

From: Samuelson, Jennifer Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov
Sent: Sunday, October 22, 2023 4:27 PM
To: Jesse Roy <jesse.evans.roy@gmail.com>
CC: SBE - Public Comment <SBE.PublicComment@vermont.gov>
Re: Secretary Search

Hello, Jesse, and thank you for sharing your thoughts about the desired traits in the next Secretary of Education. I appreciate your time in preparing your email, and your comments will be helpful to the Committee as we begin to review and interview prospective candidates. I am also copying the Board's public comment email address so that your comments will be included with other comments that we have received from members of the public.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Deck Samuelson
Chair, Vermont State Board of Education

From: Jesse Roy <jesse.evans.roy@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 11:35 AM
To: Diop, Mohamed <Mohamed.Diop@vermont.gov>; grey.fearon@vermont.gov <grey.fearon@vermont.gov>; Gleason, Kimberly G <Kimberly.G.Gleason@vermont.gov>; Kolbe, Tammy <Tammy.Kolbe@vermont.gov>; Jepson, Lyle <Lyle.Jepson@vermont.gov>; Lovett, Tom <Tom.Lovett@vermont.gov>; O'Farrell, Jennifer <Jennifer.OFarrell@vermont.gov>; Samuelson, Jennifer <Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov>; Werner, Richard <Richard.Werner@vermont.gov>; aaliyah.wilburn@vermont.gov <aaliyah.wilburn@vermont.gov>
Subject: Secretary Search

Good Morning State Board Members,

As a parent of two students in Vermont public schools and a former employee of the Vermont Agency of Education, I am excited by the possibility of a new course for the AOE in the coming years, led by a new Secretary. In my five years at the Agency, ending in late 2021, I experienced both the best of the AOE's work and its challenges. Many hardworking people with good intentions support education in Vermont at the state level, but their efforts are muted as the Agency struggles with clear direction, internal accountability, and follow-through. Talented, results-oriented people exit the agency feeling frustrated and exhausted, while less capable staff remain to assume new responsibilities. The resulting culture is one of low expectations and mediocrity, with direct impacts on Vermont's students and schools. We are woefully behind many states in the support we have provided to districts in personalizing and differentiating instruction, meeting the whole-child needs of every student, and preparing our learners for their post-secondary futures. District leaders, many who I maintain close relationships with, stopped turning to the AOE for guidance and support for improvement years ago.

After being promoted twice in my relatively short time there, I left the Agency on good terms. I was, and still am, well-respected by educational leaders both inside and outside of the AOE. In my opinion, the Agency needs a new brand of leader, beginning with the Secretary and extending through management, that is as adept at creating accountable, high-functioning teams as they are at imagining the future of Vermont's public schools. In the absence of higher expectations for daily practices and yearly results for

every AOE team, our districts will continue to go it alone, with mixed, and sometimes disappointing, results.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss further or if I can assist in any way.

Best,
Jesse Roy
Essex Junction