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Re: Addison County Supervisory Union Assignments (Lincoln/Ripton)

August 10, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter on the behalf of the White River Supervisory Union (WRVSU) due to the request from Oliver Olsen, Chair of the VT State Board of Education regarding our Supervisory Union's stance on the possible addition of another school district. I want to share the following statement that was adopted on August 23, 2021 when the WRVSU was previously approached by the newly formed Ripton School Board.

*We (WRVSU Executive Board) are appreciative of the outreach and kind sentiments shared from our neighbors in Ripton about the current state of our organization and desire to join the White River Valley Supervisory Union. After careful consideration and review, we can't support this concept. This decision is based on several factors. These include the large and expansive geography of our supervisory union, the additional time/resources that another district would require from our supervisory union staff, and fiscal factors that include additional costs for management of an additional district, special services, etc. We want to offer our sincere appreciation for the school district of Ripton's efforts, and wish them all the best in their future pursuits.*

The aforementioned sentiment remains the same for the White River Valley Supervisory Union. We are working diligently to improve academic performance, increase social/emotional learning, and provide a strong fiscal foundation for the constituents of our ten towns. To this end, it is important for the State Board of Education to review the significant restructuring and heavy lift that the ten towns and six districts have already gone through at the WRVSU throughout act 46. It is important to remember that the WRVSU was a consolidation of two Supervisory Unions and that our six districts were the result of four additional mergers between Granville/Hancock, Rochester/Stockbridge, Royalton/Bethel, and Chelsea/Tunridge. We are now finally in place to deliver on the many promises made during those mergers and it is clear that adding a seventh district would result in further reorganization within the supervisory union. Therefore, we urge the VT State Board of Education to consider other neighboring supervisor union's that have significantly fewer districts and less of a geographical area than the ten towns that run east to west throughout WRVSU.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Kinnarney

WRVSU, Superintendent of Schools

Cc: WRVSU Board Chair, Kathy Galluzzo and WRVSU Vice Chair, Sarah Root

