

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 Retreat Day 1 Draft Minutes

Present:

State Board of Education Members: Krista Huling, Bill Mathis, John Carroll, Mark Perrin, Stacy Weinberger, Bonnie Johnson-Aten (joined at 2:55 p.m.), John O'Keefe, Peter Peltz, and Rainbow Chen
Agency of Education (AOE): Rebecca Holcombe, Haley Dover, Donna Russo-Savage, Suzanne Sprague

Item A: Retreat Opens

Chair Huling called the retreat to order at 2:20 p.m.

Item B: Ice Breaker - Team Building Activity

Chair Huling asked the board members to write 3 things about themselves. She said the other members would try and guess who they are.

Item C: Facilitated Discussion on Board Communication

Secretary Holcombe led the discussion on board communication and norm setting.

Norms set by the board include attentive listening, listening to understand, don't interrupt before the person speaking is finished talking, be prepared, training for new committee members, assume best intentions, trust other board members' expertise, go digital, meet more and sharpen up agenda so it is more efficient.

Pre-meeting requests and norms set by the board include receiving the agenda and packet at least one week in advance, know the point of contact, policy items to be discussed one month and voted on the next month (on the agenda for 2 months) and allow postponing for further discussion and reading.

Requests and norms for during the meeting set by the board include cutting off debate should be used with great restraint, stay on point, assume that more information may be needed, be respectful, remain open to new perspectives, go beyond the what to why and elaborate on assumptions, advocate but value the diversity of opinions and share the air so everyone gets heard.

Secretary Holcombe read the two versions of board communications. Discussion followed. Perrin and Carroll will combine the two based on suggestions of the board. An updated version will be provided to the board at the second day of the retreat.

Items D and E: Act 46 Working Session

Donna Russo-Savage reviewed the changes to the governance law (Act 49) and broke the changes into 3 categories; items directly affecting the SBE workload during the next 6 months; items affecting the SBE workload on January 1, 2018 and after; items that do not directly affect the SBE workload. She explained in detail the potential merger scenarios.

Russo-Savage said that the alternative structure rules have gone through all phases of rulemaking and will be final on Monday, June 26th. She advised that the criteria for small schools grants will change on July 1, 2019. Russo-Savage added that the SBE must come up with a tentative listing of schools that will fall into the geographical isolation category by September 30th. She added the official list is required by July 1st, 2018. Russo-Savage continued that the statewide plan is due by November 30th, 2018.

Adjourn

The retreat day 1 adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Suzanne Sprague
