

Vermont Superintendents Association

Jeffrey Francis, Executive Director

House Education Committee

Testimony on Miscellaneous Education Bill

February 23, 2017

- 1) With respect to Sections 11 through 14 regarding criminal record checks, I support the testimony of Nicole Mace and the Vermont School Boards Association concerning provisions related to the criminal record check provisions included in the bill. The Vermont Superintendents Association has supported and supports universal access to prek education. As I have testified on prior occasions in this committee, the implementation of Act 166 has been challenging and we urge the General Assembly to continue its review of Act 166 in order to assure that the goals of affordability, efficiency and serving vulnerable Vermonters are being fulfilled.
- 2) With respect to Section 15, renewal of principal's contracts, the language proposed is consistent with the recommendations of the Report on Section 47 of Act 46 of 2015 submitted by Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe in January of 2016. VSA is not opposed to the language that would require notice of non-renewal of a principal's contract prior to February 1.
- 3) VSA would like to recommend an amendment to 16 VSA § 1693. Standards Board for Professional Educators to specify that of the two administrator members, **one administrator be a superintendent**. Superintendents believe that as the chief executive officers and chief education leaders of Vermont's school systems, with responsibility for management and supervision of personnel, that it is important that at least one member of the Standards Board for Professional Educators be a superintendent.

## **Current Law**

### **16 VSA § 1693. Standards Board for Professional Educators**

(a) There is hereby established the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators comprising 13 members as follows: seven teachers, two administrators, one public member, one school board member, one representative of educator preparation programs from a public institution of higher education, and one representative of educator preparation programs from a private institution of higher education.