

Sprague, Suzanne

Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject:
Attachments:

dear Mr. Harrison,

At the State Board of Education's regular monthly meeting, 21 October, the Board will consider the Vermont Secretary of Education's 8 October *"recommendation to undertake review of New England Kurn Hattin Homes for Children status as a Vermont approved independent school"* — a copy of which is attached below.

Before the meeting, Board members will have had an opportunity to review the Secretary's 8 October letter, recent DCF reports and correspondence, summary data prepared by Agency staff, and program and financial documents and correspondence recently provided to the Agency by Kurn Hattin Homes.

At the 21 October meeting, the Secretary is expected to present to the Board evidence in connection with *"several instances of non-compliance with laws and DCF regulations."* In evaluating the Secretary's recommendation, the Board will consider evidence in the context of federal and state law generally and in particular with reference to 16 VSA §165 and §166 and with reference to State Board Rule 2220 and other applicable state rules, regulations, and standards.

In addition to Board questions about the evidence presented by the Secretary, Board members may also have questions, based on existing statutes and rule, about other aspects of the school's programs or operations. For example, review of KHH's financial statements may, in light of recent developments, raise questions about the school's 'financial capacity' as that term is used in 16 VSA §166. Similarly, recent termination of the 'residential treatment program' may raise questions about the school's ability, to meet the needs of it students who have special needs,

You will be welcome to attend the 21 October meeting, and, if you wish, to respond to evidence presented by the Secretary and to questions that may be posed by members the Board. If you do wish to participate, please notify the Board's administrative support, Suzanne Sprague, at the address above, and she will provide you the link to join the meeting.

In closing, as Chair of the State Board of Education, I intend that the State Board — keeping in mind New England Kurn Hattin Homes' 125 year history of service to youngsters in need — will undertake this discussion in a manner that is respectful and fact-based, always keeping foremost the best interests of the children.

kind regards,

John Carroll
Chair, Vermont State Board of Education