

June 19, 2017

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

State Board of Education Draft Minutes

Present:

State Board of Education Members: Krista Huling, Bill Mathis, John Carroll, Mark Perrin, Stacy Weinberger, John O'Keefe, Peter Peltz, and Rainbow Chen

Agency of Education (AOE): Rebecca Holcombe, Peter Drescher, Haley Dover, Donna Russo-Savage, Suzanne Sprague

Item A: Call to Order

Chair Huling called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Item B: Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Huling asked the board members to introduce themselves. She advised that board member Johnson-Aten will be late as her school is still in session and added that student member Solimano is in Spain and will not be attending.

Item C: Public to Be Heard

There were no members of the public to be heard.

Items D: Consent Agenda

Motion: Peltz moved to accept the consent agenda; Perrin seconded. **Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

Item E: Board Announcements

Vice Chair Mathis said he participated in the monthly telephone call with the Government Affairs Committee of NASBE. He thought the ESSA plans submitted by other states were very interesting.

Item F: Chair's Report

Chair Huling said that the rules on alternative structures were adopted by LCAR. She mentioned that Bill Talbott, CFO at the Agency of Education, and Ken Page, Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association, are retiring at the end of June. Chair Huling advised that the new student representative to the board has not yet been appointed by the Governor. Carroll asked for an update on the Approved Independent Schools Study Committee. Chair Huling said that she appointed Bonnie Johnson-Aten to serve as her designee. She added it was an organizational meeting only

because a member of the House had not yet been appointed. Chair Huling said that because all members were not appointed a chair was not yet elected. Carroll asked Huling for clarification on how Johnson-Aten will speak for the board. Secretary Holcombe said she would speak to this topic as part of her Secretary's report.

Item G: Committees' Report

There were no committee reports.

Item H: Student Report

There was no student report.

Item J: Secretary's Report

Secretary Holcombe echoed the beginning of Huling's comments regarding the Approved Independent Schools Study Committee (AIS Study Committee). She added that it has been difficult finding a date when the independent school representatives can attend, but that at the first meeting, the committee reviewed the current statute as it relates to independent schools, relevant legal opinions and sample letters. These are posted on the website for the AIS Study Committee. Secretary Holcombe said that the independent schools' committee members asked for time on the next AIS Study Committee agenda so they can present on independent schools. She added that the study group also requested background on special education, including the responsibilities of the state and districts. These items will be on the next agenda. Secretary Holcombe said that the committee asked Johnson-Aten to speak to the views of the State Board of Education. Johnson-Aten did not feel comfortable presenting the State Board's opinion, and recommended instead that the study committee get a fresh start at the discussion. Secretary Holcombe said the goal is to have a consensus on recommendations. Discussion followed.

Secretary Holcombe said that the US Department of Education is beginning to release ESSA plans. She said, based on what US ED has released so far, she anticipates that US ED will have questions or request clarification on some aspects of the Vermont ESSA plan and that the feedback will make the plan stronger. Secretary Holcombe added that the Agency of Education will focus on indicators that are educationally sound for the children of Vermont and which reflect the stakeholder input. She said the next round of feedback on plans will likely be released on the 26th and if Vermont's plan is included, that the AOE will have 15 days to provide feedback.

Secretary Holcombe said that the Agency's communications team is working on a 10-week online education campaign promoting different aspects of Vermont and Vermont education. She said the plan is to create a theme each week with the goal to engage people in conversation about the strengths of our education sector. Secretary Holcombe said the campaign will cover the spectrum of good news stories on several educational topics.

Secretary Holcombe said that another study has been released on per pupil spending. She said Vermont is slowly dropping down relative to other states (listed at 6th, many other top spending states are rural).

Secretary Holcombe said that the Agency of Education has been asked to present a 2, 3 and 4% rescission in the General Fund in anticipation of possible cuts to the education budget. Discussion followed.

Item K: Authorization to Initiate a Review of Education Technology Standards – ISTE

Peter Drescher, Education Technology Coordinator for the Agency of Education, requested permission to open a review of student and teacher standards for Education Technology, including the ISTE standards. He said the last time the standards were updated was 2009. Drescher said that the standards being used now date back to 2007. Carroll asked what difference will a change to the standards make to students. Discussion followed.

Mathis made a motion to see the 2009 standards and what needs to be updated. Perrin seconded the motion. Mathis asked that Drescher incorporate into his findings privacy and technology. Carroll asked that with the scarce agency personnel if this was the best use of the talent and among the highest priority. Secretary Holcombe said that it is the State Board’s statutory obligation and authority to approve or not approve the standards. She added that this is part of the state’s core work.

Mathis called the question. Carroll asked for a point of order. Carroll asked for a vote to call the question.

Vote: Yea, 5 (S. Weinberger, M. Perrin, P. Peltz, B. Mathis, R. Chen)
No, 2 (J. O’Keefe, J. Carroll)

Mathis called the question.

Vote: Yea, 6 (S. Weinberger, M. Perrin, P. Peltz, B. Mathis, J. O’Keefe, R. Chen)
No, 2 (J. Carroll)

Motion passed.

Item L: UUSD Name Changes

Secretary Holcombe said that Addison Northeast Supervisory Union requested a name change to Mount Abraham Unified School District.

Motion: Perrin moved to accept the request for a name change; Peltz seconded. **Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

Item M: Presentation on Act 77

Rainbow Chen presented her iLab project on Act 77.

Adjourn

Motion: Perrin moved to adjourn; this was seconded by Weinberger. There was no further discussion.

Vote: The vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague
