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September 6, 2018

Vermont Agency of Education
State Board of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641

RE: Windsor Central Modified Unified Union School District petition for waiver of missed school days

Dear State Board Members:

I write pursuant to 16 V.S.A. Section 1071(c) to petition the State Board for a waiver of the 175 school day requirement for the 2018-19 school year for one District school, The Prosper Valley School, due to the unanticipated closing of the school on August 29, 30, and 31, 2018.

In late July and then again in early August, mold was discovered in The Prosper Valley School. First it was limited to the gymnasium, which was thoroughly cleaned in July. In early August, mold reappeared in the gym, and also in several classrooms. A deep clean was done of the 15,000 square foot building by a specialty company at a cost of approximately \$25,000. We then ordered air testing, the results of which were not received until two days before opening day. Air test results were such that we ultimately decided to close the school and move the students and staff to another District school for the foreseeable future.

During the first three scheduled student days, faculty and staff worked tirelessly to effect the smooth transition from one building to another. If we need to make up these three days, we will need to compensate staff for an extra three days of work; we will need to add three days to our District wide bus contract, because we offer school choice and have students traveling from virtually every town in our District to the Prosper Valley School. Finally, making up these days will interfere with District-wide professional development plans of five elementary schools and our middle/high school, scheduled for the end of the school year.

Based on the information provided above and on behalf of the WCMUUSD Board, I respectfully request the State School Board grant a waiver of these three days.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Banios
Superintendent

cc: Secretary of Education Daniel French