

To: Suzanne Sprague  
From: Jay Nichols, Vermont Principals' Association  
RE: Jays Comments 09/20/2023

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- Public Comments:
  - My comments are on the open Sec. of Ed. position
  - AOE Leadership and state level leadership is critical to the future of VT education
  - We stand on a precipice in which we have some students being openly discriminated against in some schools, partly because our General Assembly chose to not address the Carson V. Makin Supreme Court case that allows money to go to religious schools and other private schools that discriminate. whoever the next Sec is needs to be someone who is committed to Each and Every student regardless of their social class, religion, gender identity, etc.
  - By working collectively in the quest to collectively serve all students regardless of their background in an equitable manner we can truly become the Educational State that we all want; the opportunity is great, the challenges are significant and having the right person in that position is paramount.
  - We need a pragmatic and inspiring leader at this time more than any time in my career from my perspective, the field is begging for leadership and it ideally should come from the AOE's top leader or leaders.
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Jay Nichols  
Executive Director  
Vermont Principals' Association

*The Vermont Principals' Association supports school leaders to improve the equity and quality of educational opportunities for all students*