

From: linda smith <smithlinda730@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 1, 2023 4:02 PM
To: Jepson, Lyle <Lyle.Jepson@vermont.gov>
Subject: what I would like to see in a secretary of education

Mr. Jepson:

I am a retired teacher and nurse. I am currently serving on the GRSCU, Quarry Valley, and the newest, voted onto the VSBA. I was on the board previously when we were starting the changes for ACT 46. (Had to leave due to a family illness)

What I would like to see in a secretary of state

1. Realistic vision and mission for the state of Vermont teachers. A committee of only teachers talking to you to set realistic goals for children in the state and a realistic plan that begins the process.
 2. A realistic way that teachers, principals, and superintendents and staff can communicate what is really happening in the schools. Meetings for just principals or just superintendents only allows them to talk about what is going on and does nothing to help with how to find new and inventive ways for education. Only the problems are discussed. The NEA only deals with the business of money. It does nothing to help communicate what is happening in the classroom. A VERMONT event that pulls ideas only and solutions. And not how to fix the PCB problem. But outdoor classrooms would be a start.
 3. A short moratorium to discuss the above.
 4. Not a business person. Someone who actually understands children, not just the politics.
 5. Someone who thinks out of the box. I know that this has been said ALOT. but we are not doing it or not marketing it. I know that there are Vermont schools who are trying unique things, but we need a leader who will be known throughout the state and that everyone knows her name.
 6. Someone who will push to get more technical education for all students and start it earlier in middle school.
 - 7, Someone not just interested in computers.
- The impossible dream, right. I do not believe it.

Thank you so much for letting me speak.

Best wishes.

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Newly VSBA