

## Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union

Administrative Offices  
246 South Stream Road  
Bennington, VT 05201-9295  
Telephone: 802-447-7501  
FAX: 802-447-0475

May 1, 2019

Vermont Agency of Education  
Secretary Daniel M. French  
219 North Main Street, Suite 402  
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Secretary French:

I am writing at the request of the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union ("SVSU") Board. 16 V.S.A. § 261(d) authorizes the State Board of Education to waive any provisions of Chapters 5 and 7 of Title 16 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated "if it can be demonstrated that such a waiver will result in efficient and effective operations of the supervisory union; will not result in any disproportionate representation; and is otherwise in the public interest."

Acting pursuant to this provision in January of 2013, the SVSU Board made the following request:

This letter is written to request that the Vermont State Board of Education grant a waiver from the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 262(c), 263, and 266 to the extent necessary to permit a change in the composition of the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union (SVSU) Board of Directors from three members of each independent district to two members with a single (1) elected alternate. Currently there are no non-operating independent districts within the SVSU. The reduction of members and the allowance of a single elected alternate would assure consistent two-member representation of all member districts. This is why our waiver request includes a reduction of district representation and an elected alternate.

At its meeting on February 19, 2013, the State Board of Education ("SBE") approved SVSU's waiver request. See Item E in attached meeting minutes. In accordance with the SBE's waiver approval, the SVSU Board currently consists of the following members:

Bennington School District, Inc.	2 members with 1 alternate
Mount Anthony Union School District	2 members with 1 alternate
North Bennington Graded School District, Inc. (non-operating)	1 member
Pownal School District	2 members with 1 alternate
Shaftsbury School District	2 members with 1 alternate
Woodford School District	2 members with 1 alternate

Based on its Statewide School District Merger Plan approved on November 28, 2018, the SBE has decided to make the following changes to SVSU:

1. Merge the Bennington School District, Inc., Pownal School District, Shaftsbury School District and Woodford School District to create the Southwest Vermont Union Elementary School District; and
2. Add the Arlington School District and the Sandgate School District to the supervisory union. The Sandgate School District is currently a non-operating school district.

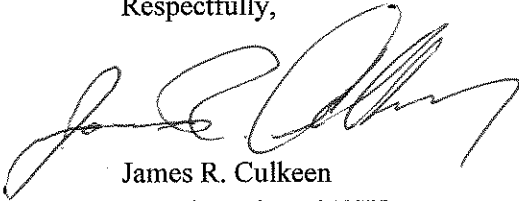
In anticipation of these changes, the SVSU Board asks that the SBE rescind the waiver it granted on February 19, 2013 with an effective date for the rescission of June 30, 2019. This will allow the SVSU Board to be constituted in accordance with general law (16 VSA Section 266) beginning July 1, 2019 with the following composition:

Mount Anthony Union School District	3 members
North Bennington Graded School District, Inc. (non-operating)	1 member
Southwest Vermont Union Elementary School District	3 members
Arlington School District*	3 members
Sandgate School District*	1 member

\*By separate request, SVSU has asked that Arlington and Sandgate board members not join the SVSU board until no earlier than November 15, 2019.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please let me know if you need any further information.

Respectfully,



James R. Culkeen  
Superintendent, SVSU