



NORTH COUNTRY SUPERVISORY UNION

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...committed to the development of Character, Competence, Creativity and Community.

February 14, 2017

Vermont State Board of Education
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641



Dear State Board Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Brighton School Board. In September, 36 year veteran Brighton educator Belinda Coker died at school. Understandably, the school made the determination to close school the next day to provide grief counseling and support to members of the school community. Some teachers and staff were greatly impacted by witnessing Belinda's death and coping with the loss of a long-time colleague. People pulled together to support one another at that time and have continued to do so throughout the year.

We are asking that you allow the school to consider the day school was cancelled as a "day of mourning" and not require that the day is made up at the end of the year. Given we are scheduled for 175 student days, we recognize that only the State Board can grant that exception. I believe the recognition of this significant loss would mean a great deal to the entire Brighton School Community.

Thank you for your consideration.



John A. Castle
NCSU Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Denise Russell, Brighton Principal
Brighton School Board Members