

Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union

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Item E-3

SBE Meeting: 5/15/19

May 6, 2019

Vermont Agency of Education
Secretary Daniel M. French
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05621

Re: Incorporation of Arlington and Sandgate School Districts into
Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union.

Dear Secretary French:

By action of the State Board of Education on November 15, 2018, the SBE voted to add the Arlington School District and the Sandgate School District to the SVSU, with such additions becoming operational on July 1, 2021. At the same meeting, the SBE authorized these districts to obtain representation on the SVSU Board on or after November 15, 2018.

As of the date of this letter, Arlington and Sandgate have not appointed representatives to the SVSU Board though representatives of the SVSU, Arlington and Sandgate have had periodic discussions concerning the scheduled expansion of the SVSU.

By this letter, the SVSU Board asks that the SBE modify its earlier action and delay Arlington and Sandgate representation on the SVSU Board until no earlier than November 15, 2019. In support of this request, the SVSU points out that its existing governing board structure will undergo a significant change on July 1, 2019 with the merger of four (4) existing elementary school districts into a single union elementary school district.

Based on a waiver granted by the SBE to the SVSU on February 19, 2013, the SVSU Board currently consists of eleven (11) members representing six (6) districts (five (5) districts with two (2) representatives and one (1) non-operating district with one (1) representative.)

On July 1, 2019, the SVSU will have three (3) districts (excluding Arlington and Sandgate), with one district (Mount Anthony Union High School District) having two (2) representatives¹, the new union elementary district having three (3) representatives and one non-operating district (North Bennington Graded School District, Inc.), having one (1) representative.

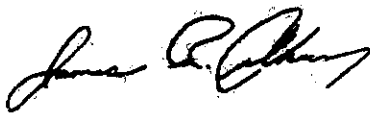
¹ By separate correspondence, the SVSU Board has asked the SBE to rescind the previously granted waiver so that MAU will be able to have three (3) representatives on the SVSU Board beginning July 1, 2019.

The SVSU Board believes that an orderly restructuring of its governing board is best served if it occurs in two steps:

- First, on July 1, 2019, from an eleven (11) member board to a six (6) or seven (7) member board, with all representatives serving the historic constituency of the SVSU, and
- Second, on November 15, 2019, to an expanded board serving what will be the new SVSU constituency that includes Arlington and Sandgate.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Culkeen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James R. Culkeen
Superintendent, SVSU