

From: Samuelson, Jennifer <Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 6:49 PM

To: Francis, Jeff <jfrancis@vtvsa.org>

Subject: Re: From Jeff Francis, VSA - Follow Up to My Comments at Last Friday's Secretary Search Committee Meeting

Hello, Jeff, and thank you for reiterating your concerns. For at least as long as I have been on the SBE, it has been the Board's regular practice to only send a Teams meeting invitation to Board members and members of the public who will be presenting to or otherwise appearing before the Board as part of our agenda; other members of the public have routinely accessed our meetings by dialing in and listening. With regard to last Friday's meeting, as you recall, once you raised your concerns, Board members did not share their screens nor did they drop anything in the chat, and we took pains to read, multiple times, the language that we were discussing so that members of the public could follow along and have the same access to the materials as did individual Board members. You will also recall that, at the end of our meeting, three members of the public indicated that, with some minor suggestions, they were pleased with the Overview, Description, and Preferred Qualifications that the Committee crafted during the meeting and they commended us on our work.

As you know, the Board has no staff and is dependent upon the Agency to warn meetings, post the agenda and related documents, provide a physical location for our meetings, send out invitations, and take the minutes. Prior to you raising your concerns about accessibility during our meeting last Friday, no one (to my knowledge) has ever raised the issue with the Board before. This is not to say, however, that our practices cannot be changed, and I will follow up with the Agency regarding your request.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Deck Samuelson
Chair, Vermont State Board of Education