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April 22, 2020

SENT VIA EMAIL

Todd Wilkins, Chair, Arlington School Board
Jeanne Zoppel, Chair, Sandgate School Board
Nicol Whalen, Chair, Battenkill Valley Supervisory Union Board
William Bazyk, Superintendent, Battenkill Valley Supervisory Union
Dick Frantz, Chair, Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union Board
James Culkeen, Superintendent, Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union

Re: State Board of Education order to redraw SU boundaries

Dear Board Chairs and Superintendents;

As you know, the State Board of Education voted on November 15, 2018 to redraw the boundaries of the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union (SVSU) to include the Arlington and Sandgate School Districts pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 261(a). This will result in the dissolution of the Battenkill Valley Supervisory Union (BVSU).
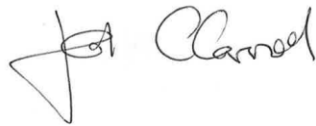
At the request of the two superintendents of SVSU and BVSU, the State Board of Education set the effective date of full operations as July 1, 2021, in order to permit for an orderly transition. In addition, the State Board authorized the boards of the Arlington and Sandgate School Districts to appoint members to the Southwest Vermont SU Board.

At its March 18, 2020 meeting, the State Board discussed the apparent lack of progress towards achieving full operations on July 1, 2021 as an enlarged single supervisory union. The Board is concerned that further delay in moving toward a merged SU may impact the education provided to students in the region.

Accordingly, the Board has instructed me to communicate with you to urge the two supervisory unions to initiate all transition activities necessary to comply with the Board's November 2018 order. In addition, the Board directed me to emphasize that it does not intend to reconsider the substance of the November 2018 order nor to extend the 2021 deadline.

Yours truly,

John Carroll, Chair
State Board of Education