

Marjorie Zunder

From: Phillips, Robert <robPhil@gisu.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 2:05 PM
To: Marjorie Zunder
Subject: House Education Committee

Marjorie,

Could you please pass this note along to Joey? Thanks.

Thank you for holding the public hearing last evening. I spoke with you briefly after the fact as I had a couple of questions about how the proposed legislation might effect a Supervisory Union such as Grand Isle SU. One area of concern that relates to students in this SU are the number that participate in School Choice for secondary education. Our 330 high school students currently attend nearly 15 high schools, throughout Vermont, New York, and soon to include Quebec. A number of families have chosen to live here specifically for accessing school choice. I wanted the committee to be aware of this when considering modifications to the organization of governance in Vermont education.

I can certainly appreciate the benefit of coordination of curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional development for students. We have managed to develop common negotiated agreements and have centralized many business functions. I believe several speakers referenced SUs as "fragile, loosely coupled systems". At this time, I relish the fact that faculty and staff throughout these five districts are working toward common goals through collaboration.

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