

**From:** Jessica Van Deren - PMSD Brd Chair\* <[jvanderen@cvsu.org](mailto:jvanderen@cvsu.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2022 3:27 PM

**To:** Samuelson, Jennifer <[Jennifer.Samuels@vermont.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Samuels@vermont.gov)>; French, Daniel <[Daniel.French@vermont.gov](mailto:Daniel.French@vermont.gov)>

**Subject:** Public Comment for Vermont State Board of Education meeting 11/16/22

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Dear Secretary French and Chair Samuelson,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Paine Mountain School District and the Central Vermont Supervisory Union. Our district board and supervisory union stand vehemently opposed to the addition of the Lincoln School District. Our superintendent, Matt Fedders, has submitted written feedback on your request which outlines our concerns with the proposal to add Lincoln SD to the Central Vermont Supervisory Union.

Superintendent Fedders outlines the following:

- We cannot support another district effectively without additional resources, which eliminates efficiency
- The geographic distance between Lincoln and CVSU is large, well over an hour driving time, which will negatively impact SU staff
- We will not realize savings with busing or food contracts as the Lincoln SD is served by providers that do not contract with CVSU, due to distance
- Bringing our curricula into alignment is a multi-year project requiring additional financial and human resources we cannot bear
- The potential salary increases due to collective bargaining unit alignment will result in a greater tax burden for the Paine Mountain and Echo Valley School Districts. We are disinclined to further tax our community members to support Lincoln

The member districts of the Central Vermont Supervisory Union stand to gain nothing from the addition of Lincoln School District. All current operational efficiencies will be lost, and we will incur significant costs. The additional, unwelcome, distraction of Lincoln will impact our ability to focus on our communities, serve our students, and we strongly believe our communities will suffer as a result.

Sincerely,

Jessica Van Deren  
Board Chair, Paine Mountain School District  
Board Chair, Central Vermont Supervisory Union  
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