

**February 21, 2017**

*Strategic Goals: (1) Ensure that Vermont's public education system operates within the framework of high expectations for every learner and ensure that there is equity in opportunity for all.  
(2) Ensure that the public education system is stable, efficient, and responsive to changes and ever-changing population needs, economic and 21st century issues.*

## **State Board of Education Legislative Subcommittee Special Meeting Draft Minutes**

### **Present:**

**State Board of Education Legislative Subcommittee Members:** Bill Mathis, Chair;  
Krista Huling, Mark Perrin, Sean-Marie Oller

**State Board of Education:** Peter Peltz

**Agency of Education (AOE):** Haley Dover, Robert Stirewalt, Maureen Gaidys

**Others:** Tiffany Pache, VTDigger; Matt Levin, VT Early Childhood Alliance; Mill Moore, VISA; Joanne Unruh, Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators; Elizabeth Novotny, MLC; Ken Page, Vermont Principals' Association; Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association

### **Item A: Call to Order**

Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. He asked subcommittee members to introduce themselves. Krista Huling, Peter Peltz, Bill Mathis, Sean-Marie Oller and Mark Perrin introduced themselves.

### **Item B: Review/Approve Draft Minutes for February 1, 2017 Meeting**

**Motion:** Huling moved to approve the draft minutes from the February 1, 2017 subcommittee meeting. Perrin seconded the motion. Mathis asked if there was further discussion. Peltz noted that he was not present at the February 1 meeting, yet the minutes state that he seconded a motion. He asked to have that corrected. Chair Mathis called a vote.

**Vote:** The vote passed 3:0:1. Oller abstained as she did not attend the February 1 meeting.

### **Item C: General Update on Legislative Activities, Discuss/Determine what Activities May be Needed**

Robert Stirewalt, Director of Policy, Regulations and Legislative Affairs introduced himself and distributed a short memo that provided a [legislative update](#).

He reported that there are 56 bills and we are approaching crossover. S.1 (An act relating to the determination of average daily membership for the 2016–2017 school year and equalized pupil count for fiscal year 2018) will be the first to hit the Governor’s desk.

The bills/topics of greatest interest are as follows: the Miscellaneous Ed bill, Act 46, the State Board’s rulemaking authority, PreK, Special Education and Career and Technical Education.

Mathis questioned the major changes facing ESSA. Stirewalt said that they are mostly aligning state standards with federal requirements and that AOE is following this and trying to assess the potential changes and can update on this when we know more.

Huling asked about crossover; there is no definitive date yet.

Stirewalt talked the group through his memo.

Nicole Mace observed the time and asked if she could address the committee with the VSBA’s recommendations of Act 46.

Huling asked for the lineup of testimony. Mathis said the lineup is Act 46, proposed revisions and role of the SBE and rulemaking authority (House), and that there is a conversation with Mitzi Johnson on funding. Oller suggested Mathis give a legislative report at the SBE meeting. Mathis asked that the State Board be on the email list of legislative updates that Stirewalt sends out to each week.

Mace shared [VSBA testimony](#) that she has provided to House Education, several other committees, and the General Assembly about actions that the VSBA took in January to approve a slate of recommended changes and modifications to Act 46. What was distributed was approved by a unanimous vote of the VSBA Board after two months of focused meetings. This law has been on the books for 19 months and districts have been complying with the law. Any changes to this law should not change the fundamental rules of the game. The VSBA offered specific recommendations in relation to: timelines, alternative structures, side-by-sides (Act 156 RED variation) and transition funds. Mace acknowledged that it is a pretty narrow set of recommendations.

VSBA supports draft 7.1; VSBA does not support S.15. These recommendations are intended to provide some relief to areas that are trying hard, but do not send a signal that we are not serious about this law. Lastly, VSBA voted to create a committee to work on cost containment and finance – they met for 6 hours on Friday – some proposals are emerging – these will be shared in the next week or so.

**Item D: Adjourn**

**Motion:** Perrin moved to adjourn. Peltz seconded this motion. There was no further discussion. Chairman Mathis called a vote to adjourn.

**Vote:** The vote to adjourn passed unanimously.

The legislative subcommittee meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Maureen Gaidys

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