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# State Board of Education

## Draft Meeting Minutes

### **VIRTUAL Teams Meeting/Video/Teleconference**

**Call in #: 1-802-828-7667, Conference ID: 432 284 005#**

**1 National Life Drive, Davis 5**

**Montpelier, VT 05602-2501**

**Date: May 18, 2022**

### **Present:**

**State Board Members (SBE):** Oliver Olsen, Chair; Jennifer Samuelson, Vice-Chair; Patrick Brown; Tom Lovett; Jenna O'Farrell; Tammy Kolbe; Lyle Jepson; Kim Gleason; Gabrielle Lucci; and Dan French.

**Agency of Education (AOE):** Donna Russo-Savage, Wendy Geller, Jacqui Kelleher, Chris Case, Emily Simmons, Suzanne Sprague, Maureen Gaidys.

**Others:** Marcy Webster, Joe Astick, Paul Forlenza, Owen McClain, Ron Shems, John Alberghini, Jeff Francis, Victoria Riley, Edye Graning, James Warnock, Erin Warnock, Andrew Furtsch, Jeanne Albert, Kate McCann, and Mindi Wimett.

### **Item A: Call to Order/Roll Call/Amendments to the Agenda**

Chair Olsen called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and roll call was taken. Chair Olsen said Jepson would be joining a bit late and Peña would not be joining due to her exam schedule. Chair Olsen announced that the Milton contingent would not be present due to illness. He proposed that the SBE pick up Item H after the break and return to Item G if extra time is needed. Members agreed to this.

### **Item B: Public to be Heard**

Chair Olsen explained that all meeting participants would be muted upon joining the meeting. Any participants would need to raise their hand to be acknowledged and would then have their audio enabled. There were no members of the public to be heard. Since the meeting was running ahead of schedule, Chair Olsen moved ahead to Item E.

### **Item E: Student Report**

Lucci spoke about the school year winding down. Advanced Placement exams are completed. Two school dances were scheduled and those were well attended, received positive feedback and students seemed to have a good time.

## **Item B: Public to be Heard (continued)**

Joe Astick, Director, Maplehill School: explained that Maplehill School is a special education school, serving ages 12-22 and they want to extend their license to 4-6<sup>th</sup> graders. This has been part of their strategic plan and they have a site, staff, and students and all are excited. They are awaiting the timeline for approval. He wanted to bring this to the attention of the SBE and ask for help/guidance in preparing for 4-6<sup>th</sup> graders this fall.

Chair Olsen addressed the process for independent school approval and the existing backlog of approvals. He explained that the approach is prioritizing new approvals over renewals because there is an impediment to operating under the new parameters. The AOE needs to go through its internal process that culminates in a recommendation that comes to the SBE for action. There is a subcommittee, chaired by Lovett, that will review and bring a recommendation to the full SBE for action. As soon as the AOE makes a recommendation, the SBE will be able to address this without any undue delay. Astick asked about the timeline for approval. Astick thanked the SBE for their service. Secretary French estimated that a recommendation on this would be ready in about 2 months.

## **Item C: Review & Approve Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2022 Meeting**

Samuelson moved to approve the April 20, 2022 meeting minutes; Lovett seconded. There was discussion on inserting the word “union” on page 2, third sentence, under “Preliminary Discussion with Lincoln” and adding “/school district” as well. Samuelson moved to accept minutes with this edit; Kolbe seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed.

## **Item D: Board Announcements**

Samuelson said the Rule 2200 series was approved by the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) and all provisions outside of Act 173 became effective May 10, 2022. All provisions that pertain to Act 173 will go into effect July 1, 2023. Gleason said that Peña’s last meeting will be in June; expect some outreach on that topic including a resolution. Chair Olsen spoke about correspondence with an independent school in Ludlow. They have been making inquiries about the status of their application and they have been advised about the process. They are requesting an expedited approval but, until the AOE gives a recommendation, it is outside the SBE’s purview. SBE members have been copied on that correspondence.

## **Item F: Update on H.727, an act relating to the exploration, formation, and organization of union school districts and unified union school districts**

Chair Olsen gave a brief update on [H.727](#) and explained that it is a major overhaul of Chapter 11 of Title 16 – the unification of school districts, operation of union school districts, and process for communities to withdraw from union school districts. He reviewed how the legislation worked its way through the legislature. Gleason spoke about how this legislation will provide a clear roadmap and is a big body of work that has been contemplated for years and will be welcomed by the field. Chair Olsen said this legislation with respect to the withdrawal process should it be signed into law, will be a big improvement over what the SBE has dealt with in navigating this process. Several gaps were identified, and this new process offers much-needed clarity.

Russo-Savage discussed [her memo to the SBE](#), and said sections 1-3 of the act were mostly non-controversial. Most of this is existing law or practice and repeated so that the same information is put forward twice: once for unified union school districts and once for union high school/union elementary school districts because there are some differences between the two. The legislature spent the most time on sections 4 through 7, ongoing withdrawal actions. There are four separate sections that pertain to four separate districts because each is in a different stage in the withdrawal process and needs to be addressed differently. The summary identifies towns that the section applies to because the legislators were very open in discussing the bill as it related to a specific town. Chair Olsen clarified that the legislation does not name specific towns, but instead identifies specific criteria that must be met. All provisions in this bill become effective on the date of the Governor's signature.

There was discussion on seniority of employees and impact on districts, provision to work out a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to address seniority issues, sections 4-7 being crafted uniquely to specific circumstances and will not apply if towns fall outside these parameters, SBE not having authority to override the vote of an electorate, deficiencies in existing § 724 have forced the SBE to be creative, recourse for those who are affected by the moratorium, moratorium on closures intending to create space for thoughtful process, origins of withdrawal actions stem from concern of local school closures, and the annual report will inform the legislature in addressing guardrails or future needs for legislation.

### **Item G: Lincoln Withdrawal**

Chair Olsen asked Lincoln representatives to introduce themselves prior to speaking on this topic. Forlenza introduced himself, Jim Warnock, Jeanne Albert, Andrew Furtsch, Erin Warnock, Owen McClain, Torey Riley, Ron Shems. They thanked the SBE and said they supported [the draft motion to approve Lincoln's withdrawal from MAUSD](#). Chair Olsen asked for clarification on who McClain was representing. McClain said there is no space between the Town of Lincoln and Save Community Schools (SCS) group with regard to their position on withdrawal. Shems indicated that they worked together on [the letter to the SBE](#) and it is submitted on behalf of both (Lincoln and SCS).

Chair Olsen spoke about deficiencies in §724 and that it is silent on who is authorized to speak and explained that that the SBE is relying on towns identifying folks as self-selected representatives in the absence of statutory guidance. He explained the process and explained that the SBE heard from Lincoln in April and there were gaps in the information (regarding evidence of capacity). The SBE recently received further evidence that provides additional information on this issue. Under current law, there is no timeline established for the SBE to complete the review process, and this item was added to the day's agenda at the request of the self-selected representatives from Lincoln, through their attorneys. The request is for the SBE to expedite the review process and that is the charge for the meeting, but much of the material was received on short notice just before the meeting. He said the SBE is not obligated to make any decision today. He said the SBE is cognizant of legislation that will come into force soon and said he wouldn't want to create the appearance that the SBE was on its own motion expediting this process under current law as a way of circumventing the intent of the legislature, especially in respect to section 6 of H.727. He noted that, if the SBE acts, Lincoln is going to be deprived of special privileges that would otherwise be granted as part of H.727. It is not

advisable for the SBE to rush into a decision. He emphasized that this item is on the agenda at the request of Lincoln, through its attorneys, and it will be considered under current law, not future law and that is the basis of the draft motion. He asked if that was clear to Shems and McClain.

Shems said it was clear; Lincoln is well underway in this process and has made significant investments in this. A timeline was provided by Forlenza that indicates steps and a tight timeframe. McClain said he agrees that Lincoln is asking the SBE to act under current law and understand that, if withdrawal is approved as drafted in the motion, then they would proceed without the process contemplated in section 6 of H.727. McClain clarified that they are not asking for expedited review to the extent that the SBE could act and deny withdrawal and also remove Lincoln from the specific provisions of section 6 of H.727. The only action to be taken is to approve Lincoln's withdrawal; any other decision would not constitute taking action today. Chair Olsen explained that SBE doesn't have the authority to grant approval with the additional provisions set forth in the proposed amendments to Sec. 6 and asked if McClain concurred with that. McClain said his attempt to draft a motion was an attempt to meet the SBE halfway for a successful withdrawal with a practical way forward and said he didn't want to give a legal opinion. He said he looks forward to working with the SBE on a successful withdrawal and entirely supports approval of the withdrawal today based on the motion that has been drafted by AOE at the SBE's request (which does not contain the condition of following the process under Sec. 6.) McClain said he agrees that the SBE has the authority to authorize withdrawal without that condition.

Chair Olsen said the SBE will move forward under current law, consider evidence submitted, and the SBE will have the opportunity to ask questions. He asked for a motion. Gleason asked for information from Lincoln on what it sent prior to the meeting, before hearing a motion. Chair Olsen agreed.

There were questions/discussion on capacity of nearby schools, the difference in [evidence provided by Lincoln](#) with the table and written assurances from superintendents, the group understanding that, if Lincoln cannot sustain an elementary school, the district might have to tuition all K-12 students, this group has been very conscious of this over the last 2 years, transparency with Lincoln residents and neighbors, keeping focused on current law, not speculating on pending legislation, considerations regarding compliance with other laws (universal school meals, PCB testing, transportation, special education, etc.), supervisory union (SU) designation to be made in September 2022, SU assignment, Lincoln's intent to create a mountain supervisory union with Ripton, capacity for nearby schools to absorb Lincoln students if needed, and the purpose of Lincoln's report and that Lincoln does not need to demonstrate that they can operate a K-6 school as a prerequisite to the SBE granting its request for withdrawal.

Chair Olsen asked for clarification on whether Lincoln would be back before the SBE asking for unilateral placement in another SU against the SU's wishes. Shems said Lincoln has benefitted from expertise and has taken extra steps to be withdrawn and that should not be held against them. He offered that there were representatives available who could speak to Lincoln students attending schools that meet EQS.

There was continued discussion on projecting enrollment for Lincoln, available capacity of nearby schools to absorb Lincoln students ([Exhibit 1](#)), meeting requirements of EQS 2113 ([Exhibit 2](#)), clarification on Lincoln operating their own school, plan for coordinating and serving students with special needs, costs associated with being a stand-alone SU, Lincoln sustaining a school that upholds the Education Quality Standards (EQS), the role of the school board/superintendent and its oversight of principal and teachers, and board and superintendent responsibilities.

Chair Olsen recessed discussion on Lincoln until 10:30 a.m. and moved onto Item H.

### **Item H: Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) Governance Update**

Gleason introduced John Alberghini, superintendent, MMUUSD and Edye Graning, chair of MMUUSD and said she found their work inspiring. They unified early on, and all share the same unified high school and have been able to bring to fruition some opportunities. They will share these opportunities as well as some challenges. Alberghini referenced his presentation titled, "[MMUUSD Governance Update](#)."

Graning spoke about starting the process over 10 years ago and said it was a long process that concluded in 2019. They have 5 towns that merged. The district was originally 8 schools and now have 7 schools with some space available. They had 9 different school boards, with sizes ranging from 80 to 1,00 students. They now have 2,600 students. Alberghini spoke about the unification experience and said it was long and made the district stronger. He shared some outcomes: 1) ability to effectively coordinate and implement common initiatives (anti-bias/racism work, literacy, multi-tiered systems of support, etc.); 2) share staff and resources and move resources (personnel and physical resources); 3) mobility of teachers and staff which has been good for morale; 4) improved coordination of facilities which results in better schools and improved efficiency; and 5) intentionality around resource equity. He said he cannot imagine not being unified through COVID-19; it was so important for streamlined, effective crisis communication.

Graning said when this process started, they had 45 volunteer board members and that can be very difficult for administration. They now have 15 volunteer board members. This reduction allows for more teaching and learning for administrators and not managing a school board. This has helped with common goals and policies across schools. The board is focused on policy, accountability, outcomes, budgets, and equity. They worked hard to manage the budget to maintain low tax rates for all communities. Alberghini said over the last 4 years, the district tax rate has gone down \$1.36 and has been relatively flat. He is proud of his school systems and that there are people who want to work together. Unification has improved and strengthened the culture of staff and with less money spent on negotiations, more is available for students, professional development and learning.

There was discussion on hurdles to unification. The biggest obstacle was fear of loss of individuality/autonomy. Additional opportunities that resulted from unification were language immersion, repurposing of buildings for PreK, school choice within the district, transportation, determining representation to ensure all voices are heard, and governing the district to benefit all students.

## **Item I: Milton – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Update**

This discussion was postponed due to illness of presenters.

## **Item G: Lincoln Withdrawal (continued)**

Chair Olsen recapped the issue and pointed out that information provided at the April meeting indicated that Lincoln would be operating an elementary school. Therefore, the SBE's focus was on understanding how that elementary school would meet EQS – and one of the standards, incorporates by reference all the federal entitlements and under Vermont state law necessitates a SU/SD construct. The SBE is asking questions directly relevant to the finding of the proposed elementary school that Lincoln said it would be operating. Until yesterday, there was still missing information. He also noted reference to the precedent with Ripton and reiterated that the SBE is operating under current law and there is limited guidance under that.

Gleason expressed concern with staffing to operate Lincoln School and the statewide crisis for the education workforce. She said that, under existing law, it is irresponsible to consider this request at this time. She said she is not sure if the electorate understood what they might be foregoing if they would still want a rapid response, rather than waiting for H.727 to be signed into law.

Chair Olsen asked members to consider this request under current law and to confine questions, considerations, and decisions to current law and not make speculations about future law.

There was discussion on Lincoln factoring in considerations for staff, Lincoln hiring a consultant with education business office experience, what is best is individualized by communities, level of trust that community's needs/wants are appropriately represented, having a budget for staff is different from being able to hire staff, Lincoln's strategies for recruitment/hiring, Lincoln as a destination school with veteran staff, Lincoln's transparency with the community is extensive, and Lincoln's recognition that the harder work lies ahead of them.

Chair Olsen took a straw poll of SBE members as to whether they needed more information or if they have sufficient information to make an affirmative decision today on the draft motion. There was discussion on the double bind of addressing this under current law in anticipation of future law, SBE's authority on SU assignment in September, and being prepared to vote in the affirmative so as to not create confusion with a negative vote. Kolbe asked the councilors to confirm that they understand the risk of voting on this today under current law and the risk to their clients and forfeited opportunities that might have otherwise been available if they delayed taking a vote today. Shems said he believes the town is fully aware of the action to be taken today and confirmed his understanding. Gleason stated the three losses of protection: no option to change operational date, no protection from school closure and no off-ramp option. McClain said his client has been advised that section 6 will not apply if the SBE votes affirmatively today. Forlenza said existing and anticipated law was explained to the Selectboard last night and the Selectboard agreed to give up those options and move this forward.

There was discussion on aggressiveness of [timeline](#), affirmative vote today locks in a timeline of go-live in July 2023, it was clear that risk is acknowledged and understood, Lincoln confidently wanting to move ahead, meeting EQS and other SBE rules, concern and uncertainty that Lincoln is on a sustainable path, tuition and revenue, potential for funding formula putting pressure over years on the elementary school, interest in supporting partnerships that would be sustainable, affirmative vote limits options for Lincoln, hard work does not have the necessary components to make it successful.

Chair Olsen took a straw poll; it indicated two no votes, Gleason and Jepson. Olsen stressed that scheduling this discussion and vote for today could be perceived as the SBE trying to short-circuit the process, take rights and special considerations away from the voters of Lincoln, and act derisively toward the General Assembly. He reiterated that this was only being taken up for a vote at Lincoln's request and with a threat of potential litigation. He acknowledged the potential offense to the General Assembly and said that is not the SBE's intent. He asked Lincoln to confirm that their proposal is to come back with a plan for a SU with Ripton at the September meeting and that there is no deviation from that plan. Forlenza confirmed that is the plan.

Samuelson moved that:

1. Based on the information provided by the self-selected representatives of Lincoln to both the State Board and the Lincoln voters, and in reliance upon the written assurances of the attorneys representing the Lincoln representatives and the Town of Lincoln that "sufficient information has been presented to demonstrate" compliance with 16 V.S.A. § 724 as it existed when the representatives initiated the withdrawal action ("Former § 724") and that the Lincoln representatives have met the "only standard" required by the Former § 724, the State Board of Education FINDS that if it reconstitutes the Lincoln School District for prekindergarten through grade 12 effective on July 1, 2023, the students living in Lincoln "will attend a school that is in compliance with the rules adopted by the State Board pertaining to educational programs" in the 2023-2024 academic year, including rules related to education quality standards and to other state and federal laws.
2. The State Board of Education therefore APPROVES the request of the Lincoln voters to withdraw from the Mount Abraham Unified School District ("MAUSD") pursuant to the Former § 724.
3. The State Board of Education DECLARES that the withdrawal of Lincoln from the MAUSD shall be fully effective on July 1, 2023.
4. The State Board of Education DECLARES:
  - a) That the Lincoln School District is hereby reconstituted as a prekindergarten through grade 12 school district.
  - b) That the Lincoln School District shall assume sole responsibility for the education of its resident students in prekindergarten through grade 12 on July 1, 2023 and that, until such time, the MAUSD, as a school district and a supervisory district shall continue to be responsible for the education of all students residing in Lincoln.

- c) That, between **May 18, 2022** and **July 1, 2023**, the Lincoln School District shall exist exclusively for the purpose of taking all steps necessary for the district to assume sole responsibility for the education of Lincoln students in a manner that meets education quality standards and all other state and federal laws on July 1, 2023:
- i. **Election of School Board Members.** The Secretary of State calls a special election at which the Lincoln School District voters elect school board members pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 424(c).
  - ii. **Negotiation of Financial Agreement.** The Lincoln School Board and the MAUSD Board negotiate and finalize the proposed financial details of withdrawal pursuant to the Former § 724(c).
  - iii. **Approval of Financial Agreement.** The voters residing in *each non*-withdrawing town within the MAUSD vote to approve the negotiated financial arrangements pursuant to the Former § 724(c).
  - iv. **Budget for Fiscal Year 2024.** The Lincoln School Board prepares a proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget, the district's first year of operations, and the voters of the district approve a budget for that year.
  - v. **Supervisory Union Services.** The Lincoln School Board prepares for the provision of supervisory union services to the Lincoln School District as determined pursuant to paragraph 5 of this motion.
  - vi. **Other Transitional Activities.** The Lincoln School Board takes all other actions necessary to transition to full operations on July 1, 2023, including any actions pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1804 or otherwise that are necessary to address the collectively bargained rights of employees of the MAUSD, the former employing entity.
- d) The Lincoln School District shall not be entitled to administrative or other services from the MAUSD, as supervisory district, until such time as the State Board makes a determination of supervisory union boundaries.
5. In connection with the provision of supervisory union services to the Lincoln School District:
- a) The State Board of Education **INVITES** the representatives of the Lincoln School Board to attend the State Board's regular **September 2022** meeting to present its proposals regarding the provision of supervisory union services, including those necessary to meet education quality standards and other state and federal laws, and to answer State Board questions.
  - b) The State Board of Education **NOTIFIES** all interested parties of its intent "to review [supervisory union boundaries] on its own initiative" pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 261(a) at its regular **September 2022** meeting, at which meeting it will decide whether to:
    1. Assign the Lincoln School District to an existing, multi-district SU;
    2. Create a new SU that includes the Lincoln School District and one or more other town school districts and/or union school districts; or
    3. Designate the Lincoln School District as a supervisory district in order to provide its own supervisory services.

Lovett seconded the motion. There was discussion. Gleason said she would be voting no and said part of the interest in expediting this process is to allow for the election of a school board to make big



decisions. She continued that the SBE is being threatened/forced to take action that seems to do an end-run around legislative intent by the self-selected representatives of Lincoln. She added that she was uncomfortable and could vote differently had this been considered in June. Chair Olsen said the findings are based on the evidence received the previous day, specifically, that there would be a place to send students outside of Lincoln K-12. He said that this should not and must not be interpreted as any finding whatsoever that the Lincoln school will meet EQS. His perspective is that they do not have all the answers/sufficient evidence but that is not the basis of today's decision. Chair Olsen asked for a roll-call vote. The vote passed 4:3. Yeas: Kolbe, Samuelson, O'Farrell, Lovett. No: Brown, Jepson, Gleason.

Samuelson moved that pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 724(c) as it existed when the self-selected representatives of Lincoln initiated the withdrawal action, the State Board of Education:

1. **FINDS** that "it is in the best interests of the State, the students, and the school districts remaining in the unified union school district that the [Mount Abraham Unified School District] continue to exist," and
2. **DECLARES** that "the [Mount Abraham Unified School District] shall continue to exist despite the withdrawal of [Lincoln as a] member."

Jepson seconded. There was discussion on having members of that school district join the SBE in June before a vote. Chair Olsen asked Russo-Savage if there was an issue with waiting. Russo-Savage said there would be no problem and it would be fine to ask them how they would proceed without Lincoln as a member. Samuelson withdrew her motion.

Chair Olsen acknowledged Lincoln's work and expressed appreciation for them hearing the SBE's concerns and for taking responsibility for the associated risks. Lincoln representatives thanked the SBE.

### **Item J: Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)**

Chair Olsen introduced Kate McCann. She is a math teacher at U-32, and the statewide coordinator for the math portion of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. These awards are the highest honors bestowed by the US government, specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics and/or computer science teaching. She gave background on this award and said the President may recognize up to 108 exemplary teachers each year. This year, Vermont's finalist is Mindi Wimett from White River Valley Middle School.

Wimett thanked the SBE and said she teaches 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and has taught for 19 years. She loves teaching math and her goal is to have kids not hate math. She had a colleague who encouraged her to apply for this award and she pursued it as a reflection process and found the process very positive and rewarding. She said she was honored to be recognized. There was acknowledgement and appreciation of Wimett's work over the last two challenging years and discussion on what she discovered in the reflection process and the importance of middle school teaching.

Chair Olsen offered a resolution:

*This is a resolution celebrating Mindi Wimett of the White River Valley Middle School as a 2022 Vermont finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.*

*Whereas Mindi Wimett is an outstanding teacher of 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade math at White River Valley Middle School in Bethel;*

*Whereas she is a graduate of the Vermont Mathematics Initiative with a Master's of Education in Curriculum and Instruction;*

*Whereas her success in the classroom has proved to be an invaluable resource in her role as a multi-year presenter for Middle Grades Collaborative;*

*Whereas she played a vital leadership role in merging the former South Royalton School and the Whitcomb School following Act 46;*

*Whereas Mindi is described by her peers as "the mentor we all need to support our digital dreams in our classrooms"; and*

*Whereas Mindi has been selected as the 2022 Vermont finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, a prestigious award that recognizes her contributions as a teacher of mathematics in Vermont;*

*Now therefore be it resolved by the Vermont State Board of Education, that Mindi Wimett be acknowledged, recognized, and honored for her exemplary career as a public-school mathematics teacher and be it further resolved that the State Board of Education celebrates the recent accomplishments of this amazing teacher and offers its best wishes for her continued success.*

Brown moved and Lovett seconded. There was no discussion. The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote. Chair Olsen thanked Wimett and McCann and said he would like to make this a recurring feature for the SBE.

Chair Olsen suggested delaying Item K until the next meeting and deferred to Secretary French on Item L. Secretary French said he would like the SBE to act on Item L today and said it is a straightforward request/recommendation.

### **Item K: Update on Pupil Weighting**

Postponed due to time constraints.

### **Item L: Alternate Assessment Request for Proposal (RFP) Update**

Secretary French referenced his [recommendation action for a three-year contract](#) and explained that the AOE went out to bid and is recommending a contract with Cognia. He highlighted the fiscal implications (significantly lower costs), and that significant stakeholder involvement was behind the decision-making process. Kolbe said she met with AOE representatives and offered that this platform includes a suite of professional development tools and the opportunity to align programming. There was discussion on cost and savings.

Chair Olsen offered a motion that the State Board authorize the Secretary to, on its behalf, award a three-year contract, with the possibility of two one-year extensions, to develop and implement statewide summative assessments of ELA, Math, and Science for students with significant cognitive disabilities (aka, alternate assessments) to Cognia, pursuant with the requirements set forth in federal

law--ESSA, Section 1111 and IDEA, Section 300.160--in preparation for administration beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.

Jepson moved; Gleason seconded. There was a question raised that this item was not warned for a vote. Chair Olsen said there was not anything in SBE rules stating that votes need to be warned, although that has been past practice. Simmons confirmed this. Kolbe asked Secretary French if a vote was needed at the meeting, and he replied in the affirmative. Chair Olsen called the vote and the vote passed unanimously.

### **Item M: Education Quality Standards (EQS) Committee Update**

Gleason said the EQS Committee met last Friday and arrived at a common agreement with [a charge and a draft work plan](#). The body of work will be bucketed in response to Act 1, and it is expected that there will be other recommendations from the AOE or others regarding policy coherence or other matters. The Committee will review the work within the relevant legal framework and ensure that substantive stakeholder input is considered. There is also a draft work plan for the EQS Committee. Kolbe said there was a lengthy discussion on norms - how this work will move forward, respectful discourse, guardrails for the process. Gleason spoke about hearing public comment and having that inform future agendas/work. It is anticipated that the EQS Committee will have two 90-minute meetings a month. The Act 1 group has been asked for a side-by-side of proposed changes. In September, the Committee will have a draft that will lend itself to one or two public hearings. In October, the Committee will consider comments received and hopes to have a draft to the SBE for consideration and questions. Simmons will address the legal framework. Chair Olsen said he will plan to have a standing agenda item of EQS Committee update.

### **Item N: Public to be Heard**

There were no members of the public to be heard.

### **Adjourn**

Samuelson moved to adjourn; Kolbe seconded. The vote was unanimous to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Maureen Gaidys.