

**Rep. Heidi Scheuermann Remarks
Vermont State Board of Education Meeting
August 19, 2020**

Thank you Chairman Carroll, and Board Members. I am Representative Heidi Scheuermann of Stowe, and I appreciate being given just a few moments to say a few words.

First of all, I do want to thank you for your work during this challenging time. I know well that there is a great deal of anxiety among teachers, staff, parents and students about how to reopen schools safely, and I appreciate all of your work in that regard, and the work of the Agency.

I wanted to comment today, though, on a different matter – a matter about which you will be hearing about shortly.

In just a little bit, you will be hearing from one of my constituents, John Pelletier, regarding some educational data issues about which many of us are concerned.

Because you will be hearing in much more depth from John, and will undoubtedly be having a discussion about the issues with John and the Agency of Education, I am not going to get into the specifics. But, to be clear, I began communicating with Secretary French about this issue in May.

My concern is simple – and is shared by many in my community. That is, for some reason, our school assessment/grade performance data is no longer able to be accessed by parents or members of the community. In all of my years as a representative (and I've been in office since 2007), this has not been the case. We have been able to see precisely how well or how poorly our local schools here in Stowe are performing.

Something – and I'm unclear of precisely what – changed recently that denies access to the school assessment/grade performance data. I am asking that it be changed back. It is simply unacceptable that our parents and community cannot access this data so that we can see for ourselves how well our local school students are doing.

I ask the Board to consider seriously the issues presented today and to determine what should be done to resolve them – whether it can be done internally at the Agency, or through a Board ruling. My research thus far indicates that there does not need to be legislation passed to resolve this, but if legislation is the only way to resolve this in the timely manner it requires, know that I am willing to champion such if necessary.

Thank you again for your diligent work.