

Bob Mason 4/22/15

Testimony, Bob Mason
Senate Education Hearing
April 22, 2015

By way of introductions I am Bob Mason, currently serving as Chief Operations Officer of the Chittenden South Supervisory Union, Shelburne, Vermont a role I have been in for the last 12 years. I have served School Boards in Vermont for 11 years both as a member and as a Board Chair. Prior to all that I served in executive leadership roles with both General Electric and Goodrich Aerospace for 26 years.

Most importantly I am a parent of four wonderful children, all proud graduates of the public school system in the state of Vermont.

My desire to speak to you today stems in part from my role as an officer in the Vermont Association of School Business Officials(VASBO). I am currently immediate Past President of the association. VASBO has taken a keen interest in the work you are currently undertaking. We believe it is paramount that significant change be made in the school governance in Vermont to bring about needed action to improve our overall operating efficiency and measurably improve student outcomes. We are burdened with an archaic and outmoded operating structure that hinders at every turn efforts to improve and enhance the effectiveness of our work. Our statewide association VASBO supports your efforts, targeted to change underlying structures to focus on a pre k- 12 governance model with some level of size associated with each SU or SD.

The problem is with us today, the damage to equity and quality of student experiences is very real. You need to maintain your efforts and persevere until you have made significant change THIS legislative session.

Our Association, it's members, are available for more detailed testimony subsequent to tonight's public hearing.

thanks for listening

Bob