

Vermont State Board of Education

Report to the House Education Committee

January 12, 2024

State Board Membership

- **Jennifer Deck Samuelson, Chair** (2020 - 2/28/2026)
 - Chair, Winhall School Board; Attorney at Law
- **Tammy Kolbe, Vice Chair** (2021 - 2/28/2027)
 - UVM Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; Principal Researcher at American Institutes for Research
- **Mohamed Diop** (2023 - 2/28/2029)
 - Director, Multilingual Learner Programs; Winooski School District
- **Grey Fearon** (2023 - 6/30/2025)
 - Student Member
- **Kim Gleason** (2019 - 2/28/2025)
 - Former Chair, Essex Westford School District; former Treasurer, VSBA; Substitute Teacher, Essex Westford School District
- **Lyle Jepson** (2021 - 2/28/2027)
 - Former teacher; former Principal, Fair Haven Union High School; former Director, Stafford Technical Center
- **Tom Lovett** (2021 - 2/28/2027)
 - Teacher and former Head of School, St. Johnsbury Academy
- **Jenna O'Farrell** (2019 - 2/28/2025)
 - Former teacher, Assistant Principal, and Principal, St. Johnsbury School
- **Richard Werner** (2022 - 2/28/2024)
 - Chair, Windham Central Supervisory Union; Chair, River Valleys School District
- **Aaliyah Wilburn** (2023 - 6/30/2024)
 - Student Member
- **Heather Bouchey, Interim Secretary of Education**

Board Activities

12 monthly meetings

5 special meetings

2200 Updates Committee

7 Meetings

Jennifer Deck Samuelson, Chair
Kim Gleason
Tom Lovett

EQS Updates Committee

19 Meetings

Kim Gleason & Tammy Kolbe, co-Chairs
Mohamed Diop
Grey Fearon
Rich Werner

2200 Approvals Committee

7 Meetings

Tom Lovett, Chair
Lyle Jepson
Jenna O'Farrell

Secretary Search Committee

11 Meetings

Jennifer Deck Samuelson, Chair
Lyle Jepson
Jenna O'Farrell

Current Issues Facing the SBE

- ❖ Implementing the principles and goals of Act 1 (2019) via Education Quality Standards (Rule Series 2000) and Independent School Approvals (Rule Series 2200)
 - Together, rules affect almost every student, teacher, and staff member in Vermont

- ❖ Insufficient Resources to Meet Workflow Demands
 - FY24 SBE budget: \$70,708
 - Board members earn \$6.25/hour or \$50/meeting
 - Must hire independent legal counsel

Legislative Requests

- ❖ Clarification of Act 1 (2019):
 - What was General Assembly's intent?
 - Example: Act 1 §1(b)(1): “‘Ethnic group’ means:
 - (A) nondominant racial and *ethnic groups* in the United States, including people who are Abenaki, people from other indigenous groups, people of African, Asian, Pacific Island, Chicanx, Latinx, or Middle Eastern descent; and
 - (B) groups that have been historically subject to persecution or genocide” (emphasis added)

- ❖ Resources for SBE
 - Dedicated legal counsel
 - Stipend for Board members

Future Considerations

What is the General Assembly's view of the role of the SBE?