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**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2014 6:28 PM  
**To:** Steve  
**Subject:** VSBA Update-- VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL BOARD MEMBERS

VSBA Update 2-13-14

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### **To All Vermont School Board Members:**

This year's legislative session has seen increased interest in education leadership and governance fueled by concerns about maintaining education quality, assuring greater equity of opportunity for students across the state, and addressing the long-term sustainability of our funding system. It is our belief that there is a high likelihood that some type of legislation will pass in this legislative session.

Faced with this likelihood, the VSBA board - 29 local school board members from 29 different boards - has spent considerable time evaluating this issue in light of the goals we established in our Agenda for a World-Class Education System. We believe that there are compelling reasons for change in the interests of students and taxpayers. We also believe that any change that occurs must be designed in a way that supports our deep community values. School boards are in the best position to inform this process and must be fully engaged in this effort. If we stand on the sidelines of this debate, or take a stand staunchly in opposition, we substantially reduce the opportunity to influence the outcome.

Last night, the VSBA board voted to approve the following motion:

*The Vermont School Boards Association will participate in the development of legislation that creates Pre-K-12 Education Systems designed to: provide students with more equitable access to world-class learning opportunities, ensure greater flexibility in the management of public resources and less volatility for taxpayers, and maintain strong community involvement and support for our schools.*

The letter available through the link below outlines our more detailed thinking on this subject. The VSBA board is anxious to involve our full membership in this discussion. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions on how to best connect.

<http://www.vtvsba.org/Pre-K12EducationSystems.pdf>

We believe that this effort can be guided to serve a very useful purpose for students and taxpayers. We can address our challenges while maintaining and strengthening small schools and local communities and still having more board members per student than any other state in the nation—maintaining our very special community fabric and valued way of life.

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions as this discussion unfolds over the next three months.

Steve Dale on Behalf of the VSBA Board

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