FTE
LEA ID	LEA Name						1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
T126	Milton ID	T126T126	Chittenden	10	-	-	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.33	
U0401B	MT Mansfield Modified USD	U0401B0401B	Chittenden	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
T007	Bakersfield	T007T007	Franklin	20	2.15	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.57	
T018	Berkshire	T018T018	Franklin	20	0.50	-	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.42	
T128	Montgomery	T128T128	Franklin	20	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	
T187	Sheldon	T187T187	Franklin	21	8.12	4.68	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	6.83	
U007	Missisquoi Valley UHSD #7	U007U007	Franklin	21	21.30	20.38	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	20.95	
T071	Fairfax	T071T071	Franklin	22	0.89	-	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	33.45	
T079	Georgia	T079T079	Franklin	22	14.10	13.65	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.29	
T072	Fairfield	T072T072	Franklin	23	11.43	10.65	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.35		
U048	Bellows Free Academy UHS	U048U048	Franklin	23	64.49	98.01	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00		
T003	Albany	T003T003	Grand Isle	24	9.83	10.31	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.02		
T103	Isle La Motte	T103T103	Grand Isle	24	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50		
T143	North Hero	T143T143	Grand Isle	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
TS99	Statewide Totals						144.02	137.95	131.26	155.26	153.60	159.72	147.02

Estimate Tech FTE's for FY2020							Spring 2016 16s2FTE	Fall 2016 17s1FTE	Spring 2017 17s2FTE	Fall 2017 18s1FTE	Spring 2018 18s2FTE	Fall 2018 19s1FTE	6 sem avg FTE
LEA ID	LEA Name						1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
T126	Milton ID	T126T126	Chittenden	10	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	
U0401B	MT Mansfield Modified USD	U0401B0401B	Chittenden	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
T007	Bakersfield	T007T007	Franklin	20	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	
T018	Berkshire	T018T018	Franklin	20	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	
T128	Montgomery	T128T128	Franklin	20	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	
T187	Sheldon	T187T187	Franklin	21	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	
U007	Missisquoi Valley UHSD #7	U007U007	Franklin	21	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	
T071	Fairfax	T071T071	Franklin	22	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	
T079	Georgia	T079T079	Franklin	22	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	
T072	Fairfield	T072T072	Franklin	23	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
U048	Bellows Free Academy UHS	U048U048	Franklin	23	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	
T003	Albany	T003T003	Grand Isle	24	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
T103	Isle La Motte	T103T103	Grand Isle	24	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	
T143	North Hero	T143T143	Grand Isle	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TS99	Statewide Totals						205.84	205.84	205.84	205.84	205.84	205.84	205.84

Appendix A

NORTHWEST TECHNICAL CENTER

Industry Recognized Credentials

All of our programs offer certification in industry recognized credentials. This ensures that our students are competitive applicants for career opportunities, as well as college/university programs.

NWTC Program	Industry Recognized Credential
Automotive Technology	Vermont General Service Technician NATEF Automotive Service Excellence State Inspection License Air Conditioning Certification Safety, Pollution & Prevention Training
Building Trades	Associated General Contractors Certification Lead Containment OSHA 10 hour Safety Course CPR/AED First Aid
Cosmetology	CPR/AED First Aid Bloodborne Pathogens
Culinary Arts	ServSafe
Digital Arts	Adobe Certified Associate in Photoshop/Visual Communications
Digital Video Production	Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10-hr OSHA-10
Engineering Technologies	TIA-A+ Computer Essentials PC Maintenance
Human Services	CPR/AED First Aid Blood Borne Pathogens Childcare Apprentice Certificates of Proficiency
Medical Professions	Licensed Nurse Assistant (LNA) CPR First Aid Bloodborne Pathogens
Public Safety & Fire Services	CPR/AED (Red Cross) First Aid Firefighter I Emergency Medical Responder Bloodborne Pathogens Incident Command System 100 (FEMA) ICS 200, 700 Boater Safety Highway Safety Wildland Fire Control Professional Rescuers Hazardous Materials Operations

Appendix B

NORTHWEST TECHNICAL CENTER

Dual Enrollment (College Credit)

Some of our programs offer students the opportunity to earn transcribed college credits during class time. This ensures that our students are exposed to the standards of post-secondary education and demonstrates college readiness.

NWTC Program	College	College Course/Credits
Automotive Technology	Central Maine Community College	Brakes I (3 credits)
	Central Maine Community College	Suspension and Alignment (3 credits)
	Central Maine Community College	Engine Performance (2 credits)
	Central Maine Community College	Electrical (2 credits)
Culinary Arts	New England Culinary Institute	French Classic Cuisine (3 credits)
	New England Culinary Institute	Science Connection (3 credits)
Digital Arts	Community College of Vermont	Digital Photography (3 credits)
	Community College of Vermont	Graphic Design I (3 credits)
Digital Video Production	Community College of Vermont	Introduction to Film (3 credits)
Engineering Technologies	Community College of Vermont	Concepts of PC Hardware (3 credits)
	Community College of Vermont	Desktop Operating Systems (4 credits)
	Central Maine Community College	Introduction to Lathes (2 credits)
Marketing	Community College of Vermont	Introduction to Business (3 credits)
	Community College of Vermont	Micro-Computer Applications (3 credits)
	Community College of Vermont	Principles of Marketing (3 credits)
Medical Professions	Community College of Vermont	Human Biology (3 credits)
	Central Maine Community College	Medical Terminology (3 credits)

Educating today's learners for tomorrow's world

The Northwest Technical Center recognizes its obligation to respect the legal rights of all students (and parents of minor students). The NWTC will not unlawfully discriminate against any person or group on the basis of race, color, marital status, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, or gender identity.

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Glennon, Greg

From: Glennon, Greg
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 1:48 PM
To: jnichols@fnesu.net; 'ndemar@chccvt.net'
Cc: nkirsch@fwsu.org; Judy DeNova (jdenova@ccsuvt.org); yobeng@bsdvt.org; Kevin Dirth (kdirth@fcsuvt.org); tracicot@bsdvt.org; btravers@ccsuvt.org; lwright@fcsuvt.org; Holcombe, Rebecca; Bouchey, Heather; Ramsey, Jay; Sprague, Suzanne
Subject: CTE Region Change Request by FWSU
Attachments: Franklin West SU_Kirsch_Response to request CTE region change_12_21_15.pdf; Chittenden Central_CTE change request by FWSU_12_28_15.pdf; Burlington SD_Obeng_Change of Technical Education Service Region_01_28_16.pdf; State Board Rule 2374.pdf

Dear Jay and Nathan,

Superintendent Ned Kirsch, on behalf of the member districts of FWSU, has filed a CTE Region change request with AOE. This request, if granted by the State Board, would affect CTE within FNESU, according to the request filed by FWSU. Burlington Technical Center and Center for Technology Essex would lose FWSU CTE students, while Northwest Technical Center and Cold Hollow Career Center would gain FWSU CTE students.

In order for AOE to fully consider FWSU's request and make a final recommendation to the State Board, we need to hear from the Regional Advisory Boards of all affected CTE Centers, on this petition, as well as the Superintendents for the affected school districts. State Board Rule 2374 states in part,

B. The commissioner, prior to making a recommendation to the state board, shall consult with the school districts, and the regional advisory boards that would be affected by a change in sending district service region assignment(s).

Superintendent Judy DeNova, for CCSU, and Superintendent Yaw Obeng for BSD, have replied to AOE. FWSU's request to AOE, and the replies from CCSU and BSD, are attached for your reference. Also attached for your reference is the State Board Rule outlining this process. We are still awaiting a reply from FCSU and the RAB's for each of the other affected CTE centers.

Jay: Can you please reply to FWSU's request (to AOE) on behalf of the districts within FNESU, by February 26, 2016?

Nathan: Can you please work with the RAB for Cold Hollow Career Center and ask the RAB to reply to AOE by February 26, 2016?

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Greg

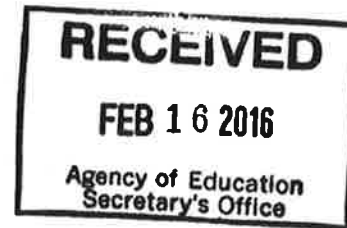
Gregory J. Glennon, General Counsel
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, #402
Barre, VT 05641
(802) 479-1756

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February 7, 2016

Secretary Rebecca Holcombe
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641



Re: FWSU Request for Change in Service Region

Dear Secretary Holcombe,

I am contacting you in support of Franklin West Supervisory Union's request for a change in their service region for their technical center. Franklin Grand Isle Workforce Investment Board serves as the Regional Advisory Board for Northwest Technical Center and Cold Hollow Career Center. It is in that capacity that I send this letter representing my Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee for Franklin Grand Isle Workforce Investment Board is broad based in its members but focused in its mission to best serve the workforce and the employers in the region. Our committee is diverse and dynamic, meeting monthly to discuss the training and educational needs of our citizens and our employers. Our committee brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the mission and we use it to support the needs of our businesses, our workers, and our students. Our membership includes the Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation, Franklin County Regional Chamber of Commerce, State of Vermont Department of Health, Vermont Department of Labor, Community College of Vermont, Creative Workforce Solutions, Cold Hollow Career Center, Northwest Technical Center, Vermont Technical College, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Pathstone, Franklin Grand Isle Restorative Justice Center, VABIR, and educators and administrators (including superintendents) from all regional high schools and supervisory unions. We know our businesses and we know each other. Many of us share membership on multiple local, regional and state committees and boards. We network, we coordinate, and we participate.

Our monthly meetings regularly include business tours that places us on the front line of business operations, and often on the production line with the workers. We interface with the owners, the maintenance teams, the production managers, the training coordinators, the human resource professionals, and the guys and gals making the products that ship out the door or delivering the service that clients require. We listen and we act.

The structure that makes up FGIWIB and RAB is important because it is one of the many things that makes Franklin County unique and successful. We're connected. And ultimately, the primary reason for us to support Franklin West Supervisory Union in their request to change regional technical centers is that we know the change will provide better opportunities for the students at Bellows Free Academy in Fairfax. We know that the resources in Franklin County are immense because we are efficient and effective in delivering them. We can compete with larger counties because we're diverse and we're responsive. We better meet the needs of our people.

The Regional Advisory Board has discussed the many advantages of this request. We understand and support the technical requirements of Act 46. We understand the cost savings through transportation and special education services. We understand the dynamics of students receiving a half-day program instead of a full-day program. And we know that all students benefit from the programs delivered at career and technical centers throughout our state.

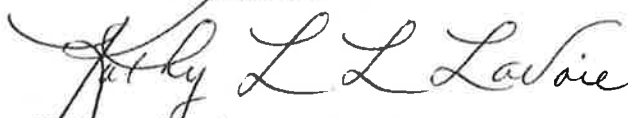
But, obviously, most important to us is how our students benefit from career and technical education. The students from Bellows Free Academy in Fairfax will benefit most from being students at Northwest Technical Center. Like all students attending NWTC, BFA Fairfax students will have the opportunity to be a part of a network that integrates them into the community; their community. We all know that it is a student's sense of community that helps them to value themselves and the world around them. It is this value of self that moves them forward to become successful in their own right, taking advantage of education and training opportunities, and creating a life that is challenging but realistic. Building relationships with their home school throughout their high school years, and with their technical center for their junior and senior years (their most formative years) should not be dismissed as providing an educational opportunity. Spending time in their schools and their community, where their families volunteer, should not be dismissed as an educational opportunity. Being exposed to the diverse businesses in their region, where their families work, through tours, job shadows and work placements should not be dismissed as an educational opportunity. Denying them this change will dismiss this opportunity.

And conversely, being able to more easily utilize local resources, such a special education services, Franklin County Internships and Placements, a thriving Cooperative Education program and Career Development Center at NWTC, the seamless dual enrollment process, and the additional Agribusiness, Ag Science and Forestry programs through Missisquoi Valley Union High School and Cold Hollow Career Center should be given substantial consideration for supporting this change. Opportunities are of no value if they cannot be realized.

All of this combined with the ability of a student to still choose to attend CTE or BTC for the few programs not delivered regionally, make for the perfect outcomes for our students. We know that the legislative intent of Act 46 is to provide the best opportunities for students in order to receive the greatest outcomes for their future, our future. This request meets that intent.

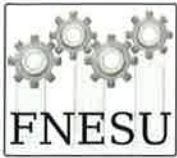
BFA Fairfax students deserve the opportunity to be invested in their community through their education pathway and their career choices. I hope that you consider the change in their service region as their opportunity to become successful in both.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kathy L.L. Lavoie, Executive Director
Franklin Grand Isle Workforce Investment Board
Serving As the Regional Advisory Board for NWTC

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FRANKLIN NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION

Post Office Building, P.O. Box 130, 80 Main Street, Richford, Vermont 05476

Tel: (802) 848-7661/Fax: (802) 848-3531

Jay Nichols
Superintendent

Shirley Carlson
Director
Special Programs

Morgan Daybell
Business Manager

Dominic DeRosia
Director
Technology

Jennifer Kennison
Co-Director
Instruction
and Learning

Jamie McAllister
Coordinator
Human Resources

Robin Trushaw
Assistant Director
Special Programs

Jody Vaillancourt
Co-Director
Instruction
and Learning

February 8, 2016

Greg Glennon, General Counsel
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, #402
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Greg,

This letter is a response to the request by Ned Kirsch, Superintendent of Franklin West Supervisory Union, to change the career technical center region for students at BFA Fairfax from Center of Technology at Essex (CTE) to the Northwest Technical Center (NWTC) in Saint Albans. The potential impact for Cold Hollow Career Center (CHCC) within Franklin Northeast is minimal. As I understand Mr. Kirsch's request, the only factor for our consideration really is opening up our Forestry program to students from BFA Fairfax to attend CHCC since Northwest already offers the other programs that students take at CTE.

Cold Hollow would gladly welcome any forestry students from Fairfax subject to enrollment considerations for the program. We have a very strong partnership with NWTC in providing high quality career education opportunities for our students. In particular, the Franklin County Internship program run by Kathy Lavoie is incredibly valuable and often ends up providing high quality jobs in Franklin County. In this sense, it makes for strong consideration for Fairfax students to be able to attend a career center located in the county in which they reside and in which they are most likely to have sustainable community connections.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or clarifications you might have related to Cold Hollow Career Center and our support of Superintendent Kirsch's request.

Yours in education,

Jay Nichols

Cc: Nathan Demar, Director Cold Hollow Career Center
Ned Kirsch, FWSU Superintendent of Schools

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Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce

February 10, 2016

Secretary Rebecca Holcombe
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Secretary Holcombe:

On behalf of the Workforce Collaborative of the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, we are writing this letter to share our thoughts on Franklin West Supervisory Union's (FWSU) request that they be allowed to change their career and technical service regions to the Northwest Technical Center in St Albans.

After meeting with the Directors of the Center for Technology, Essex (CTE) and the Burlington Technical Center (BTC), and reviewing the materials provided by them and FWSU, we believe the change would be detrimental for the following reasons:

1. Students' access to career and technical education will be negatively impacted, as measured by reduced opportunities in Industry Recognized Credentials (IRC), dual enrollment opportunities, and career-based learning opportunities.
2. Based on enrollment history of FWSU students, it is clear they prefer to attend a full-day career tech center. The proposed service region change will preclude students from having this option.
3. Current FWSU students attending CTE have strongly indicated they prefer to continue with the full day model available at CTE. They believe it provides them with a stronger connection to industry partners and career opportunities in Chittenden County, and ultimately access to higher wages and higher demand jobs.
4. Lost enrollments will undoubtedly place a significant burden on the remaining schools and their communities. Both Directors Travers and Director Racicot say there is no practical way to avoid the closure of popular programs. It will also limit important services and lead to an increase in tech tuition. The negative effects from these steps will most likely lead to further reductions, jeopardizing the long term viability of these programs.
5. Finally, we realize that Act 46 is a primary driver in FWSU's request. The impacts from this Act are not fully understood yet, as is evidenced by the ongoing legislative discussions in Montpelier. We believe it is more prudent and responsible to allow some time to pass until the full effects of unification are known, at which time decisions can be made in a more coordinated way that protect the integrity and strength of career and technical education programs across the state.

The Workforce Collaborative and the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce have always been, and will continue to be, strong supporters of career and technical education. We understand the importance of such programs in preparing our high school youth for the decisions and opportunities they'll encounter in their careers, we encourage any and all attempts to strengthen the system.

February 10, 2016

We appreciate the effort and time you and your staff are spending on this issue. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns in more detail if that would be of interest to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Clavelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas J. Clavelle
Executive Vice President and CFO, Engelberth Construction
Vice Chair, Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce
Co-Chair, Lake Champlain Workforce Collaborative

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Glennon, Greg

From: Glennon, Greg
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 2:41 PM
To: Sprague, Suzanne; Kevin Dirth; ndemar@chccvt.net; nkirsch@fwsu.org; Judy DeNova (jdenova@ccsuvt.org); yobeng@bsdvt.org; tracicot@bsdvt.org; btravers@ccsuvt.org; lwright@fcsuvt.org; jnichols@fnesu.net; Holcombe, Rebecca; Bouchey, Heather; Ramsey, Jay
Subject: CTE Region Change Request by FWSU

Scheduling Update

The Agency of Education is reviewing all of the submissions we have received with regard to FWSU's CTE service region change request. The Agency's internal review is ongoing. The matter will be considered by the State Board when the Secretary is prepared to make a recommendation to the State Board. We expect that this will happen in time for either the April or May 2016 (regular) meeting of the State Board. The Agency's review and the Board's deliberations will remain confidential until the Board takes final action on a recommendation by the Secretary. The final action will be on the record, in a public session.

Thanks,

Greg

Gregory J. Glennon, General Counsel
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, #402
Barre, VT 05641
(802) 479-1756
greg.glennon@vermont.gov

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Glennon, Greg

Subject: FW: CTE Region Change Request by FWSU

From: Nkirsch@fwsu.org [mailto:nkirsch@fwsu.org]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 2:56 PM
To: Glennon, Greg
Subject: Re: CTE Region Change Request by FWSU

Greg,

Thanks for the information. I'm still a little unclear on the process. I did not realize, nor was I ever informed, that the process was confidential.

Could you please provide me with the current administrative procedures that are being used. Thanks.

Have a good weekend.

Ned Kirsch

On Mar 18, 2016, at 2:41 PM, Glennon, Greg <Greg.Glennon@vermont.gov> wrote:

Scheduling Update

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Greg

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(802) 479-1756
greg.glennon@vermont.gov

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Glennon, Greg

From: Glennon, Greg
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 3:45 PM
To: Sprague, Suzanne; 'Kevin Dirth'; 'ndemar@chccvt.net'; 'nkirsch@fwsu.org'; 'Judy DeNova (jdenova@ccsuvt.org)'; 'yobeng@bsdvt.org'; 'tracicot@bsdvt.org'; 'btravers@ccsuvt.org'; 'lwright@fcsuvt.org'; 'jnichols@fnesu.net'; Holcombe, Rebecca; Bouchey, Heather; Ramsey, Jay
Subject: RE: CTE Region Change Request by FWSU

Ned Kirsch has asked:

"Thanks for the information. I'm still a little unclear on the process. I did not realize, nor was I ever informed, that the process was confidential.

Could you please provide me with the current administrative procedures that are being used."

Answer

The deliberations of an agency and public board acting in a quasi-judicial capacity are not public. 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(24). The ultimate action of the State Board of Education will be in public session and on the record. Due to the large number of involved parties to this petition, and the thorough nature of each of the written submissions, the Agency, in its discretion, will make a recommendation to the State Board based on those written submissions. SBE Rule 1240. We will notify all parties when the matter is placed on the State Board's agenda and all are welcome to attend the meeting.

From: Glennon, Greg
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 2:41 PM
To: Sprague, Suzanne; Kevin Dirth; ndemar@chccvt.net; nkirsch@fwsu.org; Judy DeNova (jdenova@ccsuvt.org); yobeng@bsdvt.org; tracicot@bsdvt.org; btravers@ccsuvt.org; lwright@fcsuvt.org; jnichols@fnesu.net; Holcombe, Rebecca; Bouchey, Heather; Ramsey, Jay
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Thanks,

Greg

Gregory J. Glennon, General Counsel
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, #402
Barre, VT 05641

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Glennon, Greg

From: Pietro Lynn <PLynn@lynnlawvt.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 10:38 AM
To: Glennon, Greg
Subject: CTE Region Change for FWSU

Greg,

The Franklin West Supervisory Union and its member districts request that any State Board of Education proceeding in connection with the request for a CTE region change be conducted in open session and that if it is to be a quasi-judicial process that the FWSU be given the opportunity to directly address the Board. It wishes to present evidence and witnesses. Also, the FWSU requests the opportunity to cross examine any witnesses against it.

Thank you.

Pietro

Pietro J. Lynn, Esq.
Lynn, Lynn, Blackman & Manitsky, P.C.
76 St. Paul Street, Suite 400
Burlington, VT 05401

Tel: 802-860-1500 x120
Fax: 802-860-1580

Please reply to: plynn@lynnlawvt.com

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Glennon, Greg

From: Glennon, Greg
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 10:44 AM
To: Pietro Lynn (PLynn@lynnlawvt.com)
Subject: RE: CTE Region Change for FWSU

Pietro, as we previously discussed, the deliberations of an agency and public board acting in a quasi-judicial capacity are not public. 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(24). The ultimate action of the State Board of Education will be in public session and on the record. All of the pleadings have been served on all parties, and are public record. Due to the large number of involved parties to this petition, and the thorough nature of each of the written submissions, the Agency, in its discretion, will make a recommendation to the State Board based on those written submissions. See e.g., SBE Rules 1234 and 1240. We will notify all parties when the matter is placed on the State Board's agenda and all are welcome to attend the meeting.

Thanks,

Greg

From: Pietro Lynn [mailto:PLynn@lynnlawvt.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 10:38 AM
To: Glennon, Greg
Subject: CTE Region Change for FWSU

Greg,

The Franklin West Supervisory Union and its member districts request that any State Board of Education proceeding in connection with the request for a CTE region change be conducted in open session and that if it is to be a quasi-judicial process that the FWSU be given the opportunity to directly address the Board. It wishes to present evidence and witnesses. Also, the FWSU requests the opportunity to cross examine any witnesses against it.

Thank you.

Pietro

Pietro J. Lynn, Esq.
Lynn, Lynn, Blackman & Manitsky, P.C.
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